

Large Group (Stage) Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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

1. Love Here, There, Everywhere
2. Craft Stick Puzzles
3. You've Got Mail

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

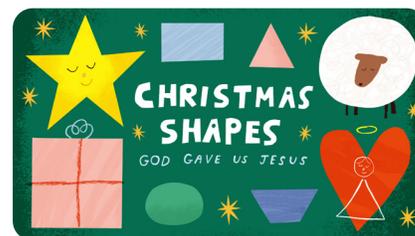
Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Ring the Bell
3. Color by Shape
4. God Gave Us Jesus
5. Angel Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

The Angel and Mary Luke 1:26-33,38

An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

John 3:16 GNT



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

① Worship

→ **Worship Leader enters.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [*your name*], and I am so happy to see you today.

"Did you know that God made every single person in this room? He did! And God loves you, and [*Basic Truth*] God loves me. God loves all of us! And God has given us so many good things ... like beautiful sunshine! Can you make a sun?

→ **Hold arms in a circle overhead.**

"Look at all those beautiful suns! Let's tell God thank you for the sun. Ready?

→ **Do the ASL sign for "Thank you": Move flat hand forward from chin.**

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "What else has God given us ... can you think of any food that God has given us? (*Listen.*) Like yummy blueberries or big red apples? Let's pretend to take a bite out of an apple.

→ **Pretend to take a bite out of an apple.**

"Mmmm, so yummy! Let's tell God thank you for the food He gives us. Ready?

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "God is SO good, He even gave us His Son Jesus! Let's tell God thank you for giving us Jesus. Ready?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now let's stand up and celebrate our God and how He gave us Jesus.

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

- **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world so much (*cross arms over chest*) that he gave his only Son," (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Can you do that with me?"

- **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song about the night Jesus was born.

- **Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."**

"Thanks for celebrating God with me! [*Transition*] And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) . . . sit down (*sit down*) . . . shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) . . . so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

② Intro Sketch

- **There is a small, undecorated Christmas tree in the storytelling area.**
- **Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host carries the prepared circle, square, and heart ornaments.**

HOST: "Hi, friends! My name is [*your name*]. Welcome to [*your environment's name or story time*]!"

"This is my FAVORITE time of year. If you know what we're celebrating, shout it out. (*Listen*) It's Christmas! And to celebrate, we are going to decorate our very own Christmas tree.

"I have these super-fun Christmas ornament shapes!

- **Hold up the circle ornament.**

"Do you know what shape this is? (*Listen.*) That's right! It's a circle.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

- **Put the circle ornament on the tree, then hold up the square ornament.**

"What shape is this one? (*Listen.*) You've got it! It's a square.

- **Put the square ornament on the tree, then hold up the heart ornament.**

"Now, what shape is this ornament? (*Listen.*) Yes, it's a heart! You really know your shapes.

- **Put the heart ornament on the tree.**

"Hearts make me think of love, and today's Bible Story is all about how God shows His love for us. I can't wait for you to hear it!"

③ Bible Story

- **Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible.**

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [*your name*], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. It is in the book of Luke.

- **Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.**

"The true story of Christmas begins with God's love for us.

SLIDE → Story Image W1 01

"Do you know that God loves you? He does! Give yourself a big hug!

- **Hug yourself.**

"God loved you even before you were born! And because God loves you and God loves me SO much, God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever!

"It all started a long time ago when God sent a special message to a young woman named Mary.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

SLIDE → Story Image W1 02

"Now, how do you think God sent this special message to Mary?"

→ **Hold up large envelope.**

"Do you think God sent the special message with a letter in the mail?"

→ **Shake your head 'no,' and put the envelope back in the prop box. Then show children a smartphone.**

"No. Do you think God sent the special message with a video call?"

→ **Shake your head 'no,' and put the smartphone away.**

"No! God sent the message in an even more amazing way. God sent an angel!"

SLIDE → Story Image W1 03

"I don't think Mary had ever seen an angel before, and Mary was afraid."

"Everyone, show me your afraid face."

→ **Make an afraid face.**

"Yes, Mary was afraid! But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary." *(Luke 1:30 NIV)*

"Can you say that with me?"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: "Do not be afraid, Mary."

STORYTELLER: "The angel had a very special message to tell Mary, and it was GREAT news!"

SLIDE → Story Image W1 04

"The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby."

→ **Pick up the baby doll and gently rock it in your arms.**

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"The angel said: 'The baby will be God's Son, and you will call him Jesus.' That was great news!

→ **Put the baby doll back into the box.**

"God loves us so much He gave us His Son Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: [*Bottom Line*] "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus, and that is what we celebrate at Christmas. [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus."

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

Transition → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

④ Prayer

LEADER: "Dear God, thank you for giving us Your Son, Jesus. Help us to celebrate Jesus every day. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Transition → Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

⑤ Outro Sketch

→ **The Christmas tree with shape ornaments is still in the storytelling area.**

→ **Host enters as Storyteller exits.**

HOST: "Wow! The angel told Mary that she would have God's Son, Jesus!"

→ **Point to the heart ornament on the tree.**

3-5 Year-Olds

Stage

December — Week 1

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"Now, every time we see a heart, we can remember that God loves us so much that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.

"I think I (**point to self**) got the story. Did you (**point to children**) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (**Cup one hand behind ear.**)

CHILDREN and HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

Transition → "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

→ **Host dismisses small groups and exits.**

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship, the Intro Sketch, and the Bible Story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

What You Need

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- "Happy Birthday Jesus"
- "It's a Holy Night"

Optional Videos

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- "Happy Birthday Jesus"
Dance Moves Music Video
- "It's a Holy Night"
Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

1. Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
2. Visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases.
→ store.thinkorange.com/collections/music-first-look-scope-cycle-2025-2026
3. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

Suggestions

1. A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks.
2. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** [JoinAPlay.com](https://joinaplay.com) is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Intro/Outro Sketch

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship, the Intro Sketch, and the Bible Story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

What You Need

- Small Christmas tree
- Construction paper in three colors
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Tape

What You Do:

1. Cut a circle, square, and a heart out of construction paper, using a different color of construction paper for each ornament.
2. Punch a hole in the top of the shape.
3. Bend three pipe cleaners into the shape of hooks, and tape to the back of each paper ornament.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship, the Intro Sketch, and the Bible Story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

What You Need

- Bible
- Large envelope
- Smartphone
- Baby doll
- Box to hold props
- Option: Cardstock

Large Group Visuals

- Story Image W1 01
- Story Image W1 02
- Story Image W1 03
- Story Image W1 04

What You Do:

1. Put the envelope, smartphone, and baby doll inside the box.
2. Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

Suggestions

1. Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be “told” and not “read.” Advance preparation is necessary.

Supplemental Resources**WONDER! LOOK AT GOD’S STORY**

First Look offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God’s story. Available in your media files and APlay.

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://www.thinkorange.com)

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes