RBP's Wild LIVE!
SHOWCASING CHRIST'S CHARACTER

OVERVIEW

Primary	Showcase 1	Showcase 2	Showcase 3	Showcase 4	Showcase 5
Title	**Showing Christ's Love**	**Showing Christ's Holiness**	**Showing Christ's Compassion**	**Showing Christ's Humility**	**Showing Christ's Faithfulness**
References	Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–11 (Jesus Is Born)	Matthew 4:1–11 (Jesus Is Tempted)	Mark 6:30–44 (Jesus Feeds over 5,000)	John 13:1–17 (Jesus Washes Feet)	Matthew 27:27–31, 39–46, 50; 28:1–8, 18–20 (Jesus Is Crucified, Then Rises to Life)
Focus	Christ's love in us	Christ's holiness in us	Christ's compassion in us	Christ's humility in us	Christ's faithfulness in us
Memory Verses	"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).	"It is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).	"Jesus . . . was moved with compassion toward them" (Mark 6:34).	"I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).	"Ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8).
Games	• Ani-motion Relay • Don't Mess with That Llama! • Flutter & Catch • Luggin' Llamas	• Timber! • Avoid Temptation • Built Strong	• Match Me • Compassion Fill-up • Playful Dolphins • Sharks & Dolphins • Dolphin Splash	• Elephant Trunk Soccer • Crazy Critter Races • Savanna Sling-it • Soaker Wash	• Animal Scavenger Hunt • Penguin Relay • Keep That Egg Safe • Creature Corners
Snacks	• Llama Wool • Yummy South America • Llama Crackers • Andes Trail Mix	• Beaver Lodge Cookies • Beaver Cup • Santos's Apple Tree	• Fishing with Dolphins • Dolphin Compassion • Sea Snack Mix • Fish in the Seaweed	• Animal Cracker Dip • Elephant Memory • Mini Elephant Ears	• Polar Ice Sandwiches • Penguin Swim • Cheese Icebergs • Faithful Penguins
Crafts	• Jesus Is Born! • Festive Clover the Llama • Fluffy Llama • God Sent His Son • Wild Binoculars	• Backstroking Beaver • Jesus in View Memory Box • Eager Beaver • Love God's Word	• Color Your Own Dolphin • Beads & Bubbles Jellyfish • Diving with Dolphins • Floating Sea Turtle • Dolphin Friend	• Wildlife Color Scratch Masks • Colorful Critter Necklace • Elephant Smile • Boldly Live for Jesus	• Narwhal Friend • Ice Skating Penguin • Penguin on a Roll • Good News Hearts • Jesus Always Loves Us

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PRIMARY
TEACHER BOOK

Showing Christ's
LOVE

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–11 (Jesus Is Born)

MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

TOPIC

Christ's love in us

THEME

Jesus came to save us so we might know and share His love.

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will respond to the revelation of God's love by loving others.

TAKEAWAY

I can know and show God's love because He loves me.

TIP ▶
This activity will help develop fine-motor skills in students. Since primaries are more comfortable with their own gender, consider making all-boy and all-girl teams.

TIP ▶
Before class, do a quick online search to get familiar with captivating creatures that live in South America. Examples include alpacas, capybaras, collared peccaries, glass frogs, guanacos, llamas, long-wattled umbrellabirds, matamatas, Patagonian maras, pink fairy armadillos, sloths, and spectacled bears.

IDEA ▶
For added variety during Welcome time, you could set up stations and run more than one welcome activity at the same time. Students either rotate between activities or choose their favorite.

Welcome

Option 1: Put the Sheep to Bed

Materials

- Cotton balls; child-friendly jumbo tweezers; 2 bowls per station; timer.

Before class: Place an equal number of cotton balls on two tables. Place a pair of tweezers and two bowls by each pile. If you have a large class, lay out additional sets.

In Bible times, sheep were very important. People who cared for them were called "shepherds." One night, something amazing happened while shepherds watched their sheep in a field. Let's pretend we are shepherds who must get all our sheep home to bed in their sheepfold.

ACTIVITY: Group the students into teams of two to four and direct them to the tables. Explain that you will count down from three to one to start. Set the timer for however long you want the game to go. The first student on each team should pick up the tweezers and use them to move cotton balls into one of the sheepfolds, or bowls. Every twenty to thirty seconds, call "Switch!" so another player can try. Repeat until time is up. When the timer rings or you call time, players who have tweezers put them down. The team with the fewest cotton balls on the table wins.

