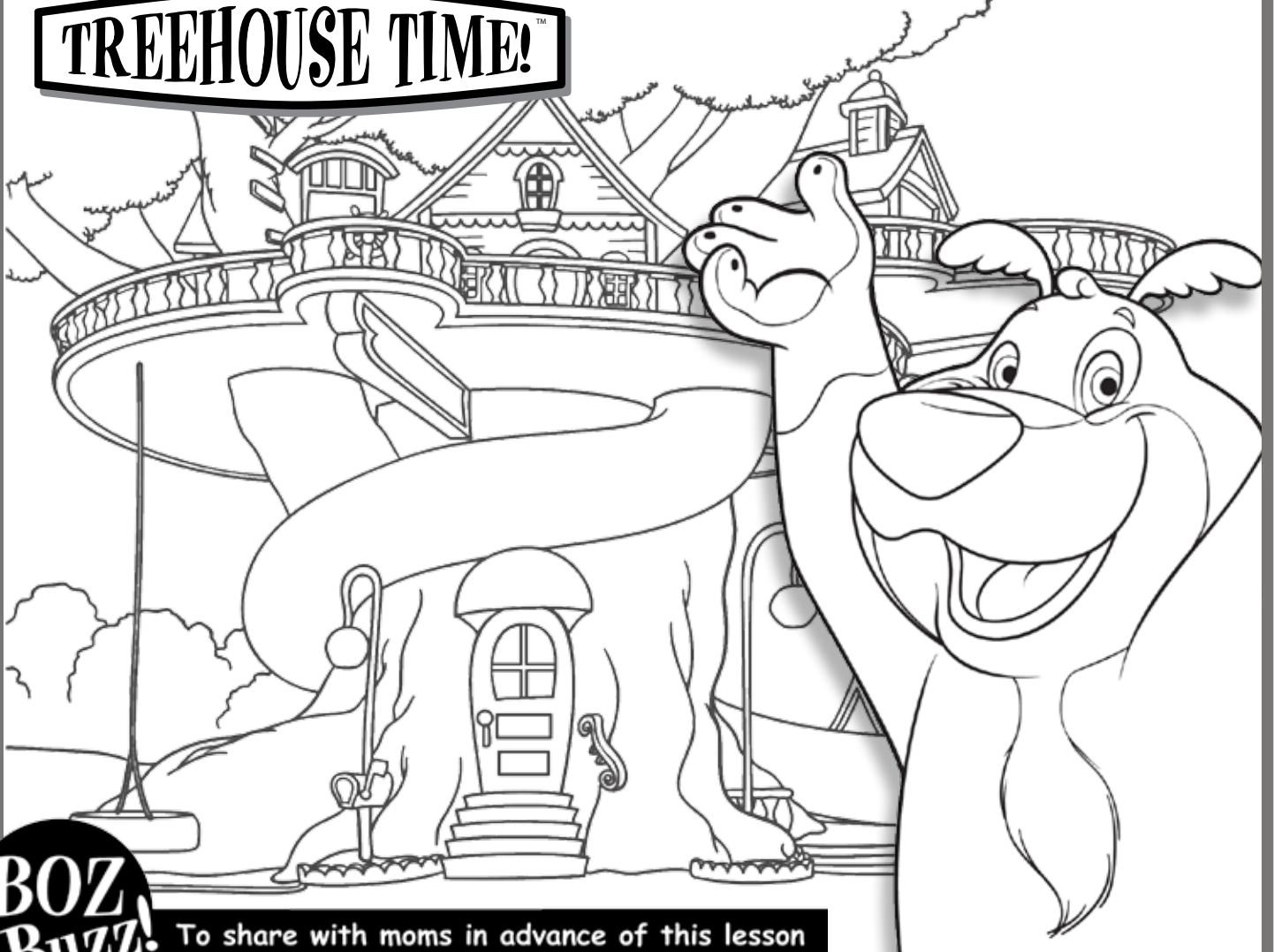


BOZ

TREEHOUSE TIME!™

A WowieBOZowee Christmas



**BOZ
Buzz!**

To share with moms in advance of this lesson

Christmas is coming to *BOZ Treehouse Time!* At MOPPETS, we will focus on the birth of Jesus as recorded in Luke 2.

Young children love to role-play events of the first Christmas. For a living nativity, wrap a doll in a towel and let your child dress up as you explain what happened in Bethlehem. (A towel, bathrobe or terrycloth swim cover-up works well as a generic costume, usable to dress Mary, Joseph, the innkeeper and shepherds.) This can be a simple way to highlight the real meaning of the season.

