

# Small Group 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. Opening Activity

## Large Group (35 minutes)

### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

#### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story  
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

## Small Group (25 minutes)

### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

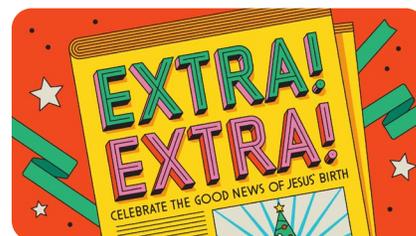
1. Bible Story Review: Stand or Sit
2. Application Activity: Drawing a Plan
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verse in Motion
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



### Today's Bible Story

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

### Bottom Line

**Jesus is good news for everyone.**

### Memory Verse

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



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. [joinamazing.com/everychild](https://joinamazing.com/everychild)

K-1st

Small Group

December — Week 1



GROUPS 1/4

# Stand or Sit\*

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed



## ① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Tell the kids: "If I say something God promised about Jesus, stand up. If it's NOT something God promised, sit down."
3. Use these example statements: (Feel free to add more!)
  - "A Savior would be born in Bethlehem." (*stand—Micah said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.*)
  - "The Savior would be a forever King." (*stand—Isaiah said the Savior would reign on David's throne forever.*)
  - "The Savior would ride a bicycle." (*sit*)
  - "A child would be called Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince Who Brings Peace." (*stand—Those are the names that Isaiah shared.*)
  - "The Savior would be born in a giant castle." (*sit*)
  - "The Savior would bring peace." (*stand—Isaiah said that the peace the Savior brings would never end.*)
  - "The Savior would be a great soccer player." (*sit*)
4. After each one, explain why it's true or false according to what Isaiah and Micah said.

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

K-1st

Small Group

December — Week 1



GROUPS 1/4

# Stand or Sit\*

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



What You Need

No supplies needed

## ② What You Say

“Long before the first Christmas, way back in the Garden of Eden, God made two people who were His close friends. But then they chose to sin, and a curse entered the whole world. No one could be close to God anymore. But God didn’t want to keep things that way! He loves us and wants to be our close friends! He made people to be His close friends!

“So He put His rescue plan in motion. And through years and years, God faithfully worked on His rescue plan. God spoke through His prophets, including the two we read about today, Isaiah and Micah, giving big promises to His people about His great rescue plan.

“Isaiah said a child would be born who would be called Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Father Who Lives Forever, and Prince Who Brings Peace. God hinted that He was going to rescue the world through a child, a baby! Micah gave the exact place, Bethlehem, where the Savior would be born. The Savior was the rescuer that would break that awful curse of sin the world was under. God did not just give random promises. Every detail was perfectly planned.

“The Christmas story is not just about a baby in a manger. It’s about God keeping His promise! That promise was for the whole world, and it was for you. Jesus came to rescue us, love us, and give us peace. We can celebrate because **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone!”

“This season, there are Christmas decorations all around you. What are some Christmas decorations you see around you? **(Pause for responses.)** Wow! Those are awesome! The whole world is having a party! That’s because whether or not people believe it, they’re celebrating Jesus. Jesus is the true reason for the season. God sent His Son to save the world! So **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone!”

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

K-1st

Small Group

December — Week 1

GROUPS 2/4

# Drawing a Plan



## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Copy paper
- Pencils or washable markers

### Inclusive Supplies

- Grips or adaptive markers

## ① What You Do

1. Direct the kids to pair up.
2. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil or marker.
3. Instruct one kid from each pair to stand facing the wall.
4. Direct that kid to place their piece of paper on the wall as a flat surface to draw on.
5. Instruct the other kid to stand behind their partner and place their piece of paper on their partner's back.
6. Direct the kid with their paper on their partner's back to slowly draw a large Christmas shape. (You can help direct the child's drawing with shapes if they need help—like a star, a Christmas tree, a gift box, a candy cane, a gingerbread man, etc.)
7. Instruct their partner to guess what shape they're drawing.
8. Once the kid facing the wall thinks they know the shape they felt on their back, direct them to draw the shape on their piece of paper on the wall.
9. Once the kid facing the wall has drawn the shape, instruct the kids to switch places and flip their papers over.
10. Instruct the kid who was facing the wall to choose a new Christmas shape to draw on their partner's back, and that partner attempts to imitate the shape on their paper.

