

Elementary LG | W2

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 ("Silent Night" from *Silent Night (The King Is Born)* 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: Promise Relay (K-1st grade), Unbox the Greatest Gift (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Trust Moves (K-1st grade), God's Plan (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Verse Ornaments (K-1st grade), Verse Postcard (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

Gabriel Visits Mary | *Luke 1:5-66*

Conversation Starter

What are your plans this Christmas?

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

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

3 min

LG Opener Game

3 min

Opener Game

What You Need

 Gift Wrapping Supplies

4

HOST: "Hello, friends! Merry early Christmas! Welcome to [Name of environment]! This month is extra-special because we're celebrating something amazing. We're discovering how Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God sent Jesus because He loves you so much!

"Today, we're kicking things off with a super-fun Group Competition! Do you know what makes a competition exciting? It's not just about winning; it's about doing our best and having fun together. And that's a little bit like Christmas—it's about coming together and celebrating the most incredible gift we've ever received. I'm going to create four teams for this game!

Depending on your group size and how many kids you want to compete, create four teams. Assign each team to a wrapping station.

"Okay, great! We've got our teams! Here's how our Group Competition will work. As you see in front of you, each team will have its own station with everything it needs to wrap a Christmas gift.

"We're going to see which team can wrap their gift the fastest. But remember, we need to be excited and quick, but we also want to do our best work—just as God gave us His best when He sent Jesus. When you're done wrapping, stick the bow on top and hold your gift up! The first group with a finished gift—and I will judge if a gift is finished—wins!

"Alright, let's get ready, get set, go!

AUDIO: Upbeat Christmas-themed music

Start the game, comment on the action, and declare a winner.

"Great, great job, you guys! You are phenomenal gift wrappers! I would be delighted to get a gift wrapped by you!

"Just like we put effort into wrapping these gifts, God's gift to us in sending Jesus was full of purpose. He always had a plan to send Jesus, and let's celebrate that today—starting with worship! Let's worship the God who planned for a long, long time to rescue you!"

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

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! It's such a special time of year — we're getting closer and closer to Christmas! This is when we celebrate that God loves us so much that He sent us the greatest gift ever... Jesus!

Our first song today is *Silent Night* — but not the slow, quiet version you might be thinking of. This one is fun, upbeat, and full of Christmas joy! It helps us imagine the excitement of the very first Christmas night when Jesus was born.

So let's stand up, bring that joy and energy, and celebrate together with *Silent Night!*"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great singing, everyone! You brought so much excitement to that song — I love it!

Before we sing our next song, let's take a moment to look at our Memory Verse for this month. This verse is part of the message the angel shared with the shepherds on the night Jesus was born. It's big, big news — the best news ever!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: This message is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2, verse 11.

"This is part of what the angel said:

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

"What great news! Jesus had been born! 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.*

3 min

Joy to the World | Amazing Kids

What You Need

No supplies needed

2 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

33 min

Bible Story (Live)

"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.

"Great job! This season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It's great, great news! This next song is talking about how we can share that great news with everyone!"

"Our next song is *Joy to the World!* And this month, it's brand-new for us. This song reminds us that when God sent Jesus, He filled the whole world with joy.

Because of Jesus, we can have joy no matter what. Joy that God keeps His promises. Joy that God came close to us. Joy that God loved us so much He sent His Son.

So as we sing this new song, think about the joy we have because of Jesus — the greatest gift ever given. Let's celebrate that joy together!"

"Great job, everyone! It is so fun to celebrate the joy of Christmas together. God gave us Jesus, and that's the best news ever.

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

3 min

Introduction

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure all of the costumes are up on the clothesline. The Storyteller will carry their Bible with them as they read the characters from the story.

STORYTELLER: "We're getting closer and closer to Christmas! Merry Christmas, everyone! Can you feel the joy in the air? That's because this season we celebrate that God gave us the greatest gift—Jesus! Whether or not the world knows it, Jesus is the reason for all of this joy!

"And God was working on His plan to give us the great gift of Jesus for a long, long time—that's what we're going to look at today! **[Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus.**

"Before we dive into the true story from the Bible we're going to look at today, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year. We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why? Well, God really, really wants us to know Him! He is God, and He could have remained a mystery, but He wants us to know who He is. And part of the reason He gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is.

"So that's why we're going through the Bible. We're going to learn about 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!

"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

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

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!' God told His prophets to share. 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—His plan to rescue all of us.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're continuing our journey through the Bible. And today is our first time in the New Testament—this week's true story is in the book of Luke.

Hold up the Bible and turn to the New Testament, making sure the kids can see what you're doing.

"God had been planning His great rescue for a long, long time.

Point out the big chunk of the Bible that is the Old Testament as you say the next words.

"Ever since the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve fell under that curse of sin, and the whole world couldn't be close to God anymore, God promised that He was going to rescue us so we could be close to Him.

"And at just the right time, after years and years and years, something amazing happened!"

5 min

SILENT TREATMENT**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

MARY'S BIG NEWS

STORYTELLER: "To start our story today, God's people were living in part of the Promised Land, but they were ruled by the Romans. God's people tried to follow Him while under Roman rule.

"In this time, there was a priest named Zechariah, and his wife was named Elizabeth.

"Zechariah and Elizabeth faithfully served God ... but they had no children. They believed they were way past the age that they **COULD** have children.

