

Elementary LG | W1

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 (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship ("Joy to the World" from *Joy to the World* single and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from *Extra, Extra It's Christmas Time* single)

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Stand or Sit (K-1st grade), Chain Reaction (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Drawing a Plan (K-1st grade), Share the Good News! (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Verse in Motion (K-1st grade), Verse in Motion (2nd-3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org



Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised | *Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2*

Conversation Starter

What's the best news you've ever heard?

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Monthly Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." • Luke 2:11 NIV

5 min

Opener

5 min

Opening Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: “Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God sent His Son because He loves us!

“Hey, friends! Welcome to [Name of environment]. This month, we’re gearing up for a very special time of year. That’s right—Christmas! We’re discovering how Jesus is the best gift we could ever receive. This whole month, we’re going to celebrate the good news of Jesus’ birth!

“Christmas is a time filled with lights, decorations, and songs that fill the air with joy. It’s a time when we give and receive presents, showing love to our family and friends. But the greatest gift of all doesn’t come wrapped in shiny paper or with a big bow. It’s the gift of Jesus, and during this season, we’ll learn all about why He is so important and special.

“To kick things off, we’ve got a super-fun game that’s going to get us moving and remind us of the excitement that comes when you get a gift! It’s called ‘Pass the Present’, and we’re all going to play together! As we play, think about how much fun it is to unwrap a present. Now imagine that feeling, but a million times greater—that’s how wonderful the gift of Jesus is!

“Alright, everyone, take a seat in a big circle. We’re going to pass this present around while the music plays. When the music stops, if you’re holding the present, you are out.

After we get to the last person, there’s a secret message inside the box! Are you ready to find out the secret message? If so, let’s get in a big circle!

Wait for the kids to form a huge circle. If you have a larger group, feel free to choose a Small Group, or several kid volunteers to come on stage, form a circle, and play the game.

“As we pass this gift, remember, we’re not just unwrapping any gift; we’re getting ready to uncover the story of the most special gift ever—the promise of Jesus!

“I love how excited we all get when we’re about to open a gift. It’s a little like how people must have felt years ago when they heard that Jesus was coming. They knew something amazing was on the way, just like we can’t wait to find out what’s inside our wrapped box!

“And just like our game, the story of Jesus is full of surprises and joy. But we’ve been learning this year that the Christmas story is more than just the things many of us are familiar with—shepherds, angels, a star. It’s actually a story that started in the Garden with Adam and Eve when God started His plan to restore our relationship with Him through Jesus.

“So, are you all ready to get started on our game? Remember, while we’re having fun with this game, let’s keep in our hearts the true joy of

Christmas, the arrival of Jesus, and the happiness He brings to every one of us.

"Alright, let's get those hands ready, listen for the music, and when it starts, let's pass the present with cheer!

AUDIO: Upbeat music (optional: Christmas music)

Start the music and the game. Stop the music and instruct the kid holding the present that they are out. Once the kid is out, start the music and encourage the kids to pass the present around the circle.

Continue in the same way until one kid is left. When the kid gets to the end, encourage them to open up the box and read the card loudly! After the kid says, 'Jesus is good news for everyone' take the card, read it out loud with joy, wave it up in the air, and shout and celebrate.

"Yay! Great, great job, you guys! Jesus is good news for everyone! Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll take a look at what that means! But before we do that, let's get on our feet and worship the God who gave us the greatest gift ever because He loves us—Jesus!"

15 min

Worship

2 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Silent Night - Orange Kids

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! Christmas is finally here — and we get to celebrate the best news ever! Today we're learning that *Jesus is good news for everyone*. Long before Jesus was even born, God promised that He would send a Rescuer — and that Rescuer is Jesus!

Our first song today is *Silent Night*. But this isn't a sleepy, quiet version — this one is fun and upbeat because the night Jesus was born was a night worth celebrating! God kept His promise, and the world's greatest news arrived.

So let's stand up, stretch out those arms, and celebrate together with *Silent Night!*"

"Great singing, everyone! I love seeing all that Christmas joy as we celebrate Jesus — the good news for the whole world.

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

Before we sing our next song, let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month. This verse comes from the message the angel shared with the shepherds on the very first Christmas night. It's the good news that changed everything!"

