

# Unboxed: Find the Joy

WEEK  
**TWO**

GRADES  
**4-5**

DECEMBER 2019

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 PRETEEN

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## BIBLE STORY

**The Weary World Rejoices**  
The Coming Birth of  
John the Baptist  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

## MEMORY VERSE

**Always be joyful because  
you belong to the Lord.  
I will say it again. Be joyful!**  
Philippians 4:4, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be  
happy even when things  
don't go your way**

## KEY QUESTION

**What's the most amazing  
thing you've ever seen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment  
Monthly Overview

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just For Fun  
Get Your Head in the Game

**25**  
MIN

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

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Communication  
Prayer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Silent Night" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*  
"I've Got Joy" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*  
"What A Beautiful Name" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 6*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Extension  
Discussion Questions  
Verses to Take with You  
Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

## GETTING READY

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container
- 10-15 coins dated within the years since the kids in your group were born

#### 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two oven mitts for each person (substitute mittens if oven mitts are difficult to gather or simply tape kid's thumbs to their hands so they can't move them).
- Wrapping paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- One identical item for every two kids to wrap such as a gift box, book, cereal box, foam plate, etc.

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Move:* an activity that increase the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- 11 red plastic cups
- 11 green plastic cups

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Matthew 19:26b Word Strips" Activity Page; for every two or three kids and cut apart
- Five rolls of tape

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

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SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**The Weary World Rejoices**  
The Coming Birth of  
John the Baptist  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80



## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

## MEMORY VERSE

**Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!**  
Philippians 4:4, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way**

## KEY QUESTION

**What's the most amazing thing you've ever seen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take some time to pray for your group. Pray that they would be able to see how God can do anything in their lives because He's all powerful. Ask for wisdom and patience this week as you lead your students and create a safe place for them to process faith and its implications on their lives.*

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, coins, magnifying glass (*optional*)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Invite** kids to place their offerings in the container.
- **Direct** kids to take a coin.
- **Instruct** them to find the date on the coin. Use the magnifying glass for clarity if needed.
- **Help** kids figure out how old they were in the year their coin was minted.
- **Take turns** sharing something they remember from the Christmas of that year, such as a gift they gave to someone, a tradition their family still continues to do, what the coolest gifts were in stores that year, and so on.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

### The Weary World Rejoices

The Coming Birth of  
John the Baptist  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80



## PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

## MEMORY VERSE

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you belong to the Lord.  
I will say it again. Be joyful!**  
Philippians 4:4, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be  
happy even when things  
don't go your way**

## KEY QUESTION

**What's the most amazing  
thing you've ever seen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Stopwatch, oven mitts, wrapping paper, tape, scissors, items to wrap

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Choose** partners.
- **Give** each person a pair of oven mitts.
- **Distribute** the wrapping paper, tape, and scissors so that each team has easy access to supplies.
- **Explain** that they will be racing to see who can finish wrapping their item first. Neatness counts.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Wrapping gifts neatly is nearly impossible if you're wearing oven mitts. Great effort, everyone! You may think you just faced an impossible task, but when you hear what happens in today's story, you'll think oven mitt gift wrapping is as easy as 1-2-3. Let's go to Large Group and hear how the impossible became possible."

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



## MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

### BIBLE STORY

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The Coming Birth of  
John the Baptist  
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

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### LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be  
happy even when things  
don't go your way**

### KEY QUESTION

**What's the most amazing  
thing you've ever seen?**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Red and green plastic cups

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Form** two equal lines facing each other a few feet apart.
- **Give** the person at the head of one line a stack of green cups (two for each person in his or her line) and one red cup.
- **Give the other team** a stack of red cups (two for each person in his or her line) and one green cup.
- **Check** to make sure the odd-colored cup is on the bottom of each team's stack.
- **Explain** that teams will race to restack the cups by taking one from the top and moving it to the bottom and then passing the stack to the next person, who does the same.
  - Continue all the way down the line.
  - When the stack reaches the end of the line, reverse the passing order and continue.
  - The first team to get the odd-colored cup to the top of the stack is the winner.
  - Remind kids that they can only move ONE cup at a time.
- **Ask** each team to take two of the cups from their stack.
- **Invite** the group to share examples of things that are possible with God.
  - For each example, have them place their cup on their team's stack.
  - If kids need help coming up with examples, help them consider people and events in today's story as well as other stories in the Bible or situations from life today. (Also remind them of all God has done in creation and in nature.)
- **Continue** until each team's cups are all stacked.
- **Replay** the stacking game if desired.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God does His best work in impossible situations, and the story of Christmas is filled with them. Look at how God worked through the problem of sin that separated us from God and made it impossible for us to be with Him. Think about the miracle of a woman having a baby even though she was old, and no one believed it could happen. How about the way an angel appeared out

