



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

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.

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, "Silent Night" from Orange Music, 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: Shepherds and Angels (*k-1st grade*),
Angel Ornament(*2nd-3rd grade*)
Application Activity: Christmas Collage (*k-1st grade*), For
Everyone (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Memory Verse Activity: Say It This Way Memory Verse (*k-1st grade*),
Share God's Love(*2nd-3rd grade*)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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: "Hello, my friends! Can you believe Christmas Day is almost here? Everybody look at your neighbor and say, 'Merry Christmas!' (*Pause for response.*) Awesome!"

"In honor of Christmas and all the amazingly-fun Christmas songs we've been hearing this month, I thought today we could play a fun little twist on 'Name That Tune.'"

"Now, normally with this game, we'd play a song, and everyone would try to guess the name of the song. But today we'll play it a little differently. Could I please have all of our Small Group Leaders come up and join me on the stage?"

Bring all Small Group Leaders up on stage. Have them line across the front of the stage.

"Here's how this game will work. I'll show your leaders a card with the name of a Christmas song on it. Then they'll all act out the song, like they're playing charades, while all of YOU try to guess the name of the song. So, if you know what song they're acting out, shout it out!"

"Once one of you guesses the name of the song, we'll move on to the next song. (*Hold up the index cards.*) We'll see how many of these song names you can guess correctly in one minute. Are you ready? Are you set? Let's go!"

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (60-SECOND VERSION)

If you're not using an on-screen countdown, set a 60-second timer on your phone.



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

For each song, show the index card to the Leaders on stage, making sure they can all see it. Then let them act out the song while the kids try to guess the song name. Listen closely to the kids to see if you hear the correct title. Be ready to give a hint if the kids can't guess it quickly. When time's up, dismiss the leaders to their seats.

SONGS:

- Jingle Bells
- Frosty the Snowman
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- Let It Snow
- O Christmas Tree
- Silent Night
- Little Drummer Boy
- Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“Way to go, everybody! That was hilarious—and you got a lot of them right in a short amount of time. Let's keep the music going now as we sing and worship God. Everyone up on your feet!”



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

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, get on your feet, friends! I'm excited to sing some AMAZING Christmas songs for our worship time today. Is anyone else excited about Christmas? If you're excited about Christmas, let's get excited about the reason for why we sing! Sing with me!

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

So good! Okay, we're on a roll. Let's put ourselves in that place 2000 years ago. It was dark. It was quiet. There was anticipation for what was about to happen and then one night, Jesus was born. Our king had come. he came to save us. Let's sing to him!

VIDEO: "SILENT NIGHT" FROM ORANGE MUSIC" LIVE LYRICS

Amazing! Since It's practically Christmas, I just wanna give Jesus one more gift. Can we all celebrate him - that he came to be With Us. That no matter where we are or where we find ourselves - Jesus Is With Us!

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

Pray and close (in your own words)



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! *(Hold up Bible.)* Today we're looking in the book of Luke to see what happened right after Jesus was born.

"As we've been talking about this month, God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That's why Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive! And God actually planned to send Jesus from the very beginning.

"We can look back and see how God created an amazing world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. So, God chose one man, Abraham . . . and God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. *(Hold up Bible.)*

"We can see in the words of the prophets that God promised to one day send a Rescuer. Over hundreds of years, God's people waited . . . and then, God's own Son, Jesus, was born as a baby in Bethlehem.

"Now, before I get too far into the story, I'll need some help from [Host's name]. *(Calling backstage)* Come on out, [Host's name]!

Host enters and waves.

(To audience) "I've asked [him/her] to help us out by acting as some of the people in our story today. [He/she] will perform whatever we're talking about at the time.

THE SHEPHERDS

STORYTELLER: "At the time when Jesus was born, some shepherds were out in the fields.

Host puts on the shepherd head covering, and gives a thumbs-up.

"These shepherds were taking care of their sheep.

Storyteller: toss the plush sheep to the Host.

"I imagine it was just a normal night like any other . . . at least at first. The shepherds were doing their job like usual. But then, something completely amazing happened. An ANGEL appeared in the sky!

Host sets down the sheep, removes shepherd head covering and switches to the halo headband.

"The angel probably didn't look like this! But you get the idea.

"The shepherds saw the glory of God shining around them . . .



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Host quickly moves back to the shepherd head covering.

“... and they were terrified!

Host does the “Home Alone face.”

“Here’s what the angel said to the shepherds.

Host quickly switches to the halo headband, and opens both arms wide. Open the Bible to Luke 2:10-12 (NirV) and read.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” (NirV)

ALL THE ANGELS

STORYTELLER: “Then . . . MORE angels appeared!

Host holds up one of the Angel Emoji Signs) on each side.

“The angels were praising God and saying:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:14 (NirV) and read.

“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!”

HOST: *“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!”*

STORYTELLER: *“And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!” (NirV)*

HOST: *“And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!” (NirV)*

STORYTELLER: *“Then the angels left.”*

Host puts the Angel Emojis away, then quickly switches to the shepherd head covering.

GO AND TELL

STORYTELLER: “God had chosen these shepherds to be the very first people to hear the good news about the birth of Jesus! What an incredible honor!

“The shepherds said:



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

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Luke 2:15 (NirV) and read.

“Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” (NirV)

“And so the shepherds did exactly what the angels said to do. They ran to Bethlehem.

Host “runs in place”

“They found Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph. The shepherds were so filled with joy and wonder that they ran to tell this good news to anyone who would listen!”

Host waves his arms excitedly.

HOST: “Attention, people of Bethlehem! The Savior has been born—here, for us all!”

STORYTELLER: “Let’s give a big hand to [Host’s name], everyone.

Host bows—once with the shepherd headband and once with the angle halo headband - then exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Everyone was amazed to hear what the shepherds had to say. And, as we read in the book of Luke, Mary took time to think about everything that had happened.

Open the Bible to Luke 2:19 (NirV) and read.

Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. (NirV)

*“Mary could see how faithful God had been. She knew that **[Basic Truth]** she could trust God no matter what. And this was one more reason that she could see how Jesus really was the Savior God had promised.*

“As we celebrate Christmas, it’s good for us to think about what shepherds did when they heard the news that the Savior had been born. They didn’t wait! They went to see Jesus and to celebrate what God had done. And they took time to share the good news with others as well.

“Here’s what we can remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Celebrate Jesus with others. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: **“Celebrate Jesus with others.”**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.



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

25 MINUTES

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "This story is such a great reminder that Jesus came for everyone. The shepherds weren't rich or famous. They were ordinary people working out in the fields. They might not have been the ones you'd expect to hear an announcement from angels about the birth of the Savior. But that just goes to show that God's love is for all of us!"

STORYTELLER: "Christmas is a great time to share just how much God loves us. Jesus' birth shows that God loves us more than we could ever imagine. God loves us so much Jesus came FOR us."

HOST: "And, like the shepherds in the story, we can share the good news about Jesus with the people around us. We can celebrate Jesus together, because Jesus is God's greatest gift. That's what Christmas is all about!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift."

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: "So this week, as you gather with the people you love, I hope you'll remember how much God loves you. I hope you'll remember what the angel said to the shepherds—that the birth of Jesus is good news of great joy, for ALL of us."

HOST: "Let's pray and thank God for the good news of Christmas."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "God, thank You for letting the shepherds be the first to hear about the birth of Your Son, Jesus. We can see through this story how much You love ALL of us. The good news about Jesus isn't just for some people, but for ALL people. We're thankful that we've been able to hear about Jesus too. We're thankful for the love, joy, and peace He gives us. Help us to celebrate Jesus with the people around us—at Christmas and always. 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