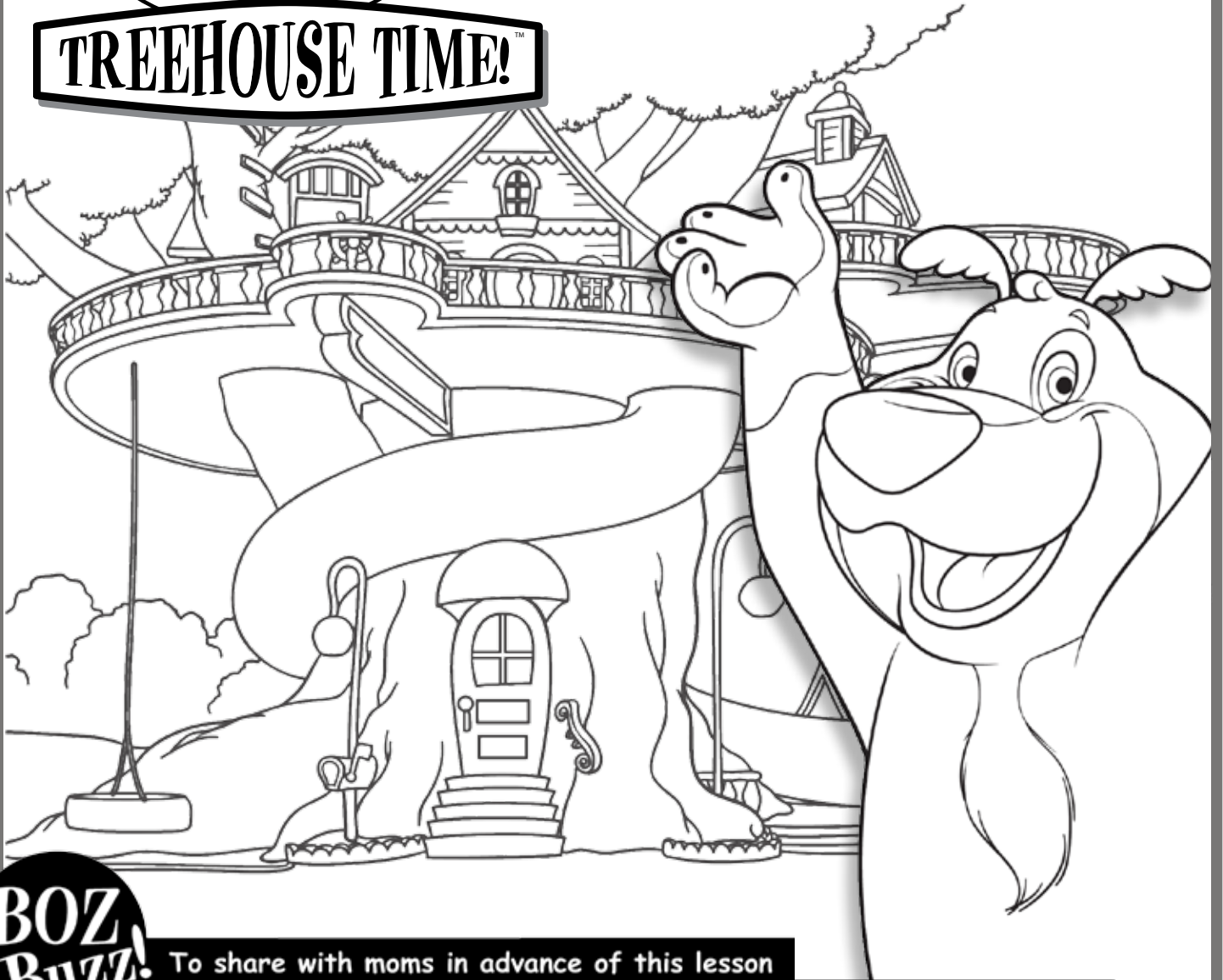


BOZ

TREEHOUSE TIME!™

A WowieBOZowee Christmas



**BOZ
BUZZ!**

To share with moms in advance of this lesson

As you might have anticipated, Christmas is the next theme for *BOZ Treehouse Time!* at MOPPETS. We will focus on the real meaning of the holiday. Although the birth of Jesus can be buried in the commercialism of the season, take every opportunity to point out to your child the reference to Bethlehem in a carol, the star at the top of a tree or the gift of God's Son when wrapping a present.



