

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus important to you?

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

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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

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 minutes to pray in silence and prepare to lead your kids through this month in which they're sure to have a lot of energy! Pray for patience and wisdom to know how to lead them effectively.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, copy paper or tissue paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome each kid to your group by name.
- Invite those who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- When enough kids arrive, give them each two to three half sheets of paper.
- Instruct the kids to hold their sheet of paper behind their backs and try to tear it into the shape of one of the following Christmas holiday-related things:
 - Snowman
 - Gingerbread Cookie
 - Christmas Tree
- Invite the kids to find a partner and show one another their finished work.
- Give them a moment to guess what the other person created.
- If time and interest allow, challenge kids to tear their papers into the image of something that reminds them of Christmas without saying what it is.
 - Provide more paper, as needed.
- Then, invite the kids to show one another their finished work.
- Give them a moment to guess what the other person created.



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK
ONE

DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, pens, "Gift Tag Review" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Form two teams within your group.
- Instruct the teams to gather in different areas of your group space.
- Give each team a Bible, pens, and 10 gift tags from the "Gift Tag Review" Activity Page.
- Invite a kid on each team to look up John 1:1-5.
 - Provide help as needed.
- Encourage the kid to read the verse aloud to their teams.
- Challenge the teams to work together to identify ten words that stick out to them from the Scripture reading.
- Encourage teams to work together to write each word on separate gift tags.
- When the teams are finished, invite them to the front of your group space.
- Invite teams to share the words on their gift tags and why those words stuck out to them.
- Remind the kids that God always had a plan to send Jesus.
- Ask:
 - How is Jesus the Light of the World?
 - If you had to explain why God sent Jesus in only one sentence, what would you say?
 - God always had a plan to send Jesus. How do each of us fit into that plan?
- Remind kids that people turned away from God, but God had a plan from the start! God sent Jesus, God's WORD, to be a human and live here on earth and make His home with us.
- Say a word from the Scripture reading, and if the team wrote that word down, have them place those tags together in a line.
- Have the groups work together to organize their gift tags.
- Give the kids a few moments to observe the words they chose that were the same as the other team.

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25 MINUTES

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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- In what ways is Jesus the best gift ever?
- Why is Jesus' birth such an important part of God's plan?
- Why is Jesus important to you?
- What does it mean to know that God sent Jesus for you? How does it make you feel?

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Gift bows

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of three (a group of two is ok) and give each group a bow.
- Give the kids the following prompt and encourage them to take turns sharing their answers.
 - "Jesus is important to me because . . ."
- Instruct kids to pass the bow to the next person who wants to share in their group.
- Encourage the groups to expand on why Jesus is important to them.
- If kids need prompts to get them thinking, share the following questions with the groups.
 - How has Jesus shown that He loves you?
 - When you think of Jesus, what's the first thing that comes to mind?
 - In what ways is Jesus a special gift?
- Gather the kids back together in your group space and close in prayer by inviting a kid who is willing to pray aloud to do so.

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