



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Send Me an Angel

An Angel Appears to
Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God is with you.

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: Freeze Review
Application Activity: Celebration Party
Memory Verse Activity: Erase and Recite
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 MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for being constantly present in your life no matter where you go or what you've faced. Ask God to help the kids understand that God is always there, and they can trust God no matter what.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome the kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.
- Explain to the group that kids are going to create a "celebration rhythm" for the rest of the group to copy.
- Start the game by creating the first rhythm—use any combination of your voice and/or body to clap, snap, stomp, dance, jump, etc.
- Invite the kids to copy the rhythm you create.
- Choose a kid to go next.
- Encourage the next kid to create a rhythm using a combination of their voice and/or body to clap, snap, stomp, dance, jump, etc.
- Invite the kids to replicate that kid's rhythm.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to create a rhythm.

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SOCIAL

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



* 2. CELEBRATION PARTY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Light-colored crepe paper or streamers, dark-colored markers, and a device for playing music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group together in your group space.
- Explain that the kids will work together to think of ways God has been with them.
 - To start the conversation, suggest things like:
 - God has given us grown-ups to take care of us
 - God comforts us when we're worried or scared
 - God listens to our prayers
 - God encourages us as we read the Bible
 - God is with us through the Holy Spirit, etc.
- Give each kid a foot-long piece of crepe paper or streamer and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on one side of their streamer.
- Direct the kids to flip their streamer to the other side and write: "God is with me all the time."
- Play upbeat Christmas music and encourage the kids to join in the celebration by waving their streamers—dancing or moving however they feel comfortable.
- Set the streamers aside for the Pray and Dismiss Activity.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You did a great job sharing ways God has been with you! Knowing that God is always with us during the good times and the hard times can give us true peace. Even though Mary and Joseph were scared and didn't know the whole story yet, they had peace in the middle of it all! They trusted God and knew that God was with them.

"Just like Mary and Joseph, we can have peace when unexpected things happen because God is with us. Maybe you're feeling scared about something at home or at school, or maybe you feel defeated about something else. No matter what you are going through, remember God is with you. That's why we can **celebrate because God is with you** all the time!"

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a difficult time in your life and how knowing God was with you changed things! Maybe you experienced God's presence by listening to music and praying. Or maybe other people's words or actions reminded you God was there with you.)



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



3. ERASE AND RECITE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, small dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, and dry-erase eraser (or paper towel)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
 - Place older kids with younger kids if possible.
- Guide kids to look up Matthew 1:21 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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.*

- Read the verse together several times.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle—setting their open Bibles aside.
- Write the Memory Verse on a small dry-erase board.
- Choose a kid and give the dry-erase board to them.
- Instruct them to erase one word from the verse.
- Direct that kid to display the dry-erase board, then have the group read the verse again, this time reciting the missing word from memory.
- Keep passing the board around the circle, allowing each kid to erase one word and then read the verse as a group.
- Continue until all the words are gone, and the group can recite the entire verse from memory.
 - *NOTE: Allow the group to reference their Bibles as needed.*

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Joseph was probably confused when it became clear Mary was going to have a baby. God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell Joseph not to be afraid.

"Mary and Joseph both trusted God even before they knew God's plan. That is why they were able to have peace when they found out they would be having God's Son, Jesus. They knew God was with them, and God would help them through whatever they were about to face. In the same way, we can trust that God will always be with us! So let's **celebrate because God is with you!**"



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Kid's completed streamers from Celebration Party Activity; Optional: crepe paper streamers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to grab their celebration streamers.
- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Read together out loud what is written on the streamers: "God is with me all the time."
- Go around the circle and invite each kid to share a way God has been with them.
 - Prompt with ideas, as needed.
- Instruct the rest of the group to wave their streamers in celebration each time a kid shares.
 - *NOTE: If kids don't have crepe paper streamers, hand them each a streamer piece or simply have them clap and celebrate when someone shares.*
- Close the group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for being with us all the time. We know that You are with us in so many ways. Help us to remember that no matter what we are going through, You promise to be with us all the time. We can have peace and celebrate You no matter what we are going through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

"Let's wave our streamers one more time to **celebrate because God is with you!**"

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their streamers and explain the statement that is written on them.

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