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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:

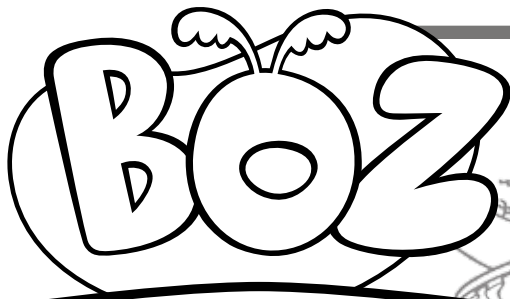
- * After the children have arrived, say "It's *Treehouse Time!* Come and sit down in front of me on the rug."
- * Look in the BOZ bag. Use children's responses to extend the conversation about the object or theme. Introduce the memory verse during this opening discussion.
- * Do the activity rhyme.
- * Show the video.
- * Do a craft.
- * Children 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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2

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TREEHOUSE TIME!™

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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

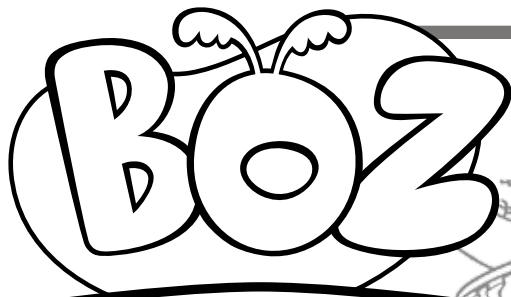
Closing Prayer

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



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TREEHOUSE TIME!

A WowieBOZowiee Christmas

Lesson Overview

Just for You

Many families look for ways to celebrate a Christ-centered approach to Christmas. Through activities in this session, MOPPETS will learn verses and participate in activities that could easily be adopted as family traditions. Feel free to email moms the "Veggie tree" directions or the words to "Jesus is Born."

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 a crèche with individual figures on a table that can be easily reached by MOP-PETS. As children enter, invite them to play with the figures. Throughout the session, encourage them to retell the story of Christmas using the figures. If you choose to do the "Bethlehem forest" craft, a forest will "grow" around the stable during the session.

If you asked MOPPETS to bring personal care items for a charity, line up empty boxes for sorting the items. Then invite children to put one item from each box into a large zip-close plastic bag. If children bring items in bags that are ready to distribute, simply set a large collection box at the door.



The following coloring/activity pages can be printed and copied for your MOPPETS.



