

# 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. Hunt for the Gift
2. Mary and Joseph Travel
3. Where Do You Sleep?

## 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)

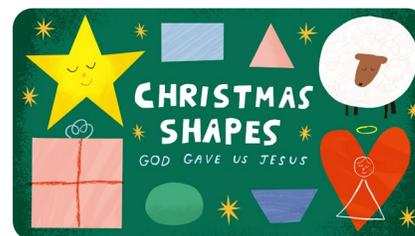
### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. The Gift of Verse
2. What's Missing?
3. Manger Builders
4. Pass the Gift
5. Best Gift 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](http://ParentCue.org)

THIS MONTH



### Today's Bible Story

## Jesus is Born Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the best gift.

### 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! I am SO happy to see you today! My name is [*your name*], and I have a question for you.

"If you could give someone a really great gift, what would it be? (*Pause.*) Would you give someone a really fun toy car? Everybody, say: (*pretend to tap a car horn*) 'Beep-beep! (*pretend to turn a steering wheel*) Vroooooom!"

**CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER:** (*pretend to tap a car horn*) "Beep-beep! (*pretend to turn a steering wheel*) Vroooooom!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Or what about a puppy—woof, woof! Or a cat—meow! Can you bark or meow with me?"

**CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER:** "Woof-woof! Meow! Woof-woof! Meow!"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Those would be really great gifts, but I know someone who has already given you the best gift ever. (*Point up.*) God gave you Jesus. And we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas. So, let's stand up and celebrate 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!

→ **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 together.

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

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

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus 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

→ **A square gift box is in the storytelling area, and a square piece of wrapping paper is taped on it in a way that children can clearly see the square. Two other pieces of wrapping paper (a heart and a triangle) are taped to the wall on opposite sides of the storytelling area.**

→ **Host enters as Worship Leader exits.**

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

"It's almost Christmas! So, I thought we could have some fun today with a fabulous shape hunt. Can you help me find some shapes? (**Listen.**) Okay, I cut these shapes out of pretty wrapping paper. The first shape I want us to find is a triangle.

"Can you find the triangle? Triangles have three sides. Point at it with your finger when you find it.

→ **If children find other triangles, acknowledge that they are correct, and remind them to look for the triangle made from wrapping paper. If children don't see it, stand near it to give them a hint.**

"You found it?"

→ **Point to the triangle cutout.**

"Yes, this is a triangle. Great job! Now, can you find a heart?"

→ **Trace a heart in the air with your two pointer fingers.**

"I love hearts! They remind me of love, and God's love is the best. Point at it with your finger when you find it.

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

- **If children find other hearts, acknowledge that they are correct, and remind them to look for the heart made from wrapping paper. If children don't see it, stand near it to give them a hint.**

"There it is! You found the heart. You really know your shapes.

"Okay, let's find the last one. It's a square. Squares have four sides, and they are all the same size. Point at it with your finger when you find it.

- **If children find other squares, acknowledge that they are correct, and remind them to look for the square made from wrapping paper. If children don't see it, stand near it to give them a hint.**

"Oh, you found it! It's here on this big gift.

- **Hold up the gift box to show its shape.**

"Hey, this gift box is a square too! And it is perfect for our Bible Story today, because *[Storyteller's name]* is going to tell us a Bible story about the best gift God has ever given us.

- **Put the gift box down.**

"I can't wait for you to hear it! I'll be back in a bit."

## ③ Bible Story

- **There is a toy castle, pop-up tent, nativity set, and the prepared hotel prop in the storytelling area. The gift box from Intro is still there.**
- **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.

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

"Today's true story is found in the book of Luke, and it begins with Mary and Joseph.

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

**SLIDE** → Story Image W2 01

"Mary and Joseph loved God. They were part of God's people. One day, Mary and Joseph had to go to a town called Bethlehem, but they had to travel a LONG way to get there. And Mary was going to have a baby!

"Hmm, how do you think Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem? Do you think they took a bus?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No. They didn't ride on a bus. They didn't have buses back then. Do you think they rode scooters?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No, they didn't ride on scooters. They didn't have scooters either!

**SLIDE** → Story Image W2 02

"Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem. Or maybe Mary rode on an animal—like a donkey!

"What does a donkey say?

→ **Do the ASL sign for donkey: Hold one or both flat hands next to your head with thumbs touching your temple. Flap the fingers down together twice. ([bit.ly/DonkeyASL](https://bit.ly/DonkeyASL))**

"Such great donkeys! Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. Now a manger is a box that animals eat out of, so that means there might have been some animals there.

"Would you help me find where Mary and Joseph stayed?

"Look at this castle.

→ **Show children the toy castle.**

"Does a castle have a manger and animals? (**Listen.**) No, so I don't think Mary and Joseph stayed in a castle.

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

"Look at this tent.

→ **Show children the tent.**

"Does it have a manger and animals? (*Listen.*) No. Mary and Joseph didn't stay in a tent.

→ **Show children the hotel prop.**

"Look at this hotel. Does it have a manger and some animals? (*Listen.*) No. Mary and Joseph didn't stay in a hotel.

→ **Show children the nativity set.**

"Wait, look at this place! I see a manger, and I see animals. I think we found it! We found where Mary and Joseph stayed.

**SLIDE** → Story Image W2 03

"Mary and Joseph didn't stay in a fancy place. There might have been animals there ... like a chicken. Can you cluck like a chicken?"

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** "Cluck, cluck, cluck. Cluck, cluck, cluck."

**STORYTELLER:** "Or maybe there was a donkey. I know you can hee-haw like a donkey. Let me hear it!"

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** "Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw."

**STORYTELLER:** "Or maybe there was a cute, fluffy sheep. Can you baa like a sheep?"

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** "Baa. Baa. Baa."

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow! You are so good at making animal sounds.

"The place where Mary and Joseph stayed wasn't fancy, but that didn't matter. God gave us something very special there! A very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! Jesus was born!

"Everyone, say "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER:** "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Now, can you pretend you're holding baby Jesus?"

"The Bible teaches us that:

"Mary took baby Jesus in her arms, wrapped Him in strips of cloth, and laid Him in a manger. (*Luke 2:7*)

→ **Pick up the large gift box.**

"Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! Tell me: How do we know God loves us?"

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

**LEADER:** "Yes, God loves us SO much that [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus.

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

→ **Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.**

## ④ Outro Sketch

→ **Host enters as Storyteller exits.**

**HOST:** "Wow! Baby Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped Him up and put Him in a manger. 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](https://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**

- Large, square gift box
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape

**What You Do:**

1. Cut three large shapes out of wrapping paper: a triangle, a heart, and a square.
2. Tape the square cutout to the gift box.
3. Tape the other shapes to the walls in different places in the storytelling room.

## PLANNING

# Getting Ready: Bible Story

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

## What You Need

- Bible
- Square gift box from Intro
- Toy castle
- Pop-up tent
- Nativity set
- Trifold presentation board
- Blue construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Option: Cardstock

## Large Group Visuals

- Story Image W2 01
- Story Image W2 02
- Story Image W2 03

## What You Do:

1. Cut construction paper into rectangles that are approximately 3×4-inches.
2. Create a hotel prop by gluing the construction paper rectangles ("windows") onto a trifold presentation board.
3. Put the toy castle, pop-up tent, nativity set, and hotel prop in the storytelling area.
4. 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](https://bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes)