

Welcome to *God's Little Explorers Preschool Curriculum!* I'm so excited to be sharing this journey with you. If you would like to know more about God's Little Explorers, please [read this blog post](#). You can also find a [listing of resources to use with God's Little Explorers on this page](#).

Each week, I will be sharing the lesson plans I'm using with my youngest daughter (*and my five-year-old, too...once we started, she didn't want to be left out*). We'll be exploring one letter (in no particular order), various math concepts, thematic projects (like cooking, crafts, and science), and one Bible story per week.

The curriculum is written to be four days each week. I recommend using the fifth day for a field trip and/or service project each week to enhance the theme and your child's learning.

I've written the lessons to be approximately 30-45 minutes if you complete the top three sections (Bible, Theme, and ABC & 123). The Life Skills section adds a little more time depending how thorough you are in teaching the various skills. The Other Ideas section, Book Bag, and Learning Bags are just extra ideas I share in case you want to switch-out a project, extend the learning, or don't like an activity I have included in the main lesson. Ideas that work for my children won't necessarily work for yours, so feel free to change and adapt the curriculum to fit your child's needs and your own!

This is a work-in-progress, so feel free to email me with your ideas and suggestions. You can contact me at motherhoodonadime@gmail.com. Please feel free to share this program with friends by sending them to [the landing page for God's Little Explorers](#). Please remember, this material is copyrighted, so you may not redistribute or sell these plans. Thanks for your help!

Blessings!

Stacie Nelson

"For unto us a child is born..."
Isaiah 9:6

Bible

Theme

"j" is for Jesus

ABC & 123

Letter: j
Number: 8

Life

Book
Bag

Day 1

Bible Exploration:

Read the story of the birth of Jesus.
Sing "Away in a Manger".

Theme Adventure:

After reading the Bible story, give your child time to explore a Nativity set. I highly recommend purchasing or making an inexpensive set for your child to play with.

One idea is to [make this magnetic set to put on your refrigerator or dishwasher or other surface](#). You can also search for ideas for wooden block nativities for preschoolers.

ABC Exploration: Teach the sound *jjj*. Make a j with your fingers and say "j-j-j-Jesus."

Make a "j" Pencil Topper.

123 Exploration: Show your child the number 8. Go on an "exploration" with binoculars and find the number 8 in and outside your house.

Self Help: Give your child the opportunity to practice mixing and stirring a variety of foods this week.

J is for Jesus

The Crippled Lamb

Day 2

Bible Exploration:

Reread the story of the birth of Jesus.
Sing "Away in a Manger".

Theme Adventure:

Play a game with your nativity set by setting it up and having your child close his eyes while you remove one piece. See if your child can guess what's missing and share the significance of that piece in the story.

Math Exploration:

Number Posters: Write a number 8 on a sheet of paper. Glue bits of ribbon or small red and white squares around the number 8.

ABC Adventures:

Review the letters we've studied so far with the printable Bingo game. Call out the sound of a letter and have your child cover it with a piece of Christmas candy or other small Christmas-themed object.

Chore: Teach your child to carry his or her dirty dishes to the sink and other ways they can help clear the table after a meal.

Day 3

Bible Exploration:

Review the Christmas story with a nativity set or dress-up and dramatize it.

Theme Adventure:

Have a Christmas carol "sing-a-thon" or a Christmas book "read-a-thon".

Consider [making an Advent calendar](#) and picking a special activity for each day through Christmas.

ABC Exploration:

Paint red stripes (like a candy cane) on the printable letter j. Add to the letter wall.

Math Exploration:

Buy an assortment of candy canes (small, large, various colors, etc.). Let your child sort the candy canes. Ask your child to count the candy canes. You may also want to do some basic addition problems. "Jenny has two small candy canes and two large candy canes. How many does she have it all?" and so on.

Manners:

Practice thanking the cook for preparing the food after each meal.

Day 4

Bible Exploration:

Make a manger scene on a sheet of construction paper with two craft sticks in the shape of an X. Glue hay or shredded paper in the manger. Cut a small circle and add a face for a baby. Then, cut out a small piece of fabric and glue it and the circle in the manger.