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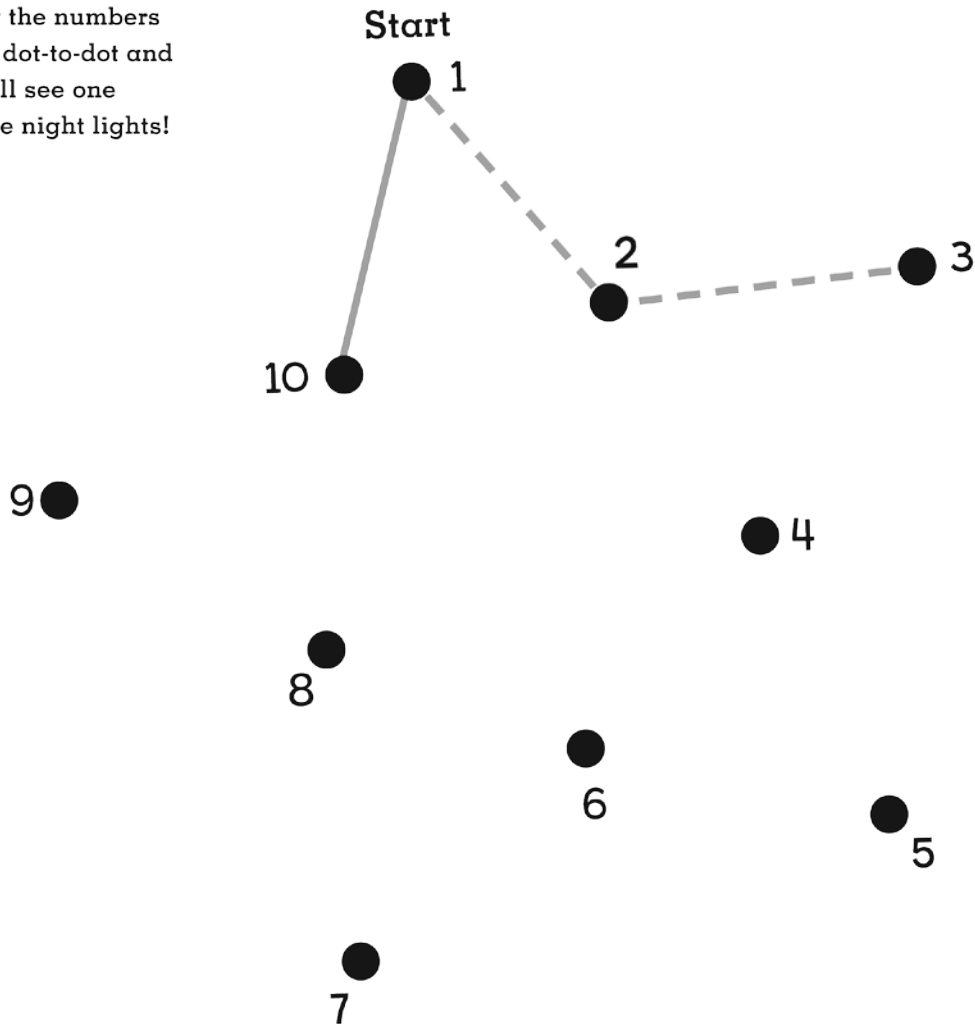
Name: _____

The Christmas Star

After God took care of lighting up the day
with the sun, he made lights for night!

What are they?

Follow the numbers
in this dot-to-dot and
you will see one
of these night lights!



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



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Name: _____

Color Me Beautiful

God created so many beautiful colors. All of them are good! Color the picture of BOZ, Drew, and Gracie as they get ready to celebrate Christmas. Can you color each present a different beautiful color?



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 several individual items from the crèche set used in the room entry area: baby Jesus, an angel, manger, sheep, camel. As items are taken out and identified, talk about the events of the first Christmas. Follow this conversation with the verse "Jesus is Born." After saying this verse, return the figures to the table so children can retell the story during playtime.



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Activities

Option 1: Jesus Is Born (Poem)

The town was so crowded
There wasn't a space
For Mary and Joseph
To find a good place

(Whisper when children say the following refrain. Grow increasingly louder each time the verse is repeated.)

Jesus is born (nod head)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you (point to self, then someone else)

But they were so tired
Now where could they stay?
With animals nearby
And sleep on the hay

Jesus is born (nod head)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you (point to self, then someone else)

While shepherds watched over
Their sheep through the night
An angel appeared then
In glorious light

Jesus is born (nod head)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you (point to self, then someone else)



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Jesus Is Born (Poem)

"Do not be afraid now
It's time for great joy
I bring you good news of
A new baby boy"

Jesus is born (nod head)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you (point to self, then someone else)

"He lies in a manger
A gift from above
God sent us dear Jesus
A gift of great love"

Jesus is born (nod head)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you (point to self, then someone else)

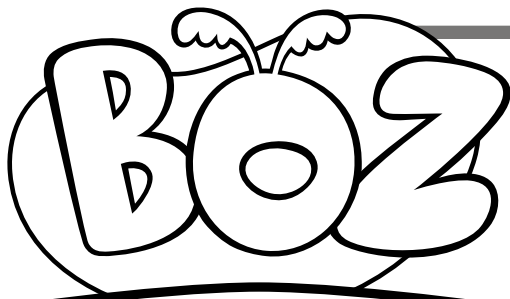
So let's all stand up now (children stand)
And shout out, "Hooray" (shout "hooray")
For Jesus was born on
That first Christmas day

Jesus is born (say very loudly)
Yes, it is true
Jesus is born
For me and you



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A WowieBOZowee Christmas

More Activities

TREEHOUSE TIME!™

Option 2: Star Light, Star Bright (Game)

Dim the room lights. Give one child a flashlight to shine at the ceiling as the group walks around in a circle, saying:

Star light, star bright
A special star shone Christmas night
Stars shine far, stars shine near
Stars shine bright, stars shine here

When the group says, "Stars shine here," the child shines the light at the feet of a child who will then hold the flashlight. Continue the game until all children have had a turn holding the flashlight.

