



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

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: The Best Plan Ever
Application Activity: Light of the World
Memory Verse Activity: Verse in Motion
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



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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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Explain to the kids that you will hum a Christmas song.
- Choose a familiar Christmas song and begin humming it.
- When you're done humming, ask the group to guess the song.
- Call on a kid to share their answer.
- Continue calling on different kids to guess until the song is named correctly.
- After the song is guessed, encourage the group to sing the beginning of the song together.
- Continue playing by humming a different Christmas song with each new round.
- Invite kids to take turns humming Christmas songs for the rest of the group to guess, as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Word

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so fun! Great job guessing and singing the beginning lines of those Christmas songs. Every song has to start somewhere, right? Speaking of beginnings, I'm really excited for what's next. **[Transition] Today we're going to discover when the best gift we could ever receive really began!**"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



3. VERSE IN MOTION

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, and "Verse Cards" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two (or three) and give each group a Bible.
- Guide kids to look up Matthew 1:21 using the following Bible Navigation Tips:

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Word

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

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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." 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.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

- Read the verse together aloud several times.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the cards from the "Verse Cards" Activity Page in the center of your group in the correct order.
- Explain to the kids that they will be replacing each part of the verse with a motion.
- Begin by reading the words on the first card, and asking the kids to come up with motions they think best represents those words.
- Flip the first card over (so it's face down) and invite the group to do the motions to that card and recite those missing words from memory.
- Then, instruct the kids to come up with motions for the next card.
- Flip that card over (so it's face down), and direct the group to do the motions to the first and second card while reciting those words from memory.
- Continue this for each of the cards until all the words have been replaced with motions.
- Repeat the Memory Verse motions together a few times while reciting the Memory Verse.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
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WHAT YOU SAY:

"The angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary was going to have a special baby boy! The angel instructed Joseph to name the baby 'Jesus.' I'm so glad that **God always had a plan to send Jesus** and this plan started even before Jesus came to Earth. Nothing could stop God's perfect plan! Knowing this, we can always have hope—even when things don't go the way we think they should—and that's worth celebrating!

"Let's use these Memory Verse motions all month to help us celebrate Jesus!"

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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: Butcher paper (or large paper), nametags, and pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Write **"God always had a plan to send Jesus"** on a large piece of butcher paper, so it's visible to the group.
- Recite the Bottom Line a few times together.
- Provide each kid with a nametag and a pen.
- Give the kids a few minutes to reflect on the Bottom Line, and write a "Thank You" note to God on their nametags.
 - It can be as short as "Thank you for _____."
- When everyone is finished, instruct the kids to peel the backing of the nametags and adhere their notes to the butcher paper.
- Encourage any kid who would like, to share their note.
- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we are so thankful that You always had a plan to send Jesus to rescue us so that we could have a relationship with You. We know You love us so much because You gave us the best gift ever! Help us to remember that You are always with us no matter what we're going through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their lightbulbs from the Light of the World Activity and share the Memory Verse motions they came up with.

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