

UNIT THREE MEETINGS 9-12



TADPOLES LEARN TO BE **GENEROUS**

ASSIGNMENT PLANNING CHART

	ACTIVITIES	GAMES	STORY
Meeting 9			
Meeting 10			
Meeting 11			
Meeting 12			

Tadpoles
BOYS AGE 4-5
Sample Meeting

The Tadpoles Manual is comprised of 32 meetings divided into eight units. Each unit focuses on a positive trait to be developed through scripture memory, Bible stories, games and activities. An assignment planning chart heads each unit. Get all of the men together and spread around the duties. Let each child be proud of his dad's leadership role at Tadpoles.

MEETING 9

Learning to Be Generous

Key Thought

God was generous with us.

Theme Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" John 3:16a

Tadpoles Activities

Countdown Chain

Tonight, each Tadpole/dad pair will make a countdown chain that will help them count down the days until Christmas.

It's best to do this project prior to December 1. If you start later in the month, adjust the number of loops.

Before the meeting, cut 1" x 9" strips from yellow and white construction paper. Each child will need 13 white strips and 12 yellow totaling 25 strips. The child and dad will make a chain alternating colors that is 25 loops long with each loop representing one day until Christmas.

Have each child cut out a yellow or white star. Decorate it with glitter and glue, stickers, markers, or whatever is available. To remind the Tadpole of the true meaning of Christmas, glue the poem found at the end of the lesson to the star or have the Tadpole write "Days Until Jesus' Birthday."

Once the Tadpoles complete the star and chain, attach them to each other so the chain hangs from the star. It's best to staple it with two or three staples. Lay the chain in a safe spot for the Tadpoles to take them home and hang them up.

Storytime

Have each Tadpole bring a favorite Christmas storybook. Invite each Tadpole/dad to find a special place to enjoy reading some of the stories together.

Tadpoles Circle

After opening with the Tadpole cheer, ask the Tadpoles what special holiday is approaching. Have each dad talk about why Christmas is special to them. The Tadpoles can also share some of their thoughts.

Help the Tadpoles to understand what being generous is. Demonstrate generosity by saying, "Our special word tonight is *generous*. I'm going to do something and you tell me when I'm being generous."

Give each child one goldfish cracker. Ask, "Is that generous?" Then, give each Tadpole a cup or handful of goldfish crackers. "Is that generous? God likes to be generous. He likes to give. He gave us Jesus. Is that generous? If he had given us a cup of dirt instead would that be generous? No. God is very generous."

Review the previous Bible verses before introducing this week's verse. Practice the verse several times having the Tadpoles using hand gestures to learn it:

For God (*point to heaven*)
so loved (*cross arms over chest to make the sign for love*)
the world (*make a circle to represent the world*)
that he gave (*pretend like you're handing someone a present*)
his one and only son (*cradle a baby in your arms*).

Close your circle time with a prayer.

Tadpoles Games

Gift Box Relay

Bring in two empty shirt boxes wrapped in Christmas paper. Divide the Tadpoles/dads into two teams. Each team member runs to the goal line, holding the gift box on top of their head. They'll return, carrying the box in front of them. When they pass the box to the next teammate, they say, "God gave us the gift of Jesus." Continue until everyone has a chance to run the race.

Gift Box Pass-off

Sitting in a circle, pass the box around while Christmas carols are played. When the music stops, the person holding the box needs to tell something that God has given them (i.e. their family, siblings, home). After sharing, they step out of the circle and the game continues until everyone has shared a gift from God.

Tadpoles Story

Tell the story of Jesus' birth in *Matthew 1:18-24* and *Luke 2:1-7*. Emphasize that Jesus was God's gift to us.

Story Ideas

Have each dad tell the story to their child.

Light a candle and have the Tadpoles sit around it as you tell the story.

Use a storybook to show pictures as you tell the story.

Tadpoles Closing

Remind the children what being generous means and that God was generous with us when he sent Jesus as a baby. Ask them to look for gifts from God this week.

Close the meeting time with a prayer of praise and thanks to Jesus.

Tadpoles Snack

Be sure to thank the Tadpole who brought the snack to share with the other Tadpoles.

Frog Time

Ask the dads to share how they're going to stay focused on the true meaning of the season. How are they going to help their Tadpole stay focused, too?

Supplies

- 1" x 9" strips of white and yellow construction paper
- glue stick
- 6" x 6" white or yellow squares of paper
- star pattern to trace
- scissors
- stapler
- copies of "The Christmas Waiting Chain"
- Christmas storybooks brought by the Tadpoles
- two wrapped gift boxes
- tape of Christmas carols

The Christmas Waiting Chain

Jesus was born on the most special day.
It's so hard to wait till it comes our way.
So, how many days till it will be here?
To celebrate and praise him and cheer!

Each day that you wait, take off one of the link,
And every day stop a moment and think,
Just how much God must love you to send
down his son
To be born in a stable that first Christmas morn

Day one—I'll have fun giving a hug
Day two—I'll remember to not step on a bug
Day three—I'll tell a friend of his love
Day 4—I will pray to my God up above
Days 5, 6, and 7 will bring thoughts of heaven
Days 8, 9, and 10 I will share with a friend
Day after day I'll remember him
Till Day 24 when the last link is gone
I'll dance on the floor and burst out in song.

It's Christmas
It's Christmas
The waiting is done
Let's celebrate the birth of God's only Son.