

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How are you celebrating  
Christmas this year?

### 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

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 that you would have a meaningful time connecting with your students as you anticipate celebrating Christmas. Ask God to help you be sensitive to the needs of your students this week.*

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

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

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

**How are you celebrating Christmas this year?**

**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.**

**1. JUST FOR FUN**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "String the Lights" Activity Page, "Light Patterns" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet kids as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- When enough kids arrive, divide them into three or four teams.
  - Be sure there's an even number of kids on each team.
- Have the teams sit together in front of you.
- Shuffle the cards from the "String the Lights" Activity Page.
- Give each team 20 cards and instruct them to place the cards in front of them facing down.
- Explain the rules:
  - Kids turn around as you set out a pattern of colored lights from the "Light Patterns" Activity Page.
  - As you signal, kids turn back around to observe the displayed pattern.
  - Each team races to make the same color pattern with the cards from their "String the Lights" Activity Page.
  - They must work together to make the pattern as many times as possible with their cards.
- Claim the winner by acknowledging the team that completes the pattern most times first.
  - If teams can't replicate the pattern more than once, the first team to complete it once wins.
- Repeat the steps above until you've used each of the cards from the "Light Patterns" Activity Page.
- If time and interest allow, consider creating your own patterns and challenge the kids to replicate a pattern by listening to the colors.



# CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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



## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What are you looking forward to most this week?
- How are you celebrating Christmas this year?
- How can you show your love for God and others during that time?
- Like the angels told the shepherds, Jesus' birth is good news for ALL people! This Christmas, how can you . . .
  - be *amazed* like the people in Bethlehem were?
  - *praise* God like the angels?
  - *tell* everyone about Jesus like the shepherds did?

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Go Tell It

Shepherds and Angels  
Luke 2:8-20

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How are you celebrating  
Christmas this year?

## 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.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

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



**4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU**  
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]  
WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, gift bows (or candy canes)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Pair kids up, give each pair a Bible, and lead them to look up 1 John 4:9 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

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

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

How are you celebrating Christmas this year?

- Direct the pairs to read the verse to each other a few times.
- Gather kids together in a circle.
- Practice saying the verse aloud together several times to help kids remember it.
- Use the following questions for discussion.
  - How does that make you feel to know that God sent Jesus out of love for you?
  - Name some other ways God shows love to us. **[Make it Personal] Briefly share ways you've experienced evidence of God's love (i.e. share gratitude for peace, joy, family, friends, or a hard time that God was with you). Include the gratitude you feel for the way God helped you become a follower of Jesus.**
    - How might remembering 1 John 4:9 help us continue celebrating Jesus?
- Spread out the gift bows (or candy canes) in the center of the circle, one less than the number of kids.
- Explain to the kids that you will read 1 John 4:9 aloud. Whenever you clap, kids should race to grab a bow from the pile.
  - Whoever is left without a bow is out.
- Remove a bow after each round and continue until there is only one kid left.
- Invite kids to take home a gift bow (or candy cane) as a reminder that, unlike the game, no one is left out when it comes to God's love. God sent Jesus to make a way for everyone to have life forever when we believe and follow Jesus.

**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.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
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 Tag Prayer Prompts” Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Place the gift tags from the “Gift Tag Prayer Prompts” Activity Page face-up in the middle.
- Invite kids to choose one of the cards then focus a prayer around something that comes to mind when they think about the word on the card.
- Encourage the kids to pray silently or aloud.
- As kids wrap up their prayers, tell them to keep their gift tags and use them as a prayer prompt this week at home!
- Close your group with prayer.

**TODAY’S BIBLE STORY**

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

**TODAY’S KEY QUESTION**

How are you celebrating Christmas this year?

**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.