



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God always had a
plan to send Jesus.

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Early Arriver
Opening Activity

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

LARGE GROUP

30
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God
Opener
Worship ("Joy" from *Life.Church* and "Silent Night" from
Orange Music)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect
Bible Story Review: God's Plan! (*k-1st grade*), The Best Plan
Ever (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Application Activity: Ornament Making: Follow the Plan
(*k-1st grade*), Light of the World (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Memory Verse Activity: A Very Special Baby (*k-1st grade*),
Verse in Motion (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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plan to send Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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BASIC TRUTH

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Merry Christmas, everybody! I'm so glad you're here! I just love this time of year. There are so many super-fun things to do. I love the Christmas parties . . . the yummy Christmas treats . . . and all the really fun Christmas songs!

"Of course, the best part of all is the reason we're celebrating in the first place. At Christmas, we celebrate how God sent Jesus to be our Savior! We celebrate how Jesus, God's greatest gift, was born in Bethlehem.

"There are a lot of great tunes that I love to sing at Christmastime. You might say I've got a lot of favorite songs on my Christmas playlist—like this one. *Sing the first line of a few of your favorite Christmas songs. Choose songs that aren't already included in the game. (Have some fun with this and be silly!)*

"Do you like those songs too? *(Pause for response.)* Are you really good at knowing the words to Christmas songs? *(Pause for response.)* Then I've got the perfect game for us to play today. I call it, 'Finish the Lyrics.' "This game is very fun and very simple. We'll play a Christmas song, and we'll all sing along together. Then when the music stops, we'll KEEP singing and see who knows the next part of the song! We've got seven songs. Do you think you can finish the lyrics for all of them? *(Pause for response.)* Let's give it a try. Here we go!

AUDIO: "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU" BY MARIAH CAREY—STOP AT 0:32

Note: We've provided some song suggestions that can work well for this game, but feel free to use any songs that your kids would respond to.



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

For each song, sing along with the kids while the music is playing. When the music stops, hold your hand to your ear and let the kids keep singing to see if they know what comes next. The game isn't a competition—just have fun seeing who knows the lyrics that come next in each song.

AUDIO: "JINGLE BELL ROCK" BY BOBBY HELMS—STOP AT 0:20

AUDIO: "ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE" BY BRENDA LEE—STOP AT 0:43

AUDIO: "FELIZ NAVIDAD" BY JOSÉ FELICIANO—STOP AT 0:37

AUDIO: "YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRINCH" BY THURL RAVENSCROFT—STOP AT 0:23

AUDIO: "LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!" BY FRANK SINATRA—STOP AT 0:16

AUDIO: "FROSTY THE SNOWMAN" BY BING CROSBY—STOP AT 0:37

"Way to go, everybody! Give your neighbor a high five! I want ALL of those songs on my Christmas playlist. Now let's all get up on our feet and get ready to sing some songs about God's greatest gift: Jesus!"



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10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

"I love this time of year because we get to celebrate how Jesus came to Earth for us. This new song is called 'Joy.' It is a different take on the Christmas song "Joy to the World, so you'll pick It up pretty quickly! Sing along with us!

VIDEO: "Joy" from Life.Church" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

Okay, one more song today, and It's a song you already know - but with a twist In the middle.

VIDEO: "Silent Night" from Orange Music" LIVE LYRICS

I love this version of Silent Night - because It emphasizes that on this night - Jesus was born. He was a promised king and he came to save us. Let's pray and thank God for sending King Jesus t save us!



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, friends! Are you so excited that it’s Christmastime? *(Pause for response.)* Me too! This is a really important time of year because it’s when celebrate how Jesus, God’s Son, was born. As we’re about to see, this was all part of God’s plan.

(Hold up Bible.) “Today we’re looking in the book of John. This book is one of the four Gospels, or books of the Bible that tell us about the life of Jesus. “The book of John was written by a man named John, who was one of Jesus’ closest friends. John was there to see Jesus perform miracles. He saw how Jesus spent time with everyone, including people who were left out AND people who did wrong things. John wrote down what he saw and heard to help us understand that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

IN THE BEGINNING

STORYTELLER: “You might not realize this, but the story of Christmas didn’t just begin when the angel came and told Mary that she would have a baby. The story of Christmas actually began at the very beginning of the whole world!