Option 2: Barn Friend Noises

Materials

- Whiteboard; double-sided tape; pictures of the following animals: cow, sheep, llama, horse, duck, goose, pig, donkey, and cat from the director resources CD (33602).

Before class: Write the sound that each animal makes on its own piece of paper (cow: moo; sheep: baa, llama: hum; horse: neigh; duck: quack; goose: honk; pig: squeal; donkey: hee-haw; cat: meow). Place all the sounds on a table where students can see them, and have the tape dispenser ready. Have the animal pictures ready to hand out.

SAY: The animals have lost their sounds! Let's help them. **ACTIVITY:** As students walk into class, have each one choose an animal picture. Put a piece of two-sided tape on it and let the child place it on the board. Ask the student what kind of sound that animal makes. Then direct the student to the basket of noises to choose the corresponding sound and to place the paper next to the animal. *(Station a helper by the basket for those who have trouble reading.)* Have the entire class make that animal's sound. *Optional:* Encourage students to move in place like that animal might move (e.g., walk, shake head, trot, run, waddle, flap wings, stretch).

Option 3: Llama, Llama!

Materials

- Plush sequin llama (33855); extra-small dog leash or make your own leash with rope; *optional:* flat piece of cardboard about 2½' x 2½' or a scooter board; tape; *optional:* primary-level llama jokes found online.

Before class: Look up facts about llamas online. Prepare the flat piece of cardboard and tape the llama's feet to it so the llama stands upright as students "lead" it around the room; a scooter board works even better.

ACTIVITY: Have a student "walk" the llama with the leash, with the other students following around the room. Students take turns leading. *Optional:* Invite students to think up fun things to say, like "Llama, llama, silly llama" or "Llama, llama, where's your mama?" as they walk. Teach them some llama jokes to say. Share facts about llamas. Emphasize that they are loving, protective, and companionable and that they carry heavy loads for people.

Plush Sequin Llama
(33855)

Introduction

Materials

- Plush sequin llama (33855); *optional:* llama toy or llama picture; soft yarn or blanket made of yarn.

ACTIVITY: Have students pass around the llama toy. If desired, let them handle the yarn or blanket.

High up in the Andes Mountains of South America, it's hard to carry food, clothing, or blankets from one place to another. **The rocky trails** (*hold your hand flat in front of you and "walk" fingers of your other hand along the "trail"; invite students to mimic your motions*) **are very steep** (*angle your hand to illustrate "steep," then walk your fingers on it; add sound effects to communicate difficulty*) **and slippery** (*let your fingers slip down the incline*). **That's when you need a llama!** Woolly llamas are sure-footed on steep trails.

Llamas are known for being helpful and loving. Even on bad trails, llamas help people move things from one place to another. And because llamas are loving and protective, they are also used to guard sheep.

Loving llamas remind me of Someone Who was perfectly loving—God's Son, Jesus. Today we're going to learn how Jesus showed His love for us in the best way ever!

Explore the Bible!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (33607) or visual book PowerPoint download (33607EB); *optional*: sleeping bag; decorations for a stable.

Before class: Choose students to play a bird for Joseph's dream and a sheep and a cow for the stable. Tell the three what sounds you want them to make (chirp, baa, moo) when you call on them. *Optional:* Decorate part of the classroom as a stable for the cow and sheep. For Joseph's dream, consider adding a sleeping bag in a corner as the place Joseph slept.

Today we are going to learn about God's wonderful love for us.

ASK: What is love? *(Allow answers.)* **SAY:** Today we're going to learn about God's love, which means He chose to help us because He cares, even when we couldn't give Him anything in return.

Raise your hand if you have pets. I'm sure you love your family and your pets very much. But God loves us even more than we could ever love our families and pets!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1. **SAY:** Who is this in the picture? *(Allow children to answer.)* Yes, it's Jesus.

Jesus loves us—you and me and all the people in our whole wide world! Jesus showed His love by coming to earth to be born a baby.

Have you ever heard of Joseph and Mary? God's Word, the Bible *(indicate your Bible),* tells us about a man named Joseph and the woman he loved, Mary. Joseph was excited. Soon Mary would be his wife!

But one day, Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph didn't understand. Why was Mary going to have a baby before they were married?

Joseph was worried and wondered what to do. Then one night as he slept, he had a special dream. *(Point to the sleeping bag if you're displaying one.)*

DISPLAY: Visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. Point to the picture of Joseph's dream on the left of the picture. **ACTIVITY:** Ask the "bird" to come forward, sit, and chirp.

