



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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.

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

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 "With Us" from Life.Church)
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 (*k-1st grade*), Freeze Review (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Application Activity: Tag, We're It! (*k-1st grade*), Celebration Party (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Memory Verse Activity: Candy Cane Balance (*k-1st grade*), Erase and Recite (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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: "Hi, friends! It's great to see you. My name is [your name] and I'm so excited that we're all here to celebrate Christmas together. "Christmas is SUCH a fun time of year, and the reason for all of the joy and celebration is because Jesus was born to be our Savior. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. He's the best gift we could ever receive! "Our game today is a fun one. It's a 'Gift Wrap Dance Party.'

"First, I need one Small Group Leader who's willing to get wrapped up like a present. Who wants to do it?"

Bring up a Small Group Leader. Worship Leaders enter to help with the game.

(Referencing the Worship Leaders) "Our friends here will wrap up [Leader's name] like a Christmas gift. Meanwhile, all of YOU get to be part of the game too.

"I'll teach you some cool dance moves that go along with each part of gift wrapping. When the music starts, I'll lead you to do those dance moves at the same time that our friends wrap up [Leader's name]. Make sense?"

"Okay—the first move is unrolling the paper, and it looks like this.

Demonstrate a dance move that looks like you're unrolling wrapping paper. Have the kids do the motion too.

"Great job! Next up is cutting the paper—like this.



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Demonstrate a dance move that looks like your fingers are scissors and you're cutting through the wrapping paper. Have the kids do the motion too.

"Now let's fold and tape the paper to the package.

Demonstrate a dance move that looks like you're folding paper and then sticking tape on it. Have the kids do the motion too.

"Then, finally, the grand finale move . . . stick that bow on top!

Demonstrate a dance move that looks like you're sticking a big bow on top of a present. Have the kids do the motion too.

"Okay, I think we're ready! *(To Worship Leaders)* Are you ready to wrap? *(To the Leader)* [Leader's name], are you ready to BE wrapped? *(To audience)* Follow my lead, everyone. Here we go!

AUDIO: UPBEAT CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Call out (and demonstrate) the dance moves for the kids to do. Show them how to do the dance move repeatedly, on the beat, while the music plays. Have fun and be silly with it! The dance moves should match up with what the Worship Leaders are doing to wrap the Small Group Leader. For example, keep leading the kids to do the "unroll the paper" move while the Worship Leaders are doing that step. When they're ready to move on to cutting the paper, then lead the kids to do the "cut the paper" move . . . and so on.

"We did it! Nice job dancing . . . *(to the Worship Leaders)* and nice job wrapping. *(To the Small Group Leader)* [Leader's name], you look like a beautiful Christmas gift—and that makes sense, because you're a gift to [name of our environment]. *(To audience)* All of our Small Group Leaders are a gift to us, aren't they? *(To the Small Group Leader)* "Okay, [Leader's name]. We'll give you a drum roll, and then I'll cue you to bust out of that gift wrap. Ready? *(To audience)* Drum roll, please!

Lead the kids to do a drum roll on their legs. Then cue the leader to burst out of the gift wrap.

"Let's give a big hand to our friend, [Leader's name]!

Cheer for the leader, and collect the wrapping paper as the leader heads back to their seat.

"That was SO fun! Thanks for playing along, everybody! Now let's keep the party going as we sing and worship God together."



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "I love Christmastime, don't you? It's the best time of the year. I love how we get to sing and give Jesus all the praise He deserves. I love this song, 'Joy.' Let me hear you say, 'Joy to the World.' (*Get a response.*) Come on—say it like you're excited for Christmas. Say, 'Joy to the World.' (*Get a response.*) There's nothing like the joy Jesus gives us. Let's sing about it!

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

"That was so much fun! We can share the joy of Jesus wherever we go. Okay, we're going to introduce one more new song for this month. It's a new song and we want to teach it to you. It's called With Us. In Matthew, chapter one, the angel appeared to Joseph and he told him that Mary was going to have a child - and this child would be the Son of God. He would be called Immanuel, which means God With Us.

This name, Immanuel was so special because for nearly 400 years, the people of God felt like God was far away. But now, Immanuel - God is with us. Let's sing this song as a worship song to God - thanking God that he sent Jesus to be WITH US!

VIDEO: "With Us" from Life.Church" LIVE LYRICS

Pray and close (in your own words)



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! I thought it would be fun to tell today's story like we sometimes do around here . . . as a game show. Get ready to play . . . *(game show voice)* 'What Happened Next?'

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"

"As we move through the story, we'll stop several times to see if you can guess what happened next in the story. Sound like fun? *(Pause for response.)* Great!

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

(Hold up Bible.) "We can find this part of the Christmas story in a couple of different places: the book of Luke, and the book of Matthew. The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are known as the Gospels. All four of these books share stories from the life of Jesus and help us see what Jesus did and said.

"As we talked about last week, God's plan to send Jesus started way before Jesus was born! The whole world was created through Jesus. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. God chose one man, Abraham, and promised to bless the whole world through his family.