*Dr. Mary Manz Simon - Editor, Contributor
Christy Pitney - Copy Editor*

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Introducing *Treehouse Time!*

BOZ Treehouse Time! encourages young children to discover God's world through play-based, faith-focused activities. The interactive learning experiences will help children know and love God.

Because many younger children are not enrolled in a formal program for learning, MOPPETS is their "school." Ideas and activities in *Treehouse Time!* are developmentally appropriate for children under the age of 6. This includes the selective use of interactive media to extend children's active engagement as they explore, create, learn and imagine.

Young children gain a great deal of security from routine, so develop a logical pattern that can be used for each session, even if adult leaders rotate.

The lesson elements are designed to be flexible, so feel free to establish a routine that works best for your group.

For example, after children are checked in, you might follow this plan:

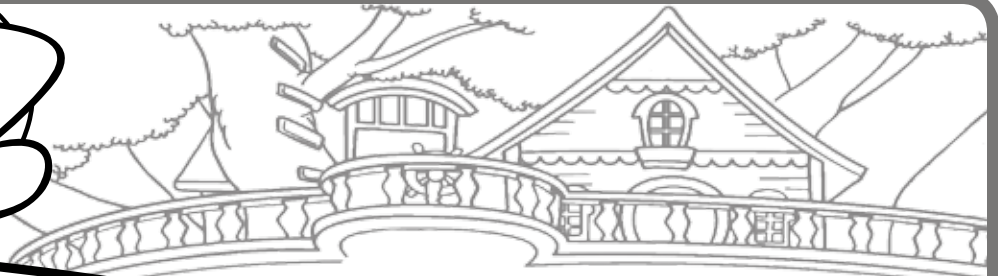
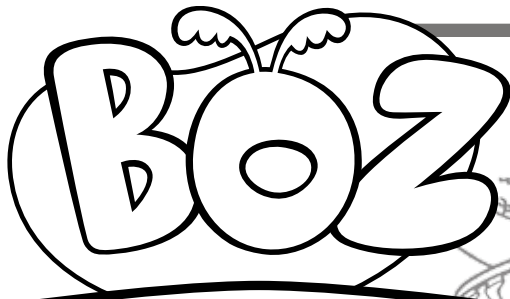
- * After the children have arrived, say "It's *Treehouse Time!*
Come and sit down in front of me on the rug."
- * Look in the BOZ bag. Use children's responses to extend the conversation about the object or theme. Introduce the memory verse during this opening discussion.
- * Do the activity rhyme.
- * Show the video.
- * Do a craft.
- * Encourage the children to float back into free play after completing the craft.
- * Pray and then serve the snack.
- * Do the activity rhyme.
- * Read a book.
- * Say the closing prayer.
- * End with the *BOZ Treehouse Time!* rhyme.



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TREEHOUSE TIME!™

A WowieBOZowee Christmas

Lesson Guide

Lesson Overview

Key points and concepts of your lesson

Let's Get Ready!

Options to help you set the stage for your lesson, including themed coloring/activity sheets!

Gathering Rhyme

Initial callout that *BOZ Treehouse Time!* is beginning

BOZ Bag

A fun group participation guessing game to introduce the lesson's theme

Activities

Options for theme-based activities, including interactive songs, stories and poems

Crafts

Make-and-take crafts that help extend the lesson

Snacks

Simple, easy-to-prepare options that reinforce the lesson theme or season

BOZ Video Presentation

Engaging, theme-based BOZ video episode, along with pre-viewing and follow-up questions to emphasize theme

Closing Prayer

Easy-to-learn closing verse and brief prayer for the end of each session



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Lesson Overview

Just for You

With December's fast pace and crowded schedule, sometimes it's hard to set aside time to focus on the manger. During this session, you'll have the opportunity not only to help young children learn about the first Christmas, but also to take a step back from your own busyness. Celebrate as MOPPETS dress up in the living-nativity corner or pretend to rock gently the baby who was born to be our Savior. As the memory verse reminds us, "Jesus was born for me."

Memory Verse

Jesus was born for me.
(from Luke 2:11)

Biblical Concept

God's Son, Jesus, was born on Christmas.

Concept in Action

I can celebrate that Jesus
was born on Christmas.



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Let's Get Ready!

Suggestions and ideas to help get your room, space or table ready.

Set individual manger figures in a shoebox or other small box that could serve as a stable. Throughout the session, invite children to retell the story of the first Christmas using the figures.