Do you hear that bird? It is telling us something important! Let's read about it in God's Word, the Bible.

READ: Matt. 1:20, 21.

(Rub your eyes and act surprised.) Joseph rubbed his eyes. Right next to his bed stood an angel!

"Joseph, don't be afraid," the angel said. "It's okay for you to take Mary home as your wife. Mary's baby is the Son of God!"

This angel from God had a job for Joseph to do. The angel told Joseph, "Give Mary's baby the name 'Jesus,' because He will save His people from their sin."

ASK: What name was Joseph supposed to give the baby? *(Jesus.)* What would Jesus do? *(Save His people from their sin.)* **SAY:** The name Jesus means "Savior." What a perfect name for God's Son! **ASK:** Who would Jesus be? *(The Savior.)*

ISPLAY: Show the right side of visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **SAY:** Joseph obeyed. He and Mary got married.

Lesson 1 Visual 1

Lesson 1 Visual 2

Now Joseph had to travel. Caesar Augustus, who was the emperor (that's like a super-important king), wanted to count the people. So every man had to go to the town his family was from. That meant Joseph had to take a long, long journey to a town called Bethlehem.

ASK: Do you think he left Mary behind or took her with him? *(Allow answers.)* Joseph and Mary took the long trip together. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3. **SAY:** Maybe they took a donkey with them. **ACTIVITY:** Let me hear your best donkey sounds. *(If needed, hee-haw as a prompt.)*

Lesson 1 Visual 3

Joseph and Mary tried to find a place to rest, but the inn had no room. *(With your face and eyes, pretend to search for a place to stay. Encourage students to look too, while remaining seated.)* The town was full of people, so Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable. That was the only place there was room.

READ: Luke 2:7. **ACTIVITY:** Direct the cow and a sheep to come to the front or to the stable and make their animal sounds. **SAY:** Do you hear the sheep and the cow? What are they trying to tell us? *(Turn toward the "animals.")* What is the news? *(Direct the "sheep and cow" to baa and moo in response. Pretend to understand.)* Oh yes! That is exciting. Baby Jesus is born!

SAY: *(Optional: Turn off the light and have helpers close blinds or curtains.)* That night some shepherds were minding their own business taking care of their sheep. **ACTIVITY:** Encourage students to baa and bleat like sheep.

Suddenly *(turn on the light and have helpers reopen what they closed)* bright light lit up the dark sky! An angel appeared and spoke to the shepherds, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news! A Savior is born in Bethlehem."

READ: Luke 2:11, 12. **DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

Lesson 1 Visual 4

So the shepherds quickly left the field and went to the stable to find the baby Savior.

ASK: Who told the shepherds that Jesus was born? *(An angel. Point to the angel.)* What unusual thing was Jesus lying in? *(Allow students to answer.)* **SAY:** Mary laid Jesus in a manger, the box that held animal food. *(Point to Jesus.)* What else is unusual in this picture? *(The cross. Point to the cross.)* **ASK:** What had the angel told Joseph that Jesus would one day be and do? *(Be the Savior; save people from their sins.)*

Jesus would grow up and die on a cross as punishment, but not punishment for anything He did wrong. Jesus never, ever did anything wrong. He died on that cross because He loved us. He died to take the punishment for all the wrong things we think, say, or do. He died to save us from our sin. Jesus is the Savior!
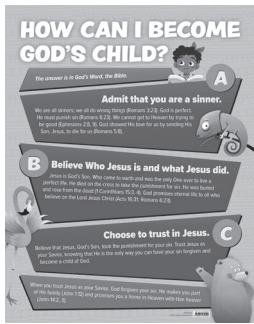
Salvation Poster
(33636)

TIP ▶
A definition of *love:* "Choosing to help someone because you care, expecting nothing in return, not even love or help."

Decision Time

Materials
- Bible; salvation poster (33636).

Why was Jesus born? *(Allow student responses and commend them for their good answers.)* Jesus was born because God loved you and me. God wanted us to be saved from our sin, become part of His family, and go to Heaven one day.

Jesus is the only One Who could save us from our sins, because He is perfect. He never sinned, not even once. Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins so God would forgive our sins. Because Jesus was God's perfect, sinless Son, Jesus was the only One Who could take our punishment for us. Jesus is the only Savior that His Father, God, sent for us because He loves us.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to present the gospel, then ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite students to look up at you if they want to know more about trusting Jesus to forgive their sins, and assign workers to talk individually with those students.

