



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Because of Christmas Day
Jesus Is Born/Shepherds Visit
Luke 2:1-20

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How are you celebrating
Christmas this year?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because
God sent a Savior.

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

Just for Fun
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, "Silent Night" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*, and "O Come All Ye Faithful" from *Have a Fancy Yancy Christmas*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, pray that your kids would begin to grasp more than they ever have before the significance of what we celebrate at Christmas. Ask God to reveal himself to them in a new way this Christmas, and thank Him for using you in the process!

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, a gift box, mobile device or timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive.
- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give a gift box to a kid.
- When you say, "GO," set a timer and tell kids to pass the gift box around the circle.
- Whoever is holding the gift box when time runs out gets a point.
- Be sure to vary the time you set the alarm for each round.
- Play several rounds.
- Declare the kid with the least amount of points the winner.
- *Optional: Choose a category and before passing the gift box, kids have to say something related to the category.*
 - *Potential category examples: Christmas movies, Christmas decorations, examples of gifts people give, etc.*

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Gift boxes or gift bags, "Hula Hoop Lassos," an object to put in each bag, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use masking tape to create a throw line.
- Give each kid a "Hula Hoop Lasso" and tell them to stand on the throw line.
- Guide them to stand an arm's length away from each other.
- Set the gift bags about 10 feet from the throw line; one bag for each kid with a "Hula Hoop Lasso."
- Make sure each gift bag has something in it to weigh it down.
- When you say "GO," kids will race to the gift bags, throw their hula hoop over a gift, and drag the gift to them.
- The first kid to drag a gift over the throw line is the winner.
- Play several rounds ensuring everyone gets a chance to play.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Hmmm! I wonder what receiving a gift has to do with our Bible story today. Anyone have a guess what story we will hear today? **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to find out if you are right.**"

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. TAKE A SNAPSHOT
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: White board and an erasable marker or paper and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into 2 teams.
- Play a game of "Reverse Charades."
 - Each team selects a kid to be the "guesser."
 - The guesser stands facing their team.
 - Stand behind the guessers, facing the rest of the kids.
 - The guessers should not be able to see you.
 - Write a title of a Christmas song on a white board or a piece of paper.
 - Show the teams the song title making sure the guessers don't see what you wrote.
 - When you say "GO," teams silently act out the song, no talking or humming.
 - The first guesser to correctly identify the song is awarded a point for their team.
 - Play several rounds.
 - Be sure everyone gets an opportunity to be a guesser.
- Ideas for Christmas songs:
 - Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
 - Frosty the Snowman
 - The 12 days of Christmas
 - Silent Night
 - Joy to the World
 - Jingle Bells
 - Little Drummer Boy
- After a winner is declared, gather the group together and ask:
 - One way we celebrate Christmas is by singing Christmas songs. What is your favorite Christmas song?
 - What are ways you are celebrating Christmas this year?
 - What is one thing your family does only around Christmas time?
 - Why make a big deal about Christmas? Why celebrate it?
 - What does Christmas mean to you?

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WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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

MADE TO IMAGINE

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

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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large piece of butcher paper, markers, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids around the large piece of butcher paper.
- Instruct kids to each draw a scene from the Bible story. They can refer to Luke 2:1-20 for ideas.
- Be sure to draw a scene yourself, too.
- As a group, retell the story using the pictures kids drew.
- Even if several kids pick the same scene, there will be slight differences in their drawings that could prompt discussion.
- As you retell the story, guide kids to fill in the details.
- When kids have finished drawing, draw a gift box on the paper.
- Ask: What does a gift have to do with the story?
- Potential questions to spark discussion:
 - Why did the angel call Jesus "a Savior"?
 - The angel said to the shepherds, "I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people." What is the good news? Why will the news bring great joy?
 - In the story, who celebrated Jesus' birth? How did they celebrate? Why did they celebrate?
 - Imagine you are one of the shepherds that visited Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on that first Christmas. How do you think you would respond to the events of that evening?



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Was there something new you learned about the first Christmas?
- How do you celebrate Christmas?
- After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told everyone what they had seen. Is talking about Jesus a form of celebration? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to celebrate Jesus' birth?