Continued on the next page. →

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Provide grips and/or adaptive tools.

## GROUPS 2/4

# Drawing a Plan

## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Copy paper
- Pencils or washable markers

### Inclusive Supplies

- Grips or adaptive markers



## ② What You Say

"You couldn't see what was being drawn on your back, but you could feel it and try to follow the plan. God's people couldn't see exactly how His rescue plan would happen either, but they could trust that He had one. And His plan was not just for one group of people, it was for the whole world. God's promise to send Jesus was good news for everyone.

"What were some of the Christmas shapes you drew? (**Allow kids to answer.**) Just like you had to think about your friend when you were drawing so they could follow along, God's plan has always been for everyone to know and follow Him. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told Isaiah and Micah about a Savior who would come and give everyone a chance to be close friends with God again. And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, every detail came true.

"Because of Jesus, everyone, no matter where they live, what they look like, or how old they are, can be a close friend of God. God loves everyone so much that He worked for years and years and years on His rescue plan. And then He sent Jesus, who would rescue us all. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone, and that's great news we can share with the people around you. Every time you see a Christmas decoration or something Christmas, that's a great starting point that can help you talk to people about Jesus. Every light, every Christmas tree, every decoration, every Christmas cookie is celebrating Jesus! The whole world is having a party because God loves them! **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone!"

**Make It Personal** → Tell your group about an age-appropriate time you got to tell someone good news and how it made you feel, then connect it to how amazing it is to share the good news of Jesus.

### Inclusive Pro Tips



Provide grips and/or adaptive tools.

GROUPS 3/4

# Verse in Motion



## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

### Inclusive Supplies

- Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

## ① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each pair of kids a Bible marked at Luke 2:11.
3. Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

### \*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

### \*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
- ⑤ When they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
  - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
  - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: "This is the One God promised! He's the Rescuer, the forever King, the one we've all been waiting for to make us right with God again!"

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/4

# Verse in Motion



## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

### Inclusive Supplies

- Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

6. Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
7. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Page to teach the motions to the kids. (The NIV and NIV are very similar.)
  - "Today in the town of David" (point to the ground)
  - "a Savior has been born to you." (pretend to rock a baby)
  - "He is the Messiah" (point one hand up)
  - "the Lord." (point both hands up)
  - "Luke 2:11" (open hands like holding an open Bible)

### Talk Together

1. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
2. Repeat the verse with the motions for several rounds.
3. Ask:
  - "Who is the Savior this verse is talking about?"
  - "What does it mean that Jesus is good news for everyone?"

## ② What You Say

"Great job learning our Memory Verse! This verse is so important because it tells us the GOOD NEWS the angel shared with the shepherds. The angel didn't say, 'A Savior has been born for just some people.' He said, 'a Savior has been born to YOU.' That means Jesus came for every single person—moms, dads, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, and YOU.

"Who do you think this verse is talking about? (**Pause for kids to answer: Jesus.**) That's right, Jesus! He's the Savior, the Rescuer, the forever King.

"Why is this such good news? (**Pause for responses.**) Because Jesus didn't just come for important people or special people. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone! He came to break that curse of sin so everyone could be close friends with God!"

GROUPS 4/4

# Pray and Dismiss



## Prayer Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### Inclusive Supplies

- Index cards
- Pencils



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.

## ① What You Do

1. Before you pray, ask the kids to name something someone has promised them before.
  - Examples: "We'll go to the park," "I'll bake cookies," "We'll have a playdate."
2. As they share, respond briefly to a few, then say:
  - "Sometimes people keep promises right away, and sometimes we have to wait. But God always keeps His promises, even if it takes a long time. We learned today that God promised a Savior hundreds of years before Jesus was born, and every part of His promise came true. He worked for years and years and years to make His great rescue plan happen because He loves everyone!"
3. Invite the kids to think of one thing they want to thank God for and one thing they want to ask Him for.
4. Give the kids a moment to pray silently on their own.
5. Close in prayer.

## ② What You Say

"God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus, just like You said You would, to be our Savior so we could be close to You. We know that You have a plan, and that You hear every prayer we pray. Please help us to trust You while we wait for Your answers, just like Your people trusted You while they waited for Jesus. As we see anything Christmas this year, help us remember that we are celebrating what You did for us. The world is having a party because You love us! Jesus is good news for everyone! We love You too, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Transition** → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone.