



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: Left-Right-Across
Application Activity: Tag, We're It!
Memory Verse Activity: Candy Cane Balance
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



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

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.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive and ask them about their week.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Place a line of tape on the floor long enough for all of the kids in your group to stand on it.
- Instruct the kids to form a line standing on the tape line.
- Explain that you're going to play a game of "This or That"—Christmas style!
- One at a time, read a question below and designate a side of the tape for kids to jump to.
- Invite the kids in your group to come up with other questions as time allows!

This or That:

- Decorate Christmas cookies or build a gingerbread house?
- Christmas cookies or candy canes?
- Wear a full zip-up snowsuit inside every day for a week or mittens on your hands every day for a week?
- Travel for Christmas or stay home for Christmas?
- Build a snowman or a snow fort?
- Sing "Jingle Bells" at the top of your lungs every time you walk through a doorway or sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" every time a friend says "hi" to you?
- Christmas tree tinsel for hair or Christmas tree lights for fingernails?
- Listen to Christmas music or watch Christmas movies?
- String a mile-long garland with Christmas lights or wrap one hundred Christmas presents?
- Eat a gingerbread house or live in a gingerbread house?
- Sing "Jingle Bells" before every meal or sing "Silent Night" before every meal?
- Wash your hair with cranberry sauce or with mashed potatoes and gravy?
- An extra week off of school around Christmastime or an extra week of summer break?



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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. CANDY CANE BALANCE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (marked at Matthew 1:21 for kindergartners) and candy canes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two to three.
- Give each group a Bible.
- Encourage each group 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.

- Read the verse and invite kids to repeat it after you.
- Read the first two sentences/phrases of the Memory Verse again. Let the kids know that God sent us Jesus, and His name Immanuel means "God with us."
- Collect the Bibles.
- Direct the kids to spread out.
- Give each kid a candy cane.
- Explain that the group is going to repeat the Memory Verse together but with a twist!
- Show the kids how to balance their candy cane using the following prompts, inviting them to repeat parts of the Memory Verse each time:
 - Open your palm, balance the candy cane on your hand.
 - Balance the candy cane on your shoulder
 - Balance the candy cane on your elbow.
 - Balance the candy cane on your left knee while standing on one foot.
 - Balance the candy cane on your right knee while standing on one foot.
 - Walk slowly as you balance the candy cane on your head.

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. CANDY CANE BALANCE, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Whew! Some of those challenges were tougher than others. I love celebrating Christmas because God gave us the best gift ever—Jesus! Jesus came to be our Rescuer, to make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God. When we choose to follow Him, we can know for sure that we are never alone. This Christmas, you can **celebrate because God is with you.**”

NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church’s policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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



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.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Device for playing music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your kids in a circle for prayer.
- Explain that you will give them some prompts, then a moment to pray on their own—either out loud or silently.
- Play quiet music as you read the prompts below.
 - Thank God for loving you so much and for sending Jesus. *(Pause)*
 - Thank God for being with you, no matter where you go and what you do. *(Pause)*
- After kids have had a moment to pray on their own, close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus so that we can have a relationship with You forever. Help us to remember You are always with us no matter where we go. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, challenge the kids to repeat the Memory Verse as they balance their candy cane on their hand. Encourage the kids to share that at Christmas, we can **celebrate because God is with you.**