



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Word

In the Beginning
Was the Word
John 1:1-5, 14

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God always had a
plan to send Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son.
You must give him the name Jesus.
That's because he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUG>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: God's Plan!
Application Activity: Ornament Making: Follow the Plan
Memory Verse Activity: A Very Special Baby
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gift" Activity Page, gift bows, bandana, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the wall tape to adhere the "Gift" Activity Page to the wall at the kid's eye level.
 - *NOTE: If wall space is not available, choose someone to hold up the "Gift" Activity Page.*
- Point out the gift.
- Explain that you will play "Pin the Bow on the Gift Box."
 - Instruct the kids to line up, one behind the other.
 - Help the first kid to cover their eyes with the bandana.
 - Peel the covering from the adhesive backing of a gift bow and hand it to the kid who is wearing the blindfold.
 - Walk the first kid over to the "Gift" Activity Page and spin them around twice.
 - Encourage the kid to stick their bow onto the "Gift" Activity Page using only one hand!
 - Remove the blindfold and allow the kid to see where their bow ended up on the gift.
 - Return the kid to the group to pass the blindfold off to the next kid in line.
- Repeat until each kid has had a turn.
- If time allows, play another round.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love that game! It's fun to give and receive gifts during this time of year.

[Transition] Today, we'll discover how God always had a plan to send us the greatest gift EVER! Come with me!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. A VERY SPECIAL BABY

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (marked at Matthew 1:21 for kindergartners), "Matthew 1:21 Pictures" Activity Pages, and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two to three.
- Give each group of kids a Bible.
- Guide the kids to look up Matthew 1:21 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Matthew at the top of the page as you say "Matthew" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 21; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Matthew starts with the letters M-A. When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 21 in chapter 1.

- Once everyone has found the verse, lead the kids in reading it together.
- Repeat the first sentence aloud. Remind the kids that the angel said Mary would have a baby, but this baby was VERY special because He was God's only Son.
- Lay out the "Matthew 1:21 Pictures" Activity Pages in verse order on the floor in front of the kids.
- Point to each picture as you repeat the verse together.
- Spread the pictures out, secure them with floor tape, then model for the kids how to jump from one picture to the other in verse order.
- Lead the kids to form a line.
- Encourage the kids to take turns jumping from one picture to the other as they recite the Memory Verse.
- If time allows, invite the kids to line back up and give them another try!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Celebrating Christmas, when Jesus was born, is SO special and important! Do you know why Jesus being born at Christmas is so important? (Invite responses.) Because **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**"

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25 MINUTES

(3. A VERY SPECIAL BABY, CONTINUED)

“When we sin—when we do things we know are wrong—it hurts our friendship with God. The truth is we all mess up, but God LOVES us so much that God gave us Jesus to make everything right again! I am so glad that **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional: Ornaments from Ornament Making: Follow the Plan Activity*

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Optional: Hand out the ornaments the kids made during the Ornament Making: Follow the Plan Activity.*
- Lead the children to read the Bottom Line label together: **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**
- Lead the kids to repeat the Bottom Line together: **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for loving us SO much that You made a way for us to have a relationship with You because of Jesus. We know that You always had a plan to send Jesus to save us. Thank You for Christmas and the opportunity to celebrate the greatest gift ever! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their ornaments along with the **God always had a plan to send Jesus** label!

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