"That brings us to our first question. What happened next?"

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"

Read the question and answer prompts from the printed script.

"What did God promise to do for the Israelite people?"

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1A (PIZZA)

"A) Did God promise to provide pizza for them?"

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1B (SOFTBALL GLOVE AND BALL)

"B) Did God promise to play softball with them?"

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1C (SCROLL)

"Or C), did God promise to send a Savior?"



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“Everybody shout out your answer—A, B, or C. *(Pause for response.)* If you said C, you’re correct. Through the words of the prophets like Isaiah, God promised to send a Savior . . . a Rescuer. The prophets wrote down this amazing promise from God, which we can find today right here in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

STORYTELLER: “At this point in the story, God’s people had been in captivity and returned to their homeland . . . but they weren’t free. They lived under the rule of the Roman empire, and they had to pay heavy taxes. Still, they remembered how God had promised to send a Savior, and they believed that God **WOULD** send the Savior when the time was right.

“One person who trusted God with her whole heart was a young woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. One day, something very interesting happened to Mary.

“What was it? What happened next?”

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?”

Read the question and answer prompts from the printed script.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2A (SUNDAE)

“A) Did Joseph bring Mary an ice cream sundae?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2B (SNOW)

“B) Did it suddenly start to snow?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2C (ANGEL VISITS MARY)

“Or C), did an angel appear to Mary?”

“What do you think—A, B, or C? *(Pause for response.)* You got it! It’s C again. An angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary.

VERY BIG NEWS

STORYTELLER: “Listen to this.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28-32 (NirV) and read.

The angel greeted [Mary] and said, “The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.” Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.” (NirV)



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

25 MINUTES

“Imagine what this would have been like for Mary . . . first of all, to see an angel with her own eyes . . . and then, to hear the message that she would give birth to the Son of God!

“So . . . how do you think Mary responded? What happened next?”

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?”

Read the question and answer prompts from the printed script.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3A (MARY JUMPS FOR JOY)

“A) Did Mary jump for joy?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3B (MARY PLAYS THE TROMBONE)

“B) Did she pick up a trombone and start to play?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3C (MARY ASKS THE ANGEL)

“Or C), did she ask the angel how this could be?”

“What do you say—A, B, or C? (Pause for response.) C again! Mary asked the angel how this could happen.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:35-37 (NirV) and read.

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That’s because what God says will always come true.” (NirV)

“Mary must have been shocked to hear what the angel had to say . . . but still, she chose to trust God. She believed that God’s plans for her were good. And so this is what she said to the angel.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.

“I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.” (NirV)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

AN ANGEL VISITS JOSEPH

STORYTELLER: “Now, remember how Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph? Well, when Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he wasn’t really sure what to do. Joseph loved Mary very much. But the law at that time said that he shouldn’t marry her if she was going to have a baby.



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25 MINUTES

“So . . . what did Joseph do? What happened next?”

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?”

Read the question and answer prompts from the printed script.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4A (JOSEPH SLEEPS)

“A) Did Joseph go to sleep?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4B (JOSEPH LEAVING FOR VACATION)

“B) Did he go away for a vacation?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4C (JOSEPH BOWLING)

“Or C), did he go bowling?”

“Everybody shout out your answer—A, B, C. This time, it’s A!”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4A (JOSEPH SLEEPS)

“Joseph went to sleep. And while he slept, an angel appeared to him in a dream!”

Open the Bible to Matthew 1:20-21 (NirV) and read.

The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” (NirV)

“That last part might sound familiar to you. It’s our Memory Verse, Matthew 1:21. Let’s go ahead and say it together.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “[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)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

STORYTELLER: “Great job! Now, when Matthew was writing down this story, he paused to remind us of something important. Many years before, the prophet Isaiah had said that this exact thing would happen—that a young woman would have a son whose name would mean ‘God with us.’

Flip the pages of the Bible back to Isaiah 7:14 (NirV) and read.

The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. (NirV)



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“These words from Isaiah came true hundreds of years before Jesus was born! All right. I've got one more question for you. When Joseph woke up . . . what happened next?”

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?”

Read the question and answer prompts from the printed script.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5A (JOSEPH SURFING)

“A) Did he go surfing?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5B (JOSEPH SMILING)

“A) Did he believe what the angel said?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5C (JOSEPH EATING A CHEESEBURGER)

“Or C), did he stop to eat a cheeseburger?”

“What do you think—A, B, or C? *(Pause for response.)* It's B.”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5B (JOSEPH SMILING)

“Joseph believed what the angel had told him. He kept his plans to marry Mary.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Mary's and Joseph's lives were about to change in a way they could never have imagined. But they both had peace because they knew that God was with them. God had chosen them to take care of the Savior, Jesus. And Mary and Joseph went on to welcome baby Jesus into the world.”

“Here's what we need to remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Celebrate because God is with you. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Celebrate because God is with you.”

Host enters.

STORYTELLER: “One more time!”

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “Celebrate because God is with you.”