



## 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: Impossible?  
Application Activity: Celebrate!  
Memory Verse Activity: Baby Bottle Bible Verse Bowling  
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  
**K-1**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

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, 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 and tray of baby items covered with the towel

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Uncover the tray and show kids the baby items.
- Encourage them to name each item and talk about how it's used. Provide help as needed.
- Cover the items with the towel and guide kids to close their eyes. No peeking!
- While the kids' eyes are closed, remove and hide one item.
- Invite kids to open their eyes.
- Give them about ten seconds to silently look at the items to determine which one is missing.
- Challenge kids to identify the missing item.
- Repeat as time allows.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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John 3:16, NIV

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

### BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**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



### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper plates and baby blocks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Help each kid find a partner.
- Give each pair a paper plate and a set of four or five baby blocks.
- At your signal, guide one kid on each team to set the paper plate on top of their head, then vertically stack the blocks on the plate.
- Their partner can cheer them on and guide them verbally but can't provide physical help in any way.
- For kids to win, their blocks must stay stacked for 15 seconds!
- Lead kids to switch roles and play again. Continue as time allows.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

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

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because God can do anything.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Did it seem impossible to keep the blocks stacked and win the game?  
**[Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear about two people who had something in their life that seemed impossible. Let's go learn more."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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John 3:16, NIV

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

### BASIC TRUTH

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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. IMPOSSIBLE?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Game Board" Activity Pages, "Impossible?" Activity Page cards, Bible marked at Luke 1, and dice

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Open your Bible to Luke 1 and post a set of "Impossible?" cards—in order from left to right—where kids can see them.
- Invite kids to use the cards to help them summarize the Bible story in their own words. Be sure they touch on the points below.
- Ask prompting or guiding questions to help them fill in any "blanks."
  - One year, Zechariah was chosen to enter the temple while the other priests waited outside.
  - An angel appeared and told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son. Zechariah asked how he could be sure. The angel, Gabriel, said that because Zechariah didn't believe his words, he wouldn't be able to speak until after his son, John, was born.
  - The other priests wondered why it was taking Zechariah so long. When Zechariah came out, he couldn't speak. The priests knew that he had seen a special message from God.
  - Zechariah went home, and in a short time Elizabeth found out that she would have a child.
  - Elizabeth gave birth to a son.
  - A few days later, friends and relatives gathered to name him. They wanted to name him Zechariah, but Elizabeth said he must be called John.
  - Zechariah asked for something to write on and wrote "His name is John." Immediately, Zechariah could speak again.
- Help kids get into teams of two or three.
- Give each team a die, a game board, and a set of cards.
- One kid repeatedly rolls the die, attempting to roll a one.
- As soon as they roll a one, they add the first "Impossible?" card to their gameboard.
- The next kid rolls the die until they roll a two. Once successful, they add the second card to their gameboard.
- Play continues until each team successfully rolls one through five.
- The catch: If a player rolls a six, the team must remove the last earned card from their gameboard.
- For example, if a player is attempting to roll a four and rolls a six, the team must remove the third card from their gameboard. They must then attempt to roll a three again.
- Once a team has all its cards, encourage teammates to use the cards to tell each other the Bible story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have children. They were as old as GRANDPARENTS! But God can do ANYTHING, and God gave them a son!"

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

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

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

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

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### (\* 1. IMPOSSIBLE?, CONTINUED)

“God can do anything in your life, too. You may feel like something in your life is impossible. You may feel like you’ll never be able to play your instrument, score a goal for your team, learn to tie your shoes, or read as well as your friends. *(Adjust your examples based on what you know of your kids.)* But no matter how IMPOSSIBLE something feels, God can help you. He is BIG enough and POWERFUL enough to help you in ANY situation. So this week, remember to **celebrate because God can do ANYTHING.**”



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**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



### 2. CELEBRATE!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Supplies for your chosen activities

**WHAT YOU DO:**

• Host a "Baby Shower" to **celebrate because God can do anything**. Choose one or both of the activities below.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

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

- Make a snack:
  - Guide kids to wash their hands.
  - Give each kid a plastic zipper-top bag.
  - Set out small containers filled with your ingredients.
  - Invite kids to mix the items together to make their own trail mix.
  - Give kids freedom to choose what goes into their trail mix, but encourage them to include a variety of items. You can also limit their portions of candy.
- Play "Baby, Baby, Where's Your Toy?"
  - Guide kids to sit in a circle and hold their hands behind their backs.
  - Choose one kid to stand in the center and be the "baby."
  - Direct the "baby" to close their eyes. When they're closed, silently place a pacifier or other baby item in one child's hand. Step away.
  - Lead the "baby" to open their eyes and guess who has the item.
  - Allow them to guess until they find it.
  - The kid holding the item becomes the new "baby."
  - Add challenge for older kids by allowing them to pass the item behind their backs while the "baby" isn't looking!

