



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Go Tell It
Shepherds and Angels
Luke 2:8-20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate Jesus with others.

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: Angel Ornament
Application Activity: For Everyone
Memory Verse Activity: Share God's Love
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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how you celebrate Jesus with others. Thank God for your community. Ask God to help kids understand just how special community and friendship is.

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, flashlight, and a device for playing Christmas music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to form a standing circle.
- Select one kid to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Give the kid in the middle of the circle the flashlight.
- Start the music and instruct the kids to start dancing to the music.
- Instruct the kid holding the flashlight to shine it on each kid's feet one by one, keeping the spotlight moving.
- When the music stops, instruct the group to freeze, including the kid in the middle with the flashlight, which will be pointed at one kid.
- Direct the kid in the middle and the kid in the spotlight to switch places.
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.



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PRELUDE

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to form a seated circle.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Instruct the first kid to think of a message and whisper it to the kid on their right.
- Challenge each kid in the circle to whisper the message to the next kid, trying to say it exactly as they heard it.
- Invite the last kid who received the message to share what they heard out loud with the group.
- Compare the final message with the original message to see how much it changed.
- Repeat the game by selecting another kid to share a message.
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! Great job sharing those messages—even if they did get a little mixed up! **[Transition]** Today we're going to discover the most important message ever shared! Let's get ready to hear more!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate Jesus with others.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. FOR EVERYONE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper (or other large paper), painter's tape, and a device for playing upbeat Christmas music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the five pieces of butcher paper (or other large paper) in various sizes on the floor and secure them using painter's tape.
- Explain to the kids each piece of paper is like an island.
- Set the rules of the game:
 - When the music starts, start dancing.
 - When the music stops, find an island to stand on.
 - Multiple kids can stand on the same island at the same time.
- Explain that you'll be removing an island after each round, and the goal of the game is for kids to find ways to help each other stand on the islands so no one is eliminated from the game.
- Play the music to start the first round.
- After a little while, stop the music, choose an island to remove (leave the largest island for the end), and remind kids to help each other get safely to other islands without touching the ground.
- For the final round, encourage kids to figure out how to stand or be on the remaining island together. (It should be the largest island.)

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! Great job sharing the islands with your friends so everyone could stay in the game. Christmas is a great time to share how much God loves us with others. Whether we feel important or not, whether we have a lot or a little, or whether we're famous or not, God's love is for all of us! Jesus' birth shows God's incredible love for each one of us.

"One way we can show God's love is when we **celebrate Jesus with others**. You do that every week when you come here and spend time with your friends. Can you think of other ways we can **celebrate Jesus with others**? (Invite responses.) Those are some great ideas! This week, let's find ways to do that!"

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example with your group about a time when you celebrated Jesus with others. Maybe you attended a worship service or concert with someone. Or maybe you shared a testimony with someone about how God brought you peace during a hard time. How did celebrating Jesus impact you and those you were with?)



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3. SHARE GOD'S LOVE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, and yellow glow stick (or flashlight)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible.
- Invite pairs to open their Bibles to 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 a few times.
- Invite the kids to form a seated circle.
- Choose a kid to start by giving them the glow stick (or flashlight).
 - Be sure to activate the glow stick first.
- Instruct the kids to pass the glow stick (or flashlight) around the circle as they say the Memory Verse together.
 - Remind kids to reference their Bibles as needed.
- Encourage the kid who is holding the stick (or flashlight) at the end of the verse to name someone they want to share the love of Jesus with.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What did Jesus come to do? (*Invite responses.*) Matthew, the author of this verse, reminds us that Christmas is all about the birth of God's Son—Jesus. Jesus came to show us what God is like, and so that we could be friends with God again forever!

"Is God's love supposed to be kept a secret? (*Invite responses.*) No! The message of Christmas remains the same every year, even when the world or our situations change. It's the best gift we could ever receive, and it's a gift we can share with everyone! God loves every single person so much and sent Jesus for you, for me, and for everyone in the world! So, let's share God's love and **celebrate Jesus with others** whenever we can."

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Encourage the kids to recall the person they want to share the love of Jesus with from the Share God's Love Activity.
 - If you didn't do the Share God's Love Activity, simply ask kids to think of someone they want to share the love of Jesus with.
- Encourage the kids to ask God to give them the courage to share God's love with the person they thought about.
- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, so we can be with You forever! You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer, and we are SO grateful! Please help us to have the courage to share Your love with the people around us. Thank You for giving us such an amazing reason to **celebrate Jesus with others**. 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 ornament and tell them about the big news the angel shared with the shepherds.