"One day, Zechariah was chosen to enter the temple and burn incense before God, while his group of priests was serving. As Zechariah stood before the altar, the angel Gabriel appeared before him!

"The angel said to Zechariah:

Open the Bible to Luke 1:13-17 (NirV) and read.

"Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. He will be important in the sight of the Lord ... He will prepare the way for the Lord."

"This was a lot for Zechariah to take in. He asked the angel how he could be sure this was true. How could he and Elizabeth have a baby in their old age?

"The angel said to Zechariah:

Open the Bible to Luke 1:19-20 (NirV) and read.

"I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen."

"Zechariah came out of the temple, and the other priests tried to find out why he had been in there so long. But just like the angel said, Zechariah couldn't speak. He could only try to tell them by gesturing with his hands.

"And get this—just like the angel had said, Elizabeth became pregnant even though she was old!

STORYTELLER: "In the town of Nazareth, Elizabeth's relative Mary was about to receive amazing news too.

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

MARY AND ELIZABETH**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary ...

"... and he told her some really big news. He said:

"The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

"Mary was quite shocked to be visited by an angel!

"But Gabriel told her not to worry. He said:

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and read.

"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."

"Mary asked how this would happen.

"Gabriel responded:

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

"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."

"Mary chose to trust God. She said:

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."

"Then the angel Gabriel left her.

STORYTELLER: "Mary then hurried to the hill country of Judea to visit her Elizabeth.

"When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth JUMPED!

"Elizabeth said to Mary:

Open the Bible to Luke 1:42-45 (NirV) and read.

5 min

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

"God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"

"Mary knew that God had blessed her in a special way. She stayed with Elizabeth for three months ... and then she went home.

"Soon after that, it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby! When the baby was born, all of Zechariah and Elizabeth's relatives and neighbors came to celebrate. They were going to name the baby Zechariah, after his dad ... but Elizabeth said he must be called John.

"Zechariah still wasn't able to speak. So he gestured for something to write on, and then he wrote: 'His name is John.' Right away, Zechariah could speak again! And right away, he praised God!

STORYTELLER: "As we wrap this up, remember that God's plan to send Jesus wasn't random; it was perfect and powerful, and straight from Him. He had planned to send Jesus for a long, long time.

"Through Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary, we see that God keeps His promises! He will work through situations that seem impossible, but they aren't impossible for Him. He had promised that He would rescue His people, and He made a way where it seemed like there was no way!

"And, this is absolutely amazing. Our rescue was so important to God that He sent us His very own Son as our Rescuer. What a great, great gift!

STORYTELLER: "Jesus, God's Son Himself, came to rescue us so we could be close to God again. That's what makes Christmas such good news."

"The story of Jesus' birth is one that we can carry in our hearts all year long. God loves us so much that He sent us Jesus!

"God always had a plan to send Jesus ... and He did!

"That's our Bottom Line for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God always had a plan to send Jesus. Say that with me."

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Prayer

STORYTELLER: "Wow. God loves you so very much that He worked for years and years and years to bring about His great rescue.

"This Christmas, remember God's love. Remember that He didn't let anything get in His way to send you the gift of Jesus. An old couple having a child, a young girl having God's Son—that's impossible for us, but not for Him! God was making it very clear that He was the One behind the first Christmas. And nothing was going to stand in His way to send you your Rescuer.

"When we celebrate Christmas, we're not just celebrating a holiday. We're celebrating the faithful love of God that came to us through Jesus.

"God loves you. He loves you so very much. That's why **[Bottom Line]** **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**

"This Christmas, every time you see a decoration, remember God's great love for you. The whole world is having a party because God gave us the greatest gift!

"Let's pray and ask God to help us see His great love and celebrate the gift of Jesus this Christmas."

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer. This Christmas, help us to see Your great love for us in the amazing gift of Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for having a plan to send Jesus at just the right time. Sometimes we don't

5 min

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Inclusive Optional Supplies: Index Cards 1

 Inclusive Optional Supplies: Several Coloring Supplies

What To Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Say: "Today we learned that God had a plan to send Jesus, and He told Mary through the angel Gabriel. Mary didn't have all the answers, and it might have felt a little scary, but she trusted God. He is good, so she knew He was working for good, so she trusted Him. We can do the same!"
- Invite kids to close their eyes and think about something in their life that feels hard to understand, something they need to trust God with.
- Share examples like: *"Maybe you feel nervous about a test, or you're waiting for something, or you're having trouble with a friend."*
- Say: "Now let's take a quiet moment to talk to God about it. You can tell Him what's on your mind and ask Him to help you trust Him."
- Give kids 30 seconds of silent prayer time. Close in prayer.

[As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share with their parents that God always had a plan to send Jesus. Encourage kids to give one example of something they can trust God with this week.]

- Offer index cards and coloring supplies for kids who may prefer to draw or write their prayers to God instead of praying silently! This gives visual and kinesthetic learners a hands-on way to reflect and connect with God.

understand what You're doing, but we know that You are always working towards something good. Help us to trust You. When life feels confusing or scary, remind us that You love us and we can trust You. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Opener Game

1. Gift Wrapping Supplies

Quantity

4

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

Quantity

1. Inclusive Optional Supplies: Index Cards

1

2. Inclusive Optional Supplies: Coloring Supplies

Several