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25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

of nowhere with a promise from God to answer an impossible prayer? And let's not forget the obstacle of figuring out how to communicate an unbelievable story when you suddenly can't speak. Wow! God didn't go small when it comes to Christmas. He not only gave the best, biggest, and most costly gift ever by giving us His Son, but He did it in a way that was miraculous and amazing. He wrapped the gift of a Savior in a whole bunch of miracles to help us believe that He truly is God and can do the impossible."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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25 MINUTES

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



## IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

### BIBLE STORY

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### LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be  
happy even when things  
don't go your way**

### KEY QUESTION

**What's the most amazing  
thing you've ever seen?**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Remind** your group that after the angel appeared to him, Zechariah was not able to speak until after John was born.
- **Challenge** the kids to communicate their answers to the following review questions without speaking.
  - They will have no more than 30 seconds to help the rest of the group guess their answer.
  - Everyone except the person answering the question can speak.
- **Questions:**
  - What do you think was the best part of today's story?
  - Tell about something happy that happened in the story.
  - Who was your favorite character?
  - Tell about something sad that happened in today's story.
  - When he got home, how do you think Zechariah communicated with Elizabeth all that had happened at the temple?
  - What was the scariest part of today's story?
  - Talk about something that was old in the story.
  - What do you think Elizabeth's reaction was when she finally understood what Zechariah was telling her?
  - Talk about something that was probably loud in the story.
  - How does knowing God can do the impossible help us have joy?
- **Give** kids their voices back and ask the group to share their answers to the following question: "If you hadn't been able to speak for nine months, what do you think your first words would be?"
- **Invite** someone to read aloud Luke 1:68, explaining that the words of this verse were some of the first things Zechariah said once he could speak again.
- **Ask:**
  - What stands out to you most in these words spoken by Zechariah?
  - When we experience God doing something amazing and when we truly believe He can do the impossible, what should our response be?
- If time allows, let the kids take turns reading more of Zechariah's song of praise in Luke 1:69-79 and note the references he makes to God's promises about the Savior.

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**LIVE  
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## CONNECT

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### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- What are some everyday ways God shows us how amazing He is?
- Why is it important to know that God can do the impossible?
- If God can do anything—even the most impossible things—why doesn't He do some of the things we ask Him to do?
- What seemingly impossible situation would you like to see God change?

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## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



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### KEY QUESTION

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### BASIC TRUTH

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### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Matthew 19:26b Word Strips" Activity Page, tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Give** partners a set of shuffled "Matthew 19:26b Word Strips" and a roll of tape.
- **Challenge** teams to race to arrange the strips in the order that makes most sense without them knowing the verse ahead of time. Clue them in that the verse is something Jesus said.
- **Tell** them to loop and tape their strips together to make a chain when they think they have the correct order.
- **Read** the verse and let teams check their order to see how closely it matches the verse.
  - Some people can do truly amazing things, but even the most gifted, talented, strong, or brilliant person that ever lived cannot do what God can do. Name three things only God can do.
  - How do those three things help you have joy?
  - When would remembering this verse help you have joy?

**PRAY  
TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

### BIBLE STORY

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Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

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### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Invite** the group to use a favorite Christmas carol, such as "Joy to the World," as a prayer focus.
- **Explain** that you'll pause after each phrase of the first verse of the song and give them time to respond together in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"'Joy to the world! The Lord has come . . .' We can have joy because Jesus came into the world to be our Savior and Lord. Let's ask God to give us joy that goes beyond Christmas gifts or fun celebrations—a joy that finds a way to be happy, even when things don't go our way." *(Pause for kids to pray silently or out loud.)*

"The next part of the song says, 'Let earth receive her King . . .' Jesus wants to be the King of your life and help you find the joy that comes in following Him. He waits for you to invite or receive Him. Think about whether Jesus is your King." *(Pause)*

"The song continues, 'Let every heart prepare Him room . . .' God wants us to give Jesus the place He deserves in our heart—FIRST PLACE. Let's ask God to show us how to give Him more room in our life and to forgive us when we haven't been following Him the way we should." *(Pause)*

"The first verse ends with the words, 'And heaven and nature sing . . .' Imagine every part of creation singing praises to God all at one time. That would be an AMAZING sound. Let's close our prayer time by giving thanks to our great God and remember that nothing is impossible for Him."

"Dear God, You are the song of Christmas. Help us to not get so caught up in the lights and gifts that we lose sight of what is most important—YOU. You bring 'joy to the world,' and we are so glad You came to save us. Amen."

*Note: If you choose, wrap up by singing "Joy to the World" with your group.*