



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because  
God can do anything.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that  
he gave his one and only Son.  
Anyone who believes in him will  
not die but will have eternal life."  
John 3:16, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### 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**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship ("Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King)* single and "Greatest Gift Remix" from *Greatest Gift Remix* single)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Talking Balloons  
Application Activity: Floating Tinsel  
Memory Verse Activity: Hat Order  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for the Christmas season and all the joy and celebration it brings. Praise God for being a God who can do anything and still chose to send His one and only Son to be our Savior. Ask God to put these truths on your kids' hearts today.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, garland or ribbon, and candy canes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place them in the offering container.
- Tie a line of thin garland or ribbon between two chairs, as high as a kid's knees.
- Divide your group into two teams. (Assign kids to teams as they continue to arrive.)
- Give one kid from each team four candy canes—two large and two small. *NOTE: If the candy canes are not in tight wrappers, remove the packaging so the candy cane will hook over the garland.*
- Challenge the kids with the candy canes to hook their candy canes on the garland or ribbon by dropping them one at a time from directly above.
- Direct the kids not to bend down or stoop to hook the candy canes on the garland.
- Once the first pair of kids have gone, remove the candy canes from the garland or pick them up off the floor.
- Give the next kid on each team four candy canes.
- Keep score. The team that hooks the most candy canes, wins!
- If you have a large group, set up a few game areas and let the winners of each round play another kid.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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God can do anything.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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John 3:16, NIV**

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift**

### BASIC TRUTH

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



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



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## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Tangled strings of Christmas tree lights, garland, or ribbon

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Divide your group into teams of two to three kids.
- Give each team a tangled string of lights, garland, ribbon, or all three tangled together.
- Challenge the kids to work with their team to untangle what you gave them.
  - For an extra challenge, direct the kids to use only one hand.
- *Option with no supplies, Human Knot:*
  - Direct the kids to form a tight circle while standing shoulder-to-shoulder.
  - Tell the kids to extend their LEFT hand into the circle and take the hand of another kid who is not next to them.
  - Instruct the kids to extend their RIGHT hand into the circle and take the hand of a different kid who is not next to them.
  - Challenge the kids to untangle themselves without letting go of each other's hands.
    - Explain that they can loosen their grip to move comfortably, but they can't let go.
  - End the game when all of the kids are—once again—standing in a circle, shoulder-to-shoulder.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Untangling a massive amount of [Christmas decorations or people] can feel like an impossible task. What if you could only use one hand? Or NO hands! A lot of things seem impossible to us at times. God never has that problem. **[Transition] Nothing is ever too hard, too big, or too impossible for God. Let's go to Large Group and hear what God did that no one else will ever be able to do.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



## \* 1. TALKING BALLOONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]  
WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a balloon.
- Demonstrate how to inflate the balloon, and hold the end tightly without tying it off.
- Show kids how to stretch the end of their balloon to allow a small amount of air to escape and make a squeaking sound.
- Let the kids practice making squeaking sounds, then inflate their balloons once again and hold the end tightly.
- Explain that you'll ask TRUE and FALSE questions about today's Bible story.
  - If the kids think the statement is true, instruct them to keep their balloon silent.
  - If they think the statement is false, instruct the kids to use their balloon to make a short squeak. If kids decide the statement is false, encourage them to give the correct answer.
- Statements.
  - Elizabeth and Zechariah were very young—about your age. (*false; they were very old*)
  - Zechariah was a priest at the Temple in Jerusalem. (*true*)
  - Pretty much anyone could enter the Temple's holy place whenever they wanted. (*false; only the priests could enter*)
  - Elizabeth and Zechariah had a lot of kids. (*false; they had no children*)
  - A bright, dazzling angel appeared to Zechariah while he was in the Temple. (*true*)
  - The angel's name was Abigail. (*false; Gabriel*)
  - The angel asked Zechariah what he wanted for Christmas. (*false; Gabriel announced that Elizabeth and Zechariah would have a baby*)
  - Zechariah believed every word the angel said and did not question it at all. (*false; Zechariah did not believe the angel*)
  - Zechariah caught a bad cold while in the Temple and lost his voice to laryngitis. (*false; Zechariah couldn't speak until the baby was born because he didn't believe the angel*)
  - Elizabeth insisted they name the baby Harold after her favorite uncle. (*false; he would be named John, just as the angel had commanded*)
  - The child born to Elizabeth and Zechariah would grow up to be John the Baptist who would tell people Jesus was coming. (*true*)

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**Nine Months**  
Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

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### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift**

### BASIC TRUTH

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

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Zechariah questioned God, but not in a good way. Instead of believing that God would do what He said He would do—even when it seemed impossible—Zechariah doubted Gabriel's message. He knew that his wife, Elizabeth, was too old to have children. He knew it was impossible! But what Zechariah had



WEEK  
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DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### (\* 1. TALKING BALLOONS, CONTINUED)

forgotten was that God can make anything happen. Nothing is impossible for God. When we face something hard at home or at school, we don't need to doubt that God will come through. Even when a problem feels impossible to fix, we can trust God. Every day, we can **celebrate because God can do anything.**"



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**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES**

### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



## 2. FLOATING TINSEL [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Balloons and tinsel strands

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask, "What are some things that seem impossible?"
  - It's okay if they give silly suggestions such as flying like a bird or being invisible.
  - Prompt them with questions to get them to think of situations in their own lives that they feel are hard or impossible.
  - Some follow-up questions:
    - What worries you in your life right now?
    - What makes you sad or scared?
    - What do you wish you could change in your life right now?
- Hold up a strand of tinsel.
- Ask, "Do you think it's possible to make this piece of tinsel float in the air without blowing it or touching it?"
- Let the kids offer a few ideas, then begin the demonstration by following the steps below.
  - Give each kid an inflated balloon.
  - Ask them to rub the balloon on their sweater or shirt for about a minute to create static electricity.
  - Show kids how to lay the strand of tinsel on top of the balloon and watch what happens.
  - If the tinsel fails to float, ask the kids to rub the balloon a bit longer on their clothes to create more static electricity.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Making tinsel float in the air sounded impossible, but once you knew what to do, it wasn't impossible at all. Keep this tinsel trick in mind the next time you have a hard time trusting that God can do big things, solve tricky problems, or fix impossible situations. Something that seems impossible for us is never impossible for Him.

"What are some things you can do when you need help trusting God in a hard situation? (*Pause for responses.*) When you find yourself in a situation that feels impossible, it often helps to talk with a parent, a church leader, or a trusted adult who can pray and encourage you.

"Whether a tough subject at school, a problem at home, a disagreement with a friend, or any problem that feels too big to handle—God is always bigger than our biggest fear or problem. Nothing is ever impossible for Him. So we can **celebrate because God can do anything.**"





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## **(2. FLOATING TINSEL, CONTINUED)**

*[Make it Personal] (Share with the kids about a time you faced something that was hard to get through. Tell them how God showed up in that situation. How did He use it in your life? How has it helped you to trust Him, no matter what?)*



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 3. HAT ORDER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, party hats, markers, and timer on watch or smartphone

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a Bible, a party hat, and a marker.
- Invite kids to look up John 3:16 using the navigation tips below.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

*Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:* 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. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "John" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find "John," lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find "John." Help the kids find the page. When they find "John," explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 3.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because God can do anything.**

- Read the verse together a couple of times.
- Assign each kid a portion of John 3:16 to write on their party hat.
- Collect the hats.
- Instruct the kids to form a circle.
- Place the hats within reach of all the kids.
- At your signal, invite the kids to grab any hat they like, read the portion of the verse written on it, and arrange themselves in verse order, holding their hats so everyone can read the words.
- Repeat the game. This round, time the kids and see how quickly they can get in verse order.
- Play the game a third time. Can they arrange themselves in verse order quicker than they did the second time?
- On the last round, make it a bit more challenging by having kids put on the hats before they get in order. (Do this on the last round only, to avoid the sharing of hats on heads.)

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."**  
John 3:16, NIV

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"This month's memory verse reminds us of something we never want to forget—God loves us. ALL the time. EVERY day. He gave us a gift like no other gift we will ever receive. He gave us Jesus, who came to Earth to live and die so we can have a relationship with God that will last forever. That's not just any gift. That's the BEST gift ever. It's something to party about. So let's **celebrate because God can do anything.**"

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift**

### BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK  
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SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

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### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Party hat, music playing device, and Christmas carol

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one of the kids a party hat.
- Play a Christmas carol and direct the kids to pass the party hat around the circle.
- Stop the music and instruct whoever holds the hat to say, "Dear God, I can celebrate because You can do anything."
- Continue until all the kids have had a turn.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"It's true. We CAN **celebrate because God can do anything**. When you find yourself facing something that feels bigger than you can handle, stop and ask God for His help. He will be with you every step of the way, and you can trust Him, no matter what."

As adults arrive to pick up, let kids demonstrate the floating tinsel trick and share that we can celebrate because God can do anything.



## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. **(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

#### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container
- Ten large candy canes
- Ten small candy canes
- Thin garland or wide ribbon—eight to ten feet
- Two chairs
- Extra candy canes in case of breakage

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Long, tangled strings of Christmas tree lights, garland, or ribbon (or tangled mess of all three)—one for every two to three kids
- NOTE: An alternative game with no supplies is included with this activity.*

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(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 #1.*

#### \* 1. TALKING BALLOONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Balloons—one for each kid

#### 2. FLOATING TINSEL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Inflated balloons—one for each kid
- Strands of tinsel (icicles)—one for each kid
  - Before group time, watch this demonstration of the activity: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7m\\_DsVyZ6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7m_DsVyZ6k)

#### 3. HAT ORDER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles
- Party hats—one for each kid
- Markers
- Timer on a watch or smartphone

#### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Party hat
- Music playing device like a smartphone
- Christmas carol on device

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**