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Yarn, yellow craft sticks, jumbo craft sticks, markers, hot glue gun, Bibles, gift bags, gift tags, scissors, mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell kids they get to make an ornament to give to someone as a gift.
- Set out the supplies.
- Tell kids to create a star using the five yellow craft sticks. (Let kids draw a star on a sheet of paper to use as a visual aid. Then they can position each craft stick the same way the drawn star's lines are positioned.)
- Help kids apply hot glue to the connection points of the star to secure it together.
- Press firmly as the glue dries.
- Instruct kids to wrap the star with the yellow yarn. Tell them to wrap tightly but not so tightly that they deform the star.
- Using the three different sized jumbo craft sticks, let kids make Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.
- They can draw a face on the top of the sticks and wrap the bottom half with yarn.
- Provide different colored yarn for each person, using baby blue for Jesus, if possible.
- Using a hot glue gun, help kids attach the people to the star. Tell kids to press firmly until the glue dries.
- Adhere a loop of yarn to the top point of the star.
- For a visual go to: https://bigfamilyblessings.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-11-17_0014-678x1024.jpg
- As kids work, consider . . .
 - Asking: Who are you making this ornament for?
 - Read Luke 2:10-11 and lead kids in a discussion on what the verses mean.
 - How do you think you would react to seeing an angel at night?
 - What was the good news?
 - Who was the good news for?
- What are you most looking forward to about Christmas?
- Provide gift bags and gift tags for kids to wrap their gift.
- Suggest that kids write Luke 2:11 on one side of their gift tag.

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STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Light Bulb Cards," scissors, markers,
string/yarn, hole punch, Optional: a Christmas tree or other
way to display the "String of Lights"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a "Light Bulb Card" and tell them to cut out the light bulb on the card.
- Instruct kids to write a prayer thanking God for the good news of Jesus' birth.
- Encourage kids to imagine they are a shepherd telling someone what happened that night in Bethlehem. What would they want to celebrate with others?
- Instruct kids to use the hole punch to make a hole at the top of their light bulb.
- Help kids create a string of "celebration lights" by tying their light bulb onto a long piece of string.
- Space out the light bulbs along the string.
- Encourage the kids to take turns reading what they wrote out loud.
- Place the string of lights on a Christmas tree or tape them to the wall, as in previous weeks.
- Save any extra cards to be used next week.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, what a night that must have been! The birth of Jesus! Angels praising You! Shepherds telling everyone what they saw! People being amazed at what they heard! Thank You for the good news! Thank You for sending a Savior. Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus, Your greatest gift to us! This week as we celebrate Christmas with family and friends, remind us why we are celebrating—because a Savior has been born to us and His name is Jesus! Amen!

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Gift box or wrapped gift, one for each per Small Group
- Mobile device or timer

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Hula hoop Lassos, one for each kid.
 - To make the "Hula Hoop Lasso," tie the end of a piece of garland (or string or rope) to a hula hoop. The garland should be about 8-10 feet long.
 - Optional: Depending on the number of hula hoops you have, kids can share.
- Gift bags, one for each "Hula Hoop Lasso" provided.
 - Recycle the gift bags from the Take a Snapshot Activity from week two.
- Stones, one per gift bag.
 - You need to provide a weight for the gift bags for the activity to work.
 - Optional: It would be great if you could provide a candy bar that could be used to weigh the bag down AND be given to the kids as a gift. If you choose this option, be sure to provide a candy bar for each kid and let Small Group Leaders know the kids can keep the candy.

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 #2.*

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Provide either:
 - A white board and an erasable marker for each Small Group
 - Several pieces of paper and a marker for each Small Group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large piece of butcher paper, one for each Small Group
- Markers
- Bibles

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Yellow regular sized craft sticks, five for each kid
- Hot glue gun, at least one for each Small Group
- Jumbo craft sticks, one set per kid.
 - To make a set, cut three craft sticks to the



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

following lengths: 3.5", 3", 2"

- Balls of yellow yarn, several balls for each Small Group.
- Yarn, three colors (not yellow) for each Small Group
 - e.g. brown, light blue, white.
- Markers
- Scissors
- Small Gift bags, one for each kid
- Gift tags, one blank tag for each kid.
- Optional: Provide materials for kids to make their own gift tag. Materials would include:
 - Cardstock. This is an opportunity to use any scrap card stock you have.
 - Scissors
 - Hole punch
- Bibles
- Mobile device
- Optional: If you prefer, there are several pre-packaged kits available for purchase to make nativity ornaments.

tablecloth and adhere to the wall. This allows you to roll up the tree and store it elsewhere for future weeks.

- Simply string the "Lights" throughout the environment.

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.**

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Light Bulb Cards," one for each kid.
 - Save any extra "Light Bulb Cards" to be used in week four.
- Markers
- Hole punch, at least one for each Small Group
- A ball of string or yarn, one for each Small Group
- Scissors
- A Christmas Tree, one for each environment.
 - Throughout the month of December, kids will be creating a "String of Lights" during the Prayer Activity. If you choose not to provide a Christmas tree, provide another way for kids to hang their "String of Lights". Other options to consider:
 - Create an outline of a tree on a wall using tape.
 - Cut a Christmas tree out of a large green