Set up a small artificial Christmas tree with child-safe ornaments and ornament hangers. Children will make additional decorations for the tree.

In a corner of the MOPPETS meeting area, set up a living nativity. This can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose; the goal is to engage children physically in the events of the first Christmas.

Children will delight in touching and rehangng the commercially made ornaments. Later in the session, they'll proudly hang their ornaments on the same tree.

After children dress up, encourage them to act out the story chronologically. Ask guiding questions like:

"Who was traveling?"

"What happened when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem?"

"Where did they sleep?"

Suggested props:

a shoebox for the manger, stuffed with shredded brown paper grocery bags or straw

a doll wrapped in a receiving blanket for baby Jesus (use a boy doll if possible)

tinsel garland and a children's choir robe for an angel costume

hand towels (these can be held together with a large paper clip or a bathrobe tie)

or old pillowcases (cut with neck and arm holes) for clothing

plush animals for stable residents and a riding horse for a donkey

a star hung from the ceiling (or you can tape the star to a yardstick stuck in a potted palm)

If you choose to have a special event (see "BOZ Video Presentation"), leave the living-nativity corner set up and suggest that parents bring their cameras. Young children — and even older siblings — tend to wear angelic expressions when assuming roles in the Christmas story.

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Name: _____



Jesus was born for me.
(from Luke 2:11)



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Name: _____

Follow That Star!

BOZ, Drew, and Gracie are following the star to find Jesus in the manger. Can you help them find Jesus?



Jesus was born for me.
(from Luke 2:11)



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Gathering Rhyme

It's *Treehouse Time!* for you and me
So jump up high, count 1, 2, 3
Next clap your hands, then spin around
(whisper) Now please sit down without a sound

BOZ Bag

Use a color printer to reproduce the BOZ bag image available online at www.BozTheBear.com/moppets. Attach the image to a pillowcase or cloth bag.

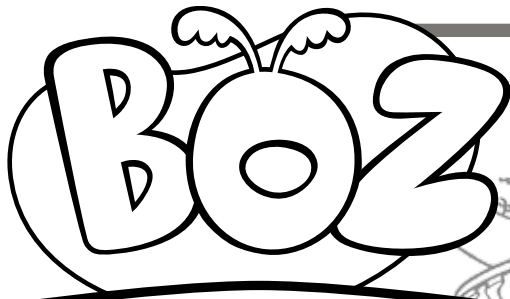
Instead of a bag or pillowcase this month, use a Christmas stocking. Insert secular holiday items that are red (candy cane, bow, ornament, mini-socking) or green (evergreen sprig, tissue paper, small wreath).

After children have identified the items, ask, "Why do you think I chose these items?" (Possible answers: All are Christmas items. All are Christmas colors.)



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TREEHOUSE TIME!

A WowieBOZowee Christmas

Activities

Option 1: Rock the Little Baby (Action Rhyme)

As you say these verses, ask children to pretend they are rocking a baby to sleep in their arms.

Rock the little baby
Jesus, God's dear Son
Rock the little baby
Born for everyone

Rock the little baby
Sleeping in the hay
Rock the little baby
Born on Christmas Day

Rock the little baby
Sent from God above
Rock the little baby
God's own gift of love

After the verses, ask, "What is the most important part of Christmas?"
Then say, "Let's stand up and do the Christmas story."
(Do the actions with the children as outlined in The Christmas Story activity.)



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Option 2: The Christmas Story (Interactive Story)

Mary and Joseph walked, walked, walked. (walk in place)

They were going to the town of Bethlehem.

Mary was going to have a baby, so she was very tired. (walk more slowly)

Mary and Joseph finally came to Bethlehem. (stop)

They needed a place to sleep.

So Joseph knocked on a door. (lean over and knock on floor)

He asked, "Do you have room for us? Mary is going to have a baby."

The man said, "There's no room here." (shake head)

Mary and Joseph walked down the street. (walk)

They stopped. (stop)

Joseph knocked on another door. (lean over and knock on floor)

He asked, "Do you have room for us? Mary is going to have a baby."

The man said, "There's no room here." (shake head)

Mary and Joseph kept walking. (walk slowly)

They stopped. (stop)

Joseph knocked on another door. (lean over and knock on floor)

He asked, "Do you have room for us? Mary is going to have a baby."

The man said, "There's no room here." (shake head)

Joseph said, "Where can we stay? Mary is going to have a baby."

