

Toddler Group Planning

Spring Term

This terms' planning builds on the previous terms where it ended with the nativity and the birth of Jesus. It begins with Epiphany and explores Jesus as a child. The planning introduces special people in Jesus life such as Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist. This is followed by Jesus' baptism, moving then into Lent.

After half term the children can explore who Jesus is, celebrate Mother's day and moves into stories leading into Holy week.

Stories

Stories in the planning can be found in most children's Bibles and **feel free to use any versions** that suit the age of your children and your group. The planning makes reference to stories in **The Big Bible Storybook** and **The Play-Along Bible**. Both have good versions that make it easy to share stories with under 5's.

Occasionally other stories may be suggested throughout, these can usually be found cheaply online, with links provided. Again, use your own versions to fit with the theme if you have them.

Sensory Play

The planning includes weekly ideas for structured or sensory play. Young children learn through play and through their senses. Having opportunities for them to engage with themes in the story throughout the session can help to both develop their spirituality and help them understand the story.



First Half Term

Date	Theme	Story	Talk about...	Craft Activity	Structured/ Sensory play	Prayer Time
Week 1	God Speaks in signs - Wise men Epiphany	<p>Follow the Star Board book</p> <p>https://www.amazon.co.uk/Follow-Christmas-Board-Candle-Playbook/dp/1859854508/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1511367340&sr=8-1&keywords=follow+the+star</p> <p>Or BSBB P 128 or</p> <p>Play along Bible p56 –New star, New King.</p>	<p>Jesus was not a tiny baby when the wise men came, but a little boy, probably only a little younger than you.</p>	<p>Star Craft –</p> <p>Template to decorate</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/417708934169331440/</p> <p>Or Stained glass stars</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/418553359092040337/</p>	<p>Shaving foam find the stars</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/418553359092040131/</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Scented bubbles in water (thinking about the rich perfumes bought by the wise men)</p>	<p>Thank you God that you lead people to you. Amen.</p>
Week 2	Special Child: Simeon & Anna	<p>BBSB p127</p> <p>Story of Simeon and Anna</p>	<p>To think about Jesus’ childhood – His family, His experiences, His specialness. Encouraging children to think about their family. How different generations are so important for children as they grow (and in faith). There may be grandparents who attend the group.</p> <p>Simeon and Anna</p>	<p>Family Portrait – Children to draw or paint their family on A3 sheets</p> <p>Or in pre-cut houses</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/412431278353623733/</p>	<p>Role Play – home and family</p> <p>Kitchen/ food resources/ dressing up.</p>	<p>Thank you God for our family and that you know us all and love us too. Amen.</p>

			recognising Jesus as special and unique.			
Week 3	God as Father Lost in the Temple	Jesus the boy (BBSB p131) Or Where is Jesus (play along Bible, p59)	Have you ever lost something or been lost? How did you feel? Jesus is God's Son and wanted to spend time with his father. We can also be like Jesus and spend time with God	I Spy activity https://faithfullittlehands.com/i-spy-activity/ or Make binoculars out of tissue rolls and wool.	Construction – Lego/ Duplo – build the temple.	Help us God when we feel worried or scared, lost or alone, to ask for help and to know your love in our lives. Amen.
Week 4	John the Baptist	Play along Bible – Someone Special, p60	Introduce John the Baptist. Describe him. John was sent by God to prepare the way for the Lord. He was always pointing people to Jesus. How do we get ready to meet people, to meet Jesus?	Make John the Baptist – pre-cut figure cut out or paper plate face with beard.	Sand play – insects in sand, nets, magnifying glasses.	Thank you God that we can get ready to meet people. Help us to know we are not alone and that you are with us always. Amen.
Week 5	Jesus' Baptism	BBSB p 132 – John Baptises Jesus	What the dove means, and means for us today. How we are part of God's family and what baptism means at the start of the journey of faith.	Dove craft https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/dove-of-peace-craft	Babies in water – washing them. Playdough – transformation – changing shapes.	Thank you God for your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Week 6	Lent	Jesus in the desert (BBSB p133)	Lent- how sometimes we can have hard time too. We sometimes give things up or do really kind things in the time leading up to Easter.	Write an act of kindness you are going to do on a large lollypop stick or card (both children and parents)	Sand tray, figures, rocks. Play food.... Café area or picnic space.	Thank you God for being with us in the hard times too. Amen.

