

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God
sent a Savior.

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 PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, pray for the kids on your roster by name, one by one. Ask that they may connect with the Gospel about the Christmas story in a way that is meaningful to them.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, dry-erase board, and dry-erase marker (or index cards and a marker)

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Show the kids how excited you are that they came to church by greeting each kid by name.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Play a game of Reverse Charades.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Let each team select a "guesser" to go first. The guesser should stand facing their team.
- Stand behind the guessers, facing the rest of the kids (the guessers should not be able to see you).
- Write something Christmas-themed on the dry-erase board (or index card). Here are a few examples:
 - Christmas tree
 - A Christmas song title
 - Someone from the story of Jesus' birth
 - A holiday dessert
- Show the teams what you wrote, making sure the guessers can't see.
- When you say "GO," the teams should silently act out what you wrote on the dry erase board (or index card).
- Award the first correct guesser a point for their team.
- Continue playing as time allows and be sure everyone gets an opportunity to be a guesser.

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CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Luke 2:1-7, Hula-Hoop or ring, prepared gift bag, "Hula-Hoop Review" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a wide circle.
- Set the gift bag containing the cards from the "Hula-Hoop Review" Activity Page in the center of the circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns carefully rolling the Hula-Hoop so that it stops and drops over the bag.
 - If the Hula-Hoop misses the mark, the kid next to them takes a turn, and so on.
 - Whenever the Hula-Hoop successfully lands around the bag, invite the kid who rolled it to remove one of the cards from the bag and read it aloud.
- Discuss the question and answer as a group. As you play, adjust the size of the circle if needed.
 - Move in closer if kids are not successfully getting the hoop around the bag or widen the circle (if space allows) for a challenge!
- Use the Bible to refer to Luke 2:1-7 if kids are not sure of an answer.
- Play until all the cards in the gift bag have been read and discussed.
- Remind kids that sometimes life feels a bit like the Hula-Hoop in this review game. Things don't always go the way we think it will or the way we hoped it would.
- Encourage kids that like the fun we had in this game, regardless of what happens, we can have joy and find a reason to celebrate the best part of Christmas—Jesus.
- Close by challenging kids to keep their focus on Jesus this week even if something doesn't go as they hoped it would.
- Invite kids to share how they can still find joy even if there are disappointments or changed plans or if they don't get the things they want.
- Share with the kids one thing that will be true no matter what: God gave us Jesus so we could have the kind of joy that is bigger than what's under the Christmas tree. Jesus is the real reason to celebrate and have joy!

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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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How do you think Mary and Joseph found joy despite their unusual circumstances?
- Can you think of a time when you felt joy even though things didn't go as you expected?
- How is joy different from happiness?
- What does Christmas mean to you?

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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: Paper and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Using a marker, write the word "JOY" in large letters on a piece of paper.
- Pass the paper and a marker around.
- Encourage each kid to draw a smiley face on it and pass it to the next person.
- As they take turns, ask kids to share something that gives them joy this Christmas. What are they looking forward to and thankful for as Christmas approaches?
- Close in prayer (or invite a few kids to pray), thanking God for Jesus and the gift of joy.
 - Be sure to name some of the things kids mentioned from the question above in your prayer.

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