Walk over to the screen and stand in front of it.

“First, there was nothing *(reference the empty curtain)*, but God! And then—God created the world and everything in it! Here’s how John described it.

Open the Bible to John 1:1-2 (NirV) and read.

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (NirV)

“Now, when John wrote ‘the Word,’ he was talking about Jesus. Why is that? Well, when we see how Jesus lived, we can see what God is like. When we hear what Jesus had to say, we can understand what’s most important to God. So that’s why Jesus is the Word of God.

“Listen to that passage again—and this time, we’ll replace ‘Jesus’ when ‘the Word’ is written.

Open the Bible to John 1:1-2 (NirV) and read.

In the beginning, the Word [Jesus] was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (NirV)

“That’s pretty amazing! Even before God made the world, Jesus was there WITH God. Before God created light . . . land and sea . . . plants and animals . . . even when there was nothing at all, Jesus Himself was there.



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

GOD MADE IT ALL

STORYTELLER: "And then . . . God DID create the world.

VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): Spinning world In space

"Here's what John wrote next.

Open the Bible to John 1:3-4 (NirV) and read.

All things were made through [Jesus]. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. (NirV)

"Wow. That's amazing to think about! All life comes from and through Jesus.

"Listen to that last part again:

Open the Bible to John 1:4 (NirV) and read.

Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. (NirV)

Turn on the flashlight and shine it straight up.

"Jesus is like a light. He is the Light of the World! We can follow Him, and He will guide us and show us the way to go.

Shine the flashlight in front of you like it's lighting your path.

"John wrote:

With your other hand, open the Bible to John 1:5 (NirV) and read.

The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light. (NirV)

"No matter how dark and broken this world might seem sometimes, it can never stop the light of Jesus!

GOD SENT JESUS

STORYTELLER: "We can see this when we look back to the very beginning of the world. When people turned away from God, the world was broken.

Shine the flashlight at the spinning world on the screen.

"But God had a plan from the very beginning. God had a plan to make things right. God had a plan to send a Savior to rescue us.

Set down the flashlight (but keep it on). Set the table with the nativity set in front of the screen. Remove the box to reveal the nativity set.



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

“THAT’S why God sent Jesus!

Hold up baby Jesus from the nativity set.

“God sent Jesus to live here on Earth, and to be our Savior—our Rescuer.

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Set baby Jesus back into the nativity set. Hold up the “My Friend Jesus” doll.

“He grew up and taught amazing things about God. He showed what it looks like to live a life of loving others. He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins . . . and then He came back to life! We can have a relationship with God that will last forever because of what Jesus has done for us.

“John explained it this way.

With your other hand, open the Bible to John 1:14 (NirV) and read.

The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth. (NirV)

Set the Jesus doll down. Move back on stage as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus is God’s Son. He was with God from the very beginning. And when the time was right, God sent Jesus to be born here on Earth.

“Jesus showed us exactly what God is like. He made a way for us to be forgiven, and to have the gift of eternal life. And that makes Jesus’ birth at Christmas even more epic than we could have ever imagined.

“Here’s what we need to remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“God always had a plan to send Jesus. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “God always had a plan to send Jesus.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.



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K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “[Storyteller’s name], it’s really cool to think that Jesus’ birth was planned from the very beginning.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right. Even before there was anything, God had a plan to send Jesus. When people turned away and broke their relationship with God . . . God’s plan was still at work.”

HOST: “There’s so much to love about Christmastime, but the best part of all is knowing that God sent Jesus for us.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

“Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.”

VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: “Because of Jesus, we can know God personally. We can know what God is like. Not only that, when we follow Jesus, we can be friends with God. Our broken relationship with God is made whole again!”

HOST: “Our Memory Verse for this month is what the angel said to Joseph, who was engaged to be married to Mary, Jesus’ mom. Here’s what the angel said:

SLIDE: 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, NirV)

STORYTELLER: “I’m so glad to know that **God always had a plan to send Jesus**. Let’s pray and thank God for that truth.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “God, thank You for helping us see today that You have always been there . . . and You always WILL be there. You always had a plan to send Jesus to this world. Jesus showed us how to live . . . and because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can have a relationship with You that will last forever. We know that **[Basic Truth]** we can trust You no matter what—and we are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP