

# Unboxed: Find the Joy

WEEK  
**THREE**

DECEMBER 2019

GRADES  
**K-1**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 KIDS

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**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**STORY**

**WORSHIP**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**

## BIBLE STORY

**Born to Be Our Friend**  
The Coming Birth of Jesus  
Luke 1:26-56

## 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**

## BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because God is with you.**

## 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

Early Arrivers  
Looking Forward

**25**  
MIN

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

Opener  
Bible Story  
Worship  
Prayer  
Closer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Silent Night" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*  
"Joy to the World" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Pop-Up Cards  
Afraid Charades  
Marshmallow Toss  
Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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HOME

## GETTING READY

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

**EARLY ARRIVER IDEA***Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***WHAT YOU NEED:**

- An offering container
- 8-10 index cards
- Marker

**LOOKING FORWARD***Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing***WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Play-Doh®; one lump for each kid

**GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT**

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.***1. POP-UP CARDS****[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]***Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing***WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Pop-Up Card Template" Activity Page on heavy cardstock; one for each kid

*NOTE: You might want to cut out the templates ahead of time. See the activity and the Activity Page sketches for instructions.*

- Print the "Pop-Up Card People" Activity Page on heavy cardstock and cut out; one character for each kid
- Scissors

- Glue
- Markers
- Bible

**\* 2. AFRAID CHARADES****[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]***Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment***WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

**3. MARSHMALLOW TOSS****[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]***Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group***WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Cup Phrases" Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group
- 10 plastic cups; tape one of the "Cup Phrases" to each cup (with the opening pointed up)
- Plastic spoons; one for each kid
- Mini marshmallows
- Wet wipes

**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**.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**Born to Be Our Friend**  
The Coming Birth of Jesus  
Luke 1:26-56



## 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**

## BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because God is with you.**

## 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 a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to protect kids' hearts from the potential hurt and pain that this season can bring, for those whose homes aren't filled with love and joy, or for those whose future is uncertain. Pray that you would be able to be a light and source of encouragement for those kids in particular, and that you would have the wisdom to lead the rest of the group to do the same.*

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, index cards, marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group, and collect their offerings as they arrive.
- Ask kids to list people they like to do things with. They should keep it generic, like: mom, grandpa, friend, brother, cousin, etc.
- Write down their responses on index cards (one per card)
- Lay the index cards on the floor so they're spread out.
- Read the name on each card so kids remember what they all say.
- Say the sentences below. After each one, instruct kids to move and put their foot next to the person they would choose.
  - Who would you want to be with you at the park?
  - Who would you want to be with you at the library?
  - Who would you want to be with you at your game?
  - Who would you want to be with you at an amusement park?
  - Who would you want to be with you when you read a book?
  - Who would you want to be with you when you scrape your knee?
  - Continue along these same lines as long as you have time.

PRELUDE

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15 MINUTES

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happy even when things  
don't go your way**

## BOTTOM LINE

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God is with you.**

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



## CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

## 2. LOOKING FORWARD

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Play-Doh®

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a lump of Play-Doh.
- Tell kids to use the Play-Doh to make something they're looking forward to. It can be Christmas-related or something else.
- Encourage kids to share their thoughts with the group if they wish, but don't force them to do so.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"You are all looking forward to some pretty cool things! **[Transition]** In today's story, somebody was looking forward to the coolest thing ever!"

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**

HOME

25 MINUTES

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

### BIBLE STORY

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The Coming Birth of Jesus  
Luke 1:26-56

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happy even when things  
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## CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

### 1. POP-UP CARDS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Pop-Up Card Template" and "Pop-Up People" Activity Pages; scissors; glue; markers; Bible

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- *NOTE: You might wish to go ahead and cut out the cards and the dashed lines before kids arrive. Make this decision based upon your kids' cutting abilities and the time you have allotted for this activity.*
- Give each kid a template and scissors.
- Tell kids to cut out the two rectangles along the outside lines. They should NOT cut along the line in the middle of the rectangles.
- Show kids how to fold the "inside" card (with the dashed lines) along the center line so the dashed lines are showing on the outside.
- Cut along the dashed lines. Make sure to only cut as far as the dashes go. (We don't recommend letting kids do this part.)
- Instruct kids to unfold the inside, fold it the other way to 90 degrees, and pop out the cut part. (See Activity Page sketches.)
- Tell kids to fold the outside card along the center line and then fold it back the other way so the line is on the inside of the card.
- Help kids glue the inside of the card onto the outside of the card.
- Give each kid a person cutout, and allow kids to color their person.
- As they work, ask them if they remember what their person did in today's Bible story.
- Show kids how to glue the person to the pop-out part of the card. (See Activity Page sketches.)
- Read Luke 1:26-45 aloud.
- As you read, kids should open their pop-out card when their person's name is mentioned and/or when their person is speaking. You may need to prompt them.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those pop-out cards are pretty neat, aren't they? What I want you to do is take your card home with you and use it to help you retell today's story to someone in your family or to a friend who maybe doesn't know Jesus yet. What's so cool about today's story is that it tells us that Jesus is God's Son. That means God actually sent His Son to earth so He could be with people. He's not still here with us today, but He's alive in heaven, and we can have Him with us in our hearts when we trust in Him. **You can have joy because God is with you.**"

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## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY

### BIBLE STORY

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### LIFE APP

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## IMAGINE

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

### \* 2. AFRAID CHARADES

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Say the Bottom Line together several times: **You can have joy because God is with you.**
- Challenge kids to work together to come up with some simple motions for the Bottom Line.
- Ask kids to think of something they're scared of OR something other kids their age might be scared of.
- One at a time, allow kids to do charades to share their idea with everyone. You may need to whisper some instructions in their ear if they're having trouble coming up with something.
- After each one, you will say: "Remember, even when \_\_\_\_\_, God is with you."
- Then the kids say the Bottom Line together with motions they come up with.

**What You Say:**

**"You can have joy because God is with you, and so can I! [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about something that scares you, but you know you can face that fear because God is with you. Make sure to keep your example appropriate and relatable for young kids.)** Everybody is afraid of something, whether it's spiders, storms, the dark, someone close to you dying, or your parents splitting up. But through all of those things, God is with us. And that can give us such peace and JOY!"

PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## MOVE

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

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### BOTTOM LINE

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### 3. MARSHMALLOW TOSS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared cups, plastic spoons, mini marshmallows, wet wipes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Scatter the cups around one half of your area.
- Line the kids up side by side on the other half of your area.
- Give each kid a spoon and a few marshmallows.
- Show kids how to use the spoon as a catapult to fling a marshmallow.
- Challenge kids to fling the marshmallows into the cups.
- When someone gets a marshmallow into a cup, he goes and picks up the cup and sits off to the side.
- If kids run out of marshmallows, pause the game, allow everyone to go collect marshmallows, and then start up again.
- When all cups have been gathered, instruct kids to put the verse in order.
- Let kids clean any stickiness off their hands with the wet wipes.
- If you wish, give kids a few fresh marshmallows to snack on during the discussion time.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"That was fun, and it made me happy watching you fling your marshmallows everywhere! When things are fun and good, it's easy to be happy and joyful. But when things are tough, it can be harder. What are some things that make it hard to have joy? (*Allow a few kids to answer.*) Having joy is more about having peace and knowing God is with us no matter what happens. Joy is finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way. Remember that **you can have joy because God is with you.**"



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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### PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids in a circle, and encourage them to be calm and quiet.
- Move around the outside of the circle, and pray the prayer below for each kid.
- If appropriate, gently lay a hand on each kid's head or shoulder while praying for him or her.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, help [kid's name] remember that he/she can have joy because you are with him/her. (Repeat for each kid.) Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about their pop-up cards and what part that person played in today's Bible story.