This message is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2. It's Luke 2:11!

"It goes like this:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11 NIV).

"Let me teach you some motions that might help you remember the verse. You guys repeat the motions after me:

"Today in the town of David" – Point straight down with both hands like you're marking right now.

"a Savior" – Spread your arms wide like you're about to hug.

"has been born" – Rock your arms like you're holding a baby.

"to you." – Point to a friend or the group.

"He is the Messiah," – Pretend like you're putting on a crown with your hands.

"the Lord." – Point both hands up to the sky.

"Luke 2:11" – Open the palms of your hands together like you're opening a Bible.

"Let's all try that together!"

(Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions several times.)

"Our next song helps us imagine what that very first Christmas night was like. *Away in a Manger* tells the story of baby Jesus being born in a simple, quiet place — not in a palace, but in a manger.

3 min

Away in a Manger - Amazing Kids

What You Need

No supplies needed

2 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

38 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

Introduction

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Even though it seemed like an ordinary night, something incredible was happening. God was keeping His promise. The Rescuer had arrived. And because Jesus came, we have hope, we have joy, and we can be close to God again.

Let's sing *Away in a Manger* and remember just how amazing that first Christmas really was."

"Beautiful job, everyone! I love hearing you celebrate the birth of Jesus — the good news for the whole world.

Go ahead and take a seat, and let's get ready to hear our true story from the Bible today!"

Make sure a table is set up in the middle of the stage where the Storyteller can place their Bible. Also be sure the strand (or how many you need) of twinkle lights is spread across the front of the stage, and the two lanterns are on the sides of the table.

STORYTELLER: "Hi, fellow friends who are loved by God! Merry Christmas! Before we get started in today's Bible Story about Christmas, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the story of the entire Bible together!

"Why are we going through the Bible? You might wonder. Well, God gave us the Bible so we can learn who He is and what He is like! So we're going to go through the Bible to help us get to know God!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far! "You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

A CHILD IS PROMISED

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands. "During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened. "But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries!

"And that's where God's Big Story continues!"

STORYTELLER: "Let's get started on our true story from the Bible today. It actually starts long, long ago, before the first Christmas tree in a dark, dark time.

Turn off all the lights that are possible to symbolize the darkness of the world. (But make sure the Storyteller can still be seen, and they can still read from their Bible.)

"Long ago, the world was in a dark, dark place. Everybody on the planet was held captive to a curse of sin. No one could be close to God. They needed help.

"But even though the world was in a dark, dark place, God hadn't given up. For years and years, God kept working on His promise to rescue everyone.

"God gave several of His prophets clues about His great rescue plan. Through them, He offered glimpses of a future filled with light."

STORYTELLER: "Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke this promise to His people through His prophet Isaiah.

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

A SAVIOR FROM BETHLEHEM**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:6 (NirV) and read.

A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

He will rule over us.

And he will be called

Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.

He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever

and Prince Who Brings Peace.

STORYTELLER: "This wasn't just a bandage for everybody's problems. This was the announcement of a forever King, a ruler unlike any other they knew. He would come first as a child. But He was coming. God was hinting that rescue was coming. And that promise made the dark world a little brighter."

Plug in the strand(s) of twinkle lights that spans across the stage to symbolize the dawning of hope.

STORYTELLER: "Even when it seemed that everything was going wrong, God was still in control, reminding His people He hadn't forgotten them. He was going to send them the Rescuer that He had promised long, long ago. The world didn't know this, but God was about to send ... Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "God didn't just say, 'A Savior is coming!' He gave clues, details. This is what He shared with His people through another prophet named Micah.

Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NirV) and read.

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be

an important town in the nation of Judah.

But out of you will come for me

a ruler over Israel.

His family line goes back

to the early years of your nation.

It goes all the way back

to days of long ago."

STORYTELLER: "Micah pointed everyone to Bethlehem, a tiny, almost forgotten town. It was a clue, a whisper of God's meticulous plan. And the dark world got a little brighter."

Turn on the lanterns on either side of the table.

"Even though these messages from God came hundreds of years before Jesus, they were like lights shining in the darkness. 'I have not forgotten you,' God was saying. 'I am going to help you.'"