Aren't you glad Jesus was born? We can be glad that Jesus loves us no matter what we have done. We should always remember that He loves us. I'm so glad for Jesus' love! Because He loves us, He wants us to show His love to others. We show Jesus' love when we help them because we care, not expecting anything in return.

Discover!

Option 1: Manger-Scene Review
Materials
- Crèche; lesson 1 visual packet CD (33607) or visual book PowerPoint download (33607EB).

Before class: Set up the crèche on a table.

Use the visuals to review the account of Jesus's birth. When you get to a person or animal in the account, hand that figurine to a student to place in the crèche.

Option 2: Choose Your Favorite Character!
Materials
- Lesson 1 visual packet and CD (33607) or visual book PowerPoint download (33607EB); card stock; glue stick; double-sided tape.

Before class: Cut out each Bible character from the account. Adhere each character to a piece of card stock and place double-sided tape on the back. Place each character on the board.

ACTIVITY: As you review the lesson, direct the students, one at a time, to choose a character from the board. As the student points to the character, review what that character did. Remove the character from the board (to ensure that all characters are reviewed). If all characters have been removed but some students haven't had a turn, replace the characters and keep going until everyone has participated.

Scripture Memory

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

Repeat the verse several times so students become familiar with it if they aren't already.

God loves you very much! He sent His Son, Jesus, to be a human like us. One day Jesus took the punishment for all our sin. God wanted us to be with Him in Heaven someday, so He made it possible to forgive our sins and for us to become His children. He wants you to believe in Jesus!

Option 1: Angel Message

Materials
• Premade paper angels, one per child; *optional:* angel image, card stock, printer, scissors to make your own angels.

We are going to pretend to be like the angels who visited Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds.

ACTIVITY: Line up students, then give a paper angel to each one. On the verse's first word as the class repeats the verse, the first student holds up an angel, then lowers it. Continue with a different student for each word. Repeat until students know the verse by heart.
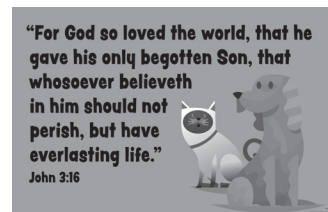
Option 2: Move like Animals

Let's say our verse while we move like animals!

ACTIVITY: Instruct the class what to do each time they say the verse: e.g., hop like a bunny, gallop in place like a horse, flap your wings (arms) like an owl, stretch your neck like a llama.

◄ TIP
Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Verse Poster
(33651-1)

◄ TIP
If the students are sitting in rows, make sure they know which end of a row is going to be the next angel/word.

Option 1: Act It Out

Materials

- Note cards; pen.

Before class: On note cards, write several situations that present opportunities for primary children to show God's love. *Examples:* Mother says to pick up your room. If you love her, what will you do? James wants to play with the toy you're playing with. If you want to show Jesus' love to James, what will you do? You are angry at someone. If you love that person, what will you do? Elijah isn't sharing. If you love Elijah, what will you do? Old Mrs. Jones is kind of stinky, so you don't like it when she gets close to you. If you want to show Jesus' love to Mrs. Jones, what will you do?

We're going to act out ways of showing God's love.

ACTIVITY: Read a situation. Let children suggest possible responses, then invite a volunteer(s) to act out a brief, appropriate ending to the scene. Continue with the other situations as time allows.

Option 2: Sheep Everywhere!

Materials

- Nametags (33633); markers; list of questions from the lesson; *optional:* stuffed animal sheep.

Before class: Write sheep names on several of the nametags. Examples: Woo-licious, Cottonball, Bo Peep, Fluffball, Angel, Cupcake, and Mittens. Leave a few nametags blank.

Today we learned that an angel told some shepherds about Jesus' birth. Who were the shepherds watching? *(Allow students to answer.)* That means the sheep probably saw the angel too! We are going to pretend to be sheep and play a game that helps us tell others about Jesus' love.

ACTIVITY: Have each student choose a nametag from the table or to make up a name. If a student makes up a name, write it on a blank nametag. Have students put on their nametags, then invite them to sit in a circle. Tell the students, "We'll practice telling other people how Jesus loves them. I am going to choose a 'sheep' and ask a question about Jesus' love." Ask each of the students a review question about Jesus' love. Encourage the students to say their answers like sheep, "baaing" as they speak.

Nametags
(33633)

TIP ▶
The point of asking questions is to prompt the students to understand more about Jesus. Help students who struggle with the answers, and don't force any students to answer who do not want to.