

Other Activities

Activity #1

The Art of Encouragement

Jesus knows how to take care of each of his sheep. He knows which ones are sad, which ones are tired, which ones are having a hard time. So have each child think of someone you know—perhaps a neighbor, family member, or someone at church—who might also need some encouragement.

Once each child has selected a different name, ask him/her to think of what kind of craft or drawing might be most encouraging or helpful to that person. Then once the projects are done, you can deliver these personalized art projects together, praying for each person and explaining how each project was meant just for them.

Activity #2:

Supplies You'll Need: empty toilet paper roll (one for each person), cotton balls, glue

Make Woolly, Woolly Fun Decorations

Make Christmas decorations that look like sheep. You can use a toilet paper roll and cotton balls, with some glue. Before starting decide what kind of sheep to make. Pick a name and an attitude: happy, sad, weak, strong, etc. Hang these different sheep on your tree, or add them to a crèche/nativity scene.

Activity #3:

Supplies You'll Need: various household objects; wrapping paper; tape

Guess the Gift

Wrap five common household objects as Christmas presents. Then have the children try to guess what each one is, just by holding and shaking it. See which child can get the most correct guesses.

Activity #4:

Supplies You'll Need: various food items; blindfold

Name That Food

To prepare for this guessing game, select 8–10 different small food items (for example, an egg, a slice of bread, a tomato, a potato, a carrot, a celery stalk, a can of soup, etc.). Then blindfold a child and have them try to identify a few of the items, using only their feet (or nose). Can they tell what each item is? If other children are watching, you will want to introduce different items for each child's turn.

Point out that there's no guessing with the Lord. He knows what each of us is like and how to take care of us.



Christmas Punch

Did you know that Saint Nick was a real person who lived about 1700 years ago? In fact, good old Saint Nick was a pastor, named Nicholas, who lived in the city of Myra. (Myra is near the modern town of Demre, located in the nation of Turkey.)

Pastor Nicholas loved Jesus, and he loved God's Word. And one year (about 325 years after Jesus was born), Nicholas traveled over 400 miles north to the city of Nicea. Nicholas was going to a pastor's meeting in that city. Over 300 pastors would meet together and talk about the Bible. They wanted to discuss and learn more of what the Bible taught about Jesus.

Another pastor at the meeting was named Arius. Now Arius said that he believed the Bible but then he said he did not believe that Jesus was God. Arius said that Jesus was a really important human being—but not God. This was wrong, and Nicholas knew it!

During the meeting, as Arius was telling everyone that Jesus was not God, Pastor Nicholas became really upset. This was NOT what the Bible taught. So, maybe trying to knock some sense into Arius, Pastor Nicholas made the first Christmas punch! Really! He shouldn't have, but he became so upset that he actually punched Arius.

If you've been bad this year, Saint Nick might put coal in your stocking. But if you teach bad things about Jesus, you might want to duck.²