STORYTELLER: "And this light wasn't just for God's people, it was for the whole world! It was for you too!"

Give each kid a white glow stick. Once each kid has a glow stick, instruct each of them to snap it so it lights up. The room should be filled with light.

"Years and years later, just as the prophets said, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a tiny Baby cry pierced the night. The light burst through the darkness. Everything happened just like God said it would!"

"God had worked for years and years on His great rescue plan, and this key part had finally happened. The Rescuer had come!"

STORYTELLER: "God had also said this to the people through the prophet Isaiah:

Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:2 (NirV) and read.

*The people who are now living in darkness
will see a great light.*

*They are now living in a very dark land.
But a light will shine on them.*

"Jesus is a great light, isn't He?"

STORYTELLER: "Let's hold up our lights!"

"This light represents Jesus. He came to the world to be a light to the people living in darkness. He came to be a light to you!"

5 min

JESUS, THE LIGHT FOR PEOPLE IN DARKNESS

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"You can put your light back down and hold it in front of you now.

"God loves you so much that He worked for years and years to send you Jesus so you could have a way to be His close friend again.

"When Jesus came on that night in Bethlehem, it was proof. God had done it. God had sent Jesus, just as He had promised, all those years ago.

"Our Christmas story isn't just about a baby in a manger. It's about a promise kept, a plan revealed. It's about a God who loves you so much, He did exactly as He promised.

"He sent Jesus. Jesus is the reason we have Christmas. He is the Light of the World!

"And Jesus isn't just good news for you, He's good news for everyone.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Jesus is good news for everyone. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus is good news for everyone."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week we're right up here on this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (*Gesture to slide.*) This is such an important part in God's Big Story!

"This week we talked about two of God's prophets, Isaiah and Micah. Even though they both lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave them both hints and clues about God's promised Rescuer who would come. If you'll remember, since way back in the Garden of Eden when the first people fell under that awful curse of sin and couldn't be close to God anymore, God said: 'I am coming to rescue you.' For years and years, God was working on keeping that promise. Then, as we'll see in the next few weeks, Jesus came, just like God said He would! God loves us so much that He sent the Rescuer, Jesus, who would save us all! Merry Christmas, God sent you Jesus!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about two of God's prophets—Isaiah and Micah! This is an image of the prophet Isaiah!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "We've journeyed back to the time of the prophets today, discovering some very special promises about Jesus. The prophet Isaiah said:

Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:6 (NirV) and read.

A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

"That Son is Jesus!"

"Prophet Micah also shared news about Jesus, saying:

Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NirV) and read.

"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be

an important town in the nation of Judah.

But out of you will come for me

a ruler over Israel.

His family line goes back

to the early years of your nation.

It goes all the way back

to days of long ago."

"Micah was telling us that Jesus would come from a small place, but that small place would have a big purpose. The Rescuer of the whole world would come from that little town.

"So, what does this mean for us today? It means that God loves you so much that He worked for years and years to give you Jesus. It means that this Christmas, you are celebrating the greatest gift that anyone has ever given.

"It means that Jesus is the center of Christmas. He's not just another part of our holiday decoration, but the reason we celebrate. He's the good news!

"Our Memory Verse reminds us of this good news. It says:

SLIDE: Memory Verse Slide

Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 (NirV) and read.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"This is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born. God loves you so much that He sent a Savior to rescue you! And He isn't just good news for you, He's good news for everyone!

"Let's hold up our glow sticks again. Jesus brought so much brightness to the world!

"So this Christmas, I hope you remember that God loves you so much that He sent you a Rescuer. I hope that's a light that lights up your whole Christmas season and beyond.

"And don't forget! Jesus isn't just good news for you, He's good news for everyone! He wants to light up everybody's life! God wants everyone to accept the great gift of Jesus. So share the reason for your light with everyone!

"Jesus is the reason for the season. He is God's greatest gift."

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

"Now, let's take a moment to talk to God together."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for sending the light of Jesus to us. Help us to remember and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, which is Your love for us. You love us so much that You sent us Jesus! Help us share about Your great love this Christmas and beyond. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
Dismiss kids to their small groups.