The man pointed to the back of his house. (point)

"You can stay in my stable with the animals."

So Mary and Joseph walked to the stable. (walk)

(speak softly)

That night, Mary had her baby.



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Option 2: The Christmas Story (Interactive Story)

Off in the fields, shepherds were watching their sheep. (look, with hand above eyes)
Suddenly, an angel appeared from the sky. (lean back and look up, surprised)
The angel said, "I have good news.
Jesus is born.
Jesus is born for you."

The shepherds said, "Let's go see the baby." (walk)
They walked and started to run toward Bethlehem. (run in place)
They stopped. (stop)
There was the baby. (hold arms as if holding baby)
Baby Jesus was born.

The shepherds walked and then ran through the town back to their sheep. (walk, then run, in place)
They praised God, saying (say with me), "Jesus is born. Jesus is born. Praise God."



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Crafts

Hang completed ornaments on the tree.

Option 1: Gift Box

Precut a square or rectangle from red craft foam or felt.
Also precut two narrow strips from green felt or foam that are equal in length and height to the red shape. Lay out these pieces for children to assemble.

Glue the green strips to make a cross on the red shape.
Put a miniature self-stick bow at the point where the green strips cross.

Tape a piece of yarn or ribbon to the back of the "present" to make an ornament loop.



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Crafts

Option 2: Pinecone

Wrap a pipe cleaner around the top edges of each pinecone to form a hanger. After covering a table with plastic, give each child a pinecone on a small paper plate. Invite children to drop small bits of glitter glue onto the cone. Let the pinecone dry on the plate.

Heavy applications of glitter glue might not dry before the end of the session. Encourage children to use just a small amount.

Option 3: Candy Cane

Give the children one glittery red and one white or silver pipe cleaner of matching width and length. Have the children start at the top and twist together the pipe cleaners all the way to the bottom. Bend the top in a hook shape to make an ornament hanger. Tie on a ribbon in a complementary color to make a bow.



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Snacks

Option 1: Pea Tree

Fill five dishes, with one type of food in each dish:

snap peas

cherry or grape tomatoes (halved or quartered if desired) and/or sliced rounds of baby carrots

cheese sticks or thick pretzels

shredded mozzarella cheese

mandarin oranges, or small pieces of pineapple or mango

After children wash their hands, give each child a small paper plate.

Put the cheese or pretzel stick (the tree trunk) vertically on the plate.

Lay snap peas (the branches) at a slight downward angle along each side of the stick.

Add carrots or tomatoes (the ornaments) as desired.

Drizzle shredded mozzarella cheese (the garland) over the "tree."

Top the tree with an orange, or a piece of pineapple or mango (the star).

Make a Pea Tree in advance so children have a model.

Option 2: Manger

Give each child a plastic knife or tongue depressor, a celery stick and some whipped cream cheese. Fill the celery stick with cream cheese. Crumble a shredded wheat square over the celery stick to serve as hay in the manger.



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A WowieBOZowee Christmas

BOZ Video Presentation

You will need: BOZ Treehouse Time! DVD #2, a television and a DVD player.

A WowieBOZowee Christmas is a full-length feature about BOZ and the Baxter family's Christmas preparations. Show the video during a MOPS-sponsored family event, such as Breakfast with BOZ or a pajama party. This will allow family members to learn about the green bear children have been talking about and also anchor a special holiday event. Or, MOPS might want to co-sponsor a birthday party for Jesus with the Christian education ministry of your host congregation.



Select and play

A WowieBOZowee Christmas

Running Time: 48:17



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A WowieBOZowee Christmas

BOZ Books

Additional BOZ resources

Christmas with BOZ

(As BOZ and his friends prepare for the holiday in this book, they discover the reason Christmas is so special.)

?

pre-reading question

How are you getting ready for Christmas?
Let's see what BOZ and his friends are doing.

?

post-reading questions

How did BOZ and his friends get ready
for Christmas?
What makes Christmas so special?



BOZ and You and Christmas Too

This wipe-off activity book includes three pens. Children are asked to do a maze and dot-to-dot (1-9), color and draw, so some pages are appropriate for "scribbler"-level artists. If the book is used during MOPPETS, ask a leader to supervise. Provide multiple copies of the book and rags or baby wipes to clean the pages.



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Closing Prayer

BOZ Treehouse Time! is done today
But now before we end our play
We fold our hands and then we say
"Thank you, dear God, for this great day"

Thank you, God, for Christmas.
Thank you most of all for the best gift, Jesus.
Amen.



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