Second Half Term

Date	Theme	Story	Talk about...	Craft Activity	Structured/ Sensory play	Prayer Time
Week 1	Who is Jesus?	BBSB p174 Children could be given a copy of the character sheet to take home.	Character sheet (attached in email)	Footprints in paint ... A selection of eyes, nose, mouth, hair and beards and children can chose their own to create the face of Jesus on a face or paper plate.	Play dough – Jesus.	Thank you God for sending your Son Jesus.
Week 2	Mother's Day	Mother's Day – any story about mothers – you may even choose to just talk about Mum's or Jesus' Mum Mary. The following are good stories to read to toddlers about Mums My Mom by Anthony Browne https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mom-Anthony-Browne/dp/0374400261/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1512393130&sr=8-1&keywords=my+mom Does a kangaroo have a mother too? https://www.amazon.co.uk/Does-Kangaroo-Have-Mother-	What should we thank God for – our mums! (Be mindful not all children will be living at home with Mum)	Mother's day card With hand and fingerprint flowers https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/337347828322759884/ or cupcake case flower card. https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/285556432599472131/	Sensory Flowers With Play dough, pots and flowers https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/540994973958019027/	Thank you God for mums and people who look after us and love us. Help them to know you more. Amen.

		Too/dp/0007106165/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1512393321&sr=8-1-spell&keywords=does+a+kangeroo+have+a+mother+too				
Week 3	Mary shows her love for Jesus (anointing of feet)	<p>A children's bible version or a copy can be found and printed here:</p> <p>http://sundayschoolzone.com/activity/mary-showed-her-love-for-jesus-parents-connect-page/view/</p> <p>If appropriate to your group of children could have some oil dabbed on their hand or feet during the story.</p>	Mary showed her love for Jesus with something precious and important. We can show our love for Jesus by giving him our very best.	<p>Perfume jars</p> <p>2D or https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/465770786442459141/ or</p> <p>Use a small glass jar and glue tissue paper to it.</p> <p>Or make a worship instrument</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/516858494726674538/</p>	<p>Scented things...</p> <p>Scented bubbles in water tray or scented lay dough.</p>	<i>We know how much you love us, help us to love you more than anything else. Amen.</i>
Week 4	Palm Sunday	BBSB p199	How do we welcome people?	<p>Make a palm leaf to wave, cutting out handprints in green paper. See link:</p> <p>http://ohamanda.com/2011/04/18/palm-palms-a-giveaway-the-beginning-of-our-resurrection-</p>	<p>Hobby horse play.</p> <p>Animals (horses if you have them) in sand with leaves and characters.</p>	<i>Thank you God that you make us welcome. Amen.</i>

				week/		
Week 5	Easter Story	<p>Depending on the age of the children in you group you may choose to share the Easter story in full from a Bible.</p> <p>BBSB Easter has an excellent version focusing on the resurrection. Pages 205- 209.</p> <p>If children are very young it may be appropriate to share this story:</p> <p>The Easter butterfly</p> <p>https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/The-Easter-Butterfly-Vicki-Howie-FINAL-1.pdf</p> <p>Discuss Jesus afterwards</p>	The events of holy week	<p>Any Easter craft. Some ideas:</p> <p>Chick craft https://simpleasthatblog.com/2014/03/spring-kids-craft-tissue-paper-baby-chicks.html</p> <p>Simple cross craft https://happyhomefairy.com/a-simple-cross-craft-for-easter/</p> <p>Plus Easter Egg Hunt!</p>	<p>Create an Easter garden. Children can gather things from outside, leaves stone etc. together with play dough...</p> <p>http://godventure.co.uk/news/easter-gardens/</p>	<p>Thank you God for dying and rising again for me and everyone. Amen.</p>