# Pre-class Preparation

# 1. Welcome Baby Jesus!

#### SPARK INTEREST—Take a Walk

Before class, set up a simple relay race course with cones or chairs.

#### **INSPIRE ACTION—Reasons**

Before class, hang a piece of butcher paper along one wall, at a height your children can reach. Then you will make paper dolls. Fold a piece of paper eight times, accordion-style. Trace the pattern of a human figure along the fold of the top segment, and cut along the outline through all the layers at once. Open the paper and you will have four paper dolls. Cut them apart. Continue until you have made at least one paper doll for every child in your class.

#### ADDITIONAL—Happy Birthday Jesus

Bring a birthday cake to class.

# 2. Baptizing God's Son

# SPARK INTEREST—Making a Change

Before class, write each of the following on a separate sheet of paper: "Sin," "I repent," and "Forgiveness." Draw a picture of a bandage next to "Sin"; a set of praying hands next to "I repent"; and a sun shining brightly next to "Forgiveness." Hang "Sin" on one wall in your classroom. Hang "I repent" on another wall, and "Forgiveness" on a third wall. Place the blocks and puzzles next to the "Forgiveness" wall.

#### INSPIRE ACTION—Honoring God

Before class, download the picture of John baptizing Jesus and make enough copies for all your children. You can download this picture at *DiscipleLand.com/downloads* (enter the keyword "Messiah").

#### ADDITIONAL—Honor God Mosaic

Before class, obtain different-colored art sand from a hobby store.

# 3. The Sick Need a Doctor

### SPARK INTEREST—I Will Follow Jesus

Before class, prepare footprint cutouts in different colors of construction paper. In your classroom, use a bulletin board, a wall, or butcher paper to create a space for this activity. Attach a picture of Jesus to one side of the board or wall.

### INSPIRE ACTION—Following God's Word

Before class, cut one 1" x 8½" slip of colored construction paper for each child. On each slip, write down things that the Bible tells us to do. For example, you might write, "Read or listen to the Bible," or "Do not lie," or "Be kind to others," and so on. Hide those slips around the classroom.

### **INSPIRE ACTION—An Invitation**

Before class, create an invitation that your students can decorate. Write, "You Are Invited" and write the times of your church service and address of your church. Make copies so that each child will have one.

#### ADDITIONAL—Following

Before class, write each child's name on an index card in large letters with a marker. If children have the same name, write their names in different colors. Then write the names on the index cards, using the same colors, on envelopes.

# 4. The Chosen Few

No activities recquire significant pre-class preparation.

# 5. A Leader of Israel

### **MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD**

Before class, draw symbols on paper cups that represent key words in this verse. For example, for the word "God" you could put a cross, for "loved" you could draw a heart, for "world" you could draw the earth, and so on.

#### **EXPLORE SCRIPTURE**

Before class, wrap a gift box and separately wrap its lid. Write one letter ("A", "B," and "C") each in large print on three large colorful pieces of paper that can fit into the box without being folded. Write the meaning of each letter on the back for the your reference.

• A—Admit to God that you have done wrong things (sinned) and made God sad.

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# **Amazing New Testament Heroes**

- B—Believe that God sent Jesus to die on the cross to be punished for your sin.
- C—Call out to Jesus to forgive you and be your Savior right now.

#### ADDITIONAL—Presents

Before class, prepare the A,B,C cards from *Explore Scripture* and wrap them along with one small present for each child.

#### ADDITIONAL—The Wind Blows Where It Pleases

This craft makes a spiraling wind hanger that kids can take home. Download the pattern found at *DiscipleLand.com/downloads* (enter the keyword "**Messiah**"). Print out one pattern for each student on cardstock.

### 6. Good Friends

# SPARK INTEREST—On Out Way

Before class, draw and cut out twenty large footprints. Starting at one end of the room, tape the footprints in lines across the floor. At the other end of the room, make a large masking tape rectangle on the floor.

#### INSPIRE ACTION—Choosing the Better Thing

Before class, wrap the two tissue boxes with wrapping paper—one a wrinkled, dull paper and the other a bright paper. Put colored marbles in the dull colored box. Put gravel in the brightly covered one. Make sure there are enough marbles for each child.

# 7. Above the Crowd

No activities recquire significant pre-class preparation.

# 8. Sons of Thunder

#### **EXPLORE SCRIPTURE**

Before class, ask four teen or adult volunteers help you act out today's Bible lesson. Choose two of them to be James and John, one to be their mom, and one to be Jesus. Have them review Matthew 20:20-28 to prepare.

# 9. A Man Who Speaks Out

# INSPIRE ACTION—Key to Heaven

Before class, make copies of a large key shape on sheets of cardstock so that each of your children can have a set of keys. A key pattern and line art of Jesus are available at *Disciple-Land.com/downloads* (enter the keyword "**Messiah**"). Cut them out for the children, and punch a hole at the top of each key.

# 10. Giving What Was His

### SPARK INTEREST—Sacrificial Giving

Before class, put together a group of toys that can and cannot be divided. You might include a doll, toy car, Lego blocks, play jewelry, and crayons. The number and kinds of these toys can be modified according to classroom needs.

## 11. She Has Seen the Lord!

### INSPIRE ACTION—All the Difference

Before class, cut poster board or cardstock into thirteen large pieces. Using one letter per sheet, write JESUS IS ALIVE! in large block letters.

### ADDITIONAL—A Surprise

Before class, bake the patty or éclair shells according to package directions.

### ADDITIONAL—A Special Name

Before class, make a page for each student that says at the top "[place for Jesus sticker] Calls," and at the bottom, "By Name." In the large middle space, write each child's name in large block letters that can be colored by the child. Be sure to prepare a few extra sheets for visitors.

#### ADDITIONAL—Garden Tomb

Before class, cut out cave and large stone shapes from the grey paper, one for each student.

# 12. A Man of Doubt

### **INSPIRE ACTION—I Believe!**

Before class, make 5" diameter red circles and 5" diameter green circles. Place double-sided tape on the back of each circle and place at the back of the classroom. At the front of the classroom, hang two poster boards. The first one should have "TRUE" on it in green marker, and the second poster board should have "FALSE" on it in red marker.