Option 3: Where Is Jesus? (Game)

In advance, hide in plain sight the baby Jesus from the crèche set, or wrap a boy doll in a towel and lay it in a shoebox filled with straw or shredded brown paper grocery bags.

Say, "Shepherds went to find baby Jesus. Let's pretend we are shepherds looking for baby Jesus." Say the verse. After finding the baby, ask the children to cover their eyes while you help a child hide the baby again. Repeat the verse before beginning each search.

Verse:

Let's go and find Jesus
(run in place)
Who was born today
The baby is soundly
Asleep on the hay
(put hands to cheek, pretending to sleep)

*If you have a large group,
divide into smaller groups, with
each group of shepherds led by
an adult.*



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TREEHOUSE TIME!™

A WowieBOZowee Christmas

Crafts

Option 1: Bethlehem Forest

Display the completed Bethlehem forest in a visible place at your host church. Set the forest and crèche on a piece of fabric or glittery cloth. Add a small sign saying, "The First Christmas by MOPPETS." This is a simple way to call attention to your ongoing ministry to young children and their moms.

Give each child a cone-shaped paper cup (the type commonly used at a water cooler). Write the child's name on the inside of the cone. Spread green glitter paint on the cone. Push bits of stretched cotton balls onto the wet paint for snow. Stand the painted cone upright on a small paper plate. After the paint dries, display the "trees" around the crèche set.

A messier but less expensive alternative to glitter glue is glue that has been thinned with water. Children can spread this thinned glue onto the cones with a paintbrush. Roll the cones in glitter, seed beads or any similar covering that has been dumped into a box lid and is safe for your group.



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Crafts

Option 2: Born in a Stable

Obtain a picture of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus for each child. The picture might be on a sticker or cut from a Sunday school leaflet, greeting card, calendar or wrapping paper.

Ask each child to glue or stick the picture onto a clean foam tray. Glue a Popsicle stick on each side of the picture. Above the picture, glue two Popsicle sticks, angled to make an arch. Add a star sticker to the peak of the stable "roof." Add straw, raffia or shredded brown paper grocery bags for straw.

Older children can do this variation:

On the foam tray, glue two tongue depressors to make an "X." Glue straw, raffia or shredded brown paper grocery bags in the manger for straw. Cut out a small circle; draw a face on the circle. Position the circle to the left or to the right of the manger and glue it above the straw to represent the baby's head. Add a small rectangle of cloth or felt for swaddling clothes.

Option 3: Twinkling Stars

In advance, prepare potatoes for printing. Simply slice a potato in half and use a pencil to outline a star shape on the sliced portion of the potato. Use a sharp knife to cut out the potato around the star at about a 1-inch depth.

Pour washable fluorescent paint into shallow disposable pans. Show children how to dip the star into the paint, then onto black construction paper. After painting, children can sprinkle gold and silver glitter onto the wet paint so the stars will "glow" in the dark.

For a more spectacular effect, substitute washable glow-in-the-dark paint.



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Snack

Veggie Tree

Fill individual dishes with various vegetables: slices of cucumber, carrots and zucchini; chopped celery; drained, cooked beans of any type; halved cherry or grape tomatoes; small sections of broccoli flowerettes; and pitted black or green olives. After children wash their hands, help them create a veggie tree snack on a paper plate:

Put one veggie on the plate.

Below that, place two pieces of a different vegetable.

Below that row, place three pieces of a different vegetable.

Continue the pattern to make a triangle tree comprised of veggie rows.

Use a piece of chopped celery at the bottom for the trunk.



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A WowieBOZowee Christmas

BOZ Video Presentation

You will need: BOZ Treehouse Time! DVD #1, 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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15

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A WowieBOZowee Christmas

BOZ Books

Additional BOZ resources

Christmas with BOZ

(As BOZ and his friends prepare for the holiday, 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.



exclaim

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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 sending Jesus to be born on Christmas.
I love Jesus, and I love Christmas.
Amen.



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