### 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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Sometimes there are things in our lives that seem IMPOSSIBLE. You may feel like you'll never be able to read or someone you love may be really sick or things may be hard at home. But God is BIG enough and POWERFUL enough to help in ANY situation!

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

**[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time something in your life seemed impossible. You may have had a conflict with a friend, a sickness, or trouble at home. Tell the group how God showed His love and His power in the situation. Tell them how you celebrated, too!)**

### BASIC TRUTH

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

"Zechariah and Elizabeth celebrated when God did the impossible by giving them a son. And just like they celebrated, we can **celebrate because God can do anything**, too!"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### 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.**

### 3. BABY BOTTLE BIBLE VERSE BOWLING [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Pages taped to bottles; glow sticks; Bibles; and balls

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Just before starting this activity, activate the glow sticks and drop one or two into each bottle. Screw on the lids.
- Use the Bible navigation tips below to help kids look up and "read" the memory verse.

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the "John" at the top of the page as you say, "John." Then guide kids to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 16; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

***Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide kids 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." You can help by telling them that John starts with the letters J-O. 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.*

- Unpack the phrase "God so loved the world," emphasizing that God loved us SO MUCH that He sent His OWN Son to be born on Earth, to live among us and later die on the cross for our sins.
- Divide kids into teams of three or four.
- Instruct teams to line up at one end of your environment.
- Arrange a set of six "Memory Verse Cards" bottles in a triangular pattern (like bowling pins) opposite each team, about ten feet away.
- Give each team a ball. If possible, turn off the lights.
- At your signal, the first kid on each team rolls the ball to knock down as many pins as possible.
- Kids take turns until all of their team's pins are knocked down.
- Once successful, kids crawl like babies to their pins, work together to put the verse in order, and "read" the verse (with help as needed).

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world SO much that He sent His Son, Jesus. And that's what Christmas is all about! Christmas is celebrating JESUS, God's greatest gift! So remember to **celebrate because God can do anything.**"



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**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



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have children. They were as old as GRANDPARENTS! But God can do ANYTHING, and God gave them a son! God can do anything in your life, too. He is BIG enough and POWERFUL enough to help you in ANY situation. So this week, remember to **celebrate because God can do ANYTHING.**

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because God can do anything.**

"Dear God, I praise You because You can do ANYTHING. You are AMAZING and WONDERFUL and POWERFUL, and we love You SO much. This week, help us remember and CELEBRATE that You can do anything. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them today's **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.**





WEEK  
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DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP

**K-1**

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. EARLY ARRIVER

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Tray
- Towel
- Ten small baby items that will fit on the tray (a pacifier, a rattle, a sock, a block, a spoon, etc.)
  - Place the items on the tray and cover it with the towel.

#### 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:

- Sturdy paper plates—one for each kid
- Cloth or plastic baby blocks—four to five for every two kids

### 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. IMPOSSIBLE?

[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:

- Print "Game Board" Activity Pages on cardstock; one for every two kids.

- Print "Impossible?" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart; one set for every two kids.
- Bible marked at Luke 1
- Dice—one for every two kids

#### 2. CELEBRATE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

Choose supplies for one or both of the activities below.

A. Snack mix:

- Small containers
- Whole grain cereal
- Miniature pretzels
- Dried fruit
- Miniature marshmallows
- M&M's®
  - Place each ingredient in a small container.
- Small cups, such as portion cups; one or two for each ingredient
- Plastic zipper-top bags

B. "Baby, Baby, Where's Your Toy?"

- Small baby toy, such as a pacifier

#### 3. BABY BOTTLE BIBLE VERSE BOWLING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart; one set for every three to four kids.
- Six baby bottles or water bottles—one set for every three to four kids
- Lightweight balls like foam or whiffle—one for every three to four kids
- Bibles; for kindergarteners mark Bibles at John 3
- Tape
- Glow sticks—one or two for each bottle
  - Tape a "Memory Verse Card" to each bottle.



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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

### 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:**

- No supplies needed.

### 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.**