Theme Adventure:

Make a "Nativity snack" by layering pudding in the bottom of a cup for the manger, sprinkle on coconut for the hay, add a marshmallow or peanut or both to represent the sleeping baby Jesus.

This is more complicated, but you can also try this [Edible Nativity](#).

ABC & Math Exploration:

Review the sound and gesture for letter "j". Draw a manger with a baby (*and write a j on it*) and add it to the "Treasure Map".

Service:

Print out the attached "Candy Cane Legend" printable. Attach a mini candy cane (upside down like the letter j) and share these with friends, neighbors, volunteers, etc.

Other Ideas

Read *Many Silent Years: Part 12* (from [The Big Picture Bible Story Book](#)).

Watch "Why Do We Call It Christmas" from What's in the Bible.

Hide candy canes outdoors and have your child find them.

Pick a [Christmas craft or activity](#) from this page.

Find information about the studies below on the [Resource Page for God's Little Explorers](#):

- Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful
- Composer Study: Handel
- Artist Study: Matisse

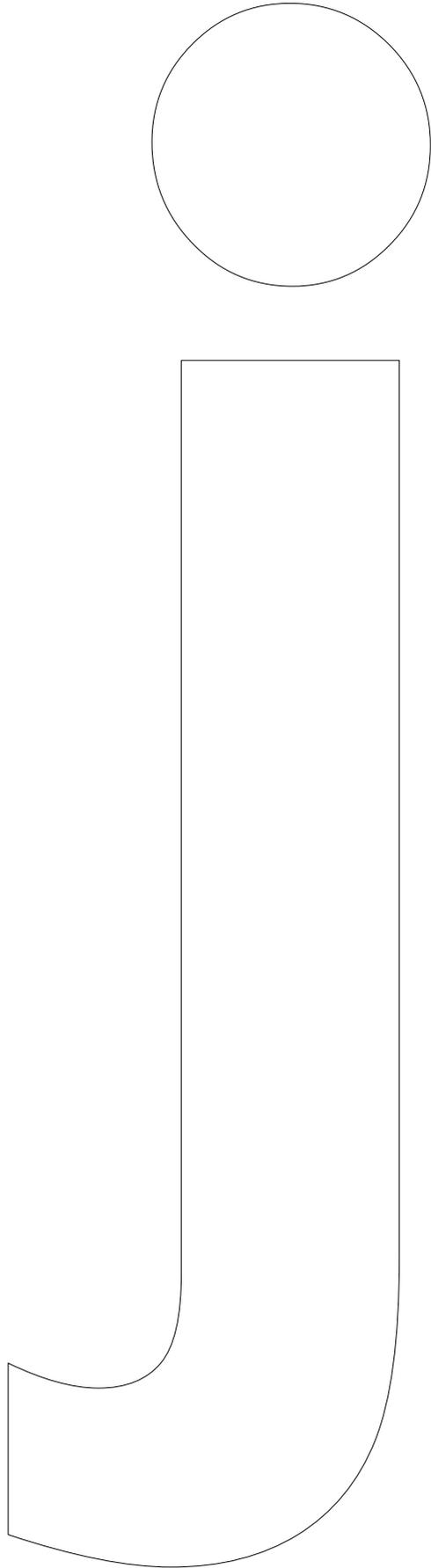
My Ideas:

Learning Bags

Candy Cane: Put a pipe cleaner, red beads, and white beads in a bag. Have your child place the beads on the pipe cleaner in a red, white, red, white pattern. Bend the ends to keep the beads on the pipe cleaner. Bend the pipe cleaner into the shape of a candy cane.

Candy Cane Letter Match: 1+1+1 has [a set of candy cane upper and lowercase letters for matching](#). Print them, cut them apart, and store them in a bag.

See how to use the bags on the [Busy Bag Resource page](#) and find more [Learning Bag activities on the Busy Bag page](#).



a	q	x	g
i	f	w	c
r	k	g	z

w	r	x	z
k	a	i	f
t	q	g	c

Look at the Candy Cane

What do you see?

Stripes that are red

Like the blood shed for me

White is for my Savior

Who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!

Turn it around

And a staff you will see

Jesus my shepherd

Was born for Me!

(Author Unknown)

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