



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Tidings of Comfort and Joy
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because
God has a plan.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

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

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

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

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Jingle Bells" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season* and "Greatest Gift Remix" from *Greatest Gift Remix* single)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Ordinary?
Application Activity: A Surprising Plan
Memory Verse Activity: Life and Light
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



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 help kids know what's possible with the power of God! Pray that this joy will bring comfort to the kids for whom Christmas is not always a fun, exciting, and magical time of year.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Tidings of Comfort and Joy
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Counting" Activity Pages, offering container, pencils, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids where they can place their offerings.
- Invite each kid to choose a "Christmas Counting" Activity Page.
- Guide kids to complete the dot-to-dots first with their fingers and then with pencils or markers.
- Invite kids to color their pictures when they're finished.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because
God has a plan.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son.
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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.



WEEK
TWO
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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: "Tangram Templates" and "Tangram Pieces" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help each kid find a partner. If there are an odd number of kids in your group, create a group of three.
- Give each team a set of "Tangram Templates" and "Tangram Pieces."
- Invite the pairs to use the templates to make the pictures. Younger kids can match the pieces onto the templates while older kids can use the templates as guides.

NOTE: If you have kids with strong visual/spatial skills, give them the silhouette templates and challenge them to solve the puzzles.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You did a great job of following the plans to make a house, a girl, and a Christmas tree. **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll hear what these three things have in common. Let's go learn more."

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. ORDINARY?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a version of “Guess Who?”
- Lead kids to sit in a circle. Secretly choose one kid.
- Guide kids to discover the kid you chose by asking a series of “Yes or No” questions such as:
 - Are they wearing sneakers?
 - Are they wearing boots?
 - Are they wearing red?
 - Do they have brown hair?
 - Did they bring a special toy or stuffed animal with them today?
- When the group guesses the kid you chose, begin the game again.
- Play until each kid has a turn being “chosen.”

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“I chose [kid’s name]. I chose [kid’s name]. I chose . . . *(repeat for each kid)*. Today, we learned that God chose an ordinary person—someone just like you and me—to bring His Son into the world. Who did God choose? *(Mary)* Yes, He chose an ordinary girl named Mary.

“Even though Mary seemed ordinary, she loved and trusted God in a special way. She believed that someday God would send a Rescuer—a Savior—even though she didn’t know how. But when the angel visited Mary, everything changed! She learned that God’s plan for her was BIGGER and BETTER than she could ever imagine.

“God’s plan for you is bigger and better than you can imagine, too! You can trust that God has everything under control, even when life’s plans seem confusing or even scary. So remember to **celebrate because God has a plan.**”

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God has a plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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. A SURPRISING PLAN [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Recipe" Activity Page, glue, saline, baking soda, glow paint, mixing bowl, measuring spoons, mixing spoon, and zipper top bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids the ingredients and ask (curiously), "What do you think we can make with glue, contact lens solution, baking soda, and paint?" (*Invite kids to guess.*)
- Show the "Recipe" Activity Page and tell kids that you have a recipe—a special plan—to make the ingredients into something surprising!
- Follow the recipe step by step, inviting volunteers to measure, pour, and mix as much as possible.
- When the slime is complete, give each kid a portion, turn off the lights, and let the fun begin!
- Allow each kid to take some slime home in a zipper top bag.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! What did you make? (*SLIME!*) Yes, you made glow-in-the-dark slime! You followed the recipe—the plan—and made something surprising. The same thing is true in our lives. When we follow God's plan, **AMAZING** things happen! Sometimes things turn out the way we expect, and sometimes they don't. But no matter what happens, we can trust that God has a good plan for our lives. Even if we don't always understand, we can **ALWAYS celebrate because God has a plan!**"

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK
TWO
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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

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* 3. LIFE AND LIGHT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at John 3 and glow sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Activate the glow sticks and use them to mark a path that loops around your environment.
 - You can set the sticks in "dashed lines" that kids can balance walk, squares they can jump into, or parallel lines they can hop over.
 - You can also connect the sticks in circles for kids to tiptoe through.
- Demonstrate the path for the kids, then guide them to navigate it independently.
- Once kids get the hang of it, turn off the lights!
- Open the Bible to John 3 and say the verse, guiding kids to freeze when you say "die" and celebrate when you say "but will have eternal life."
- Repeat as time allows, varying your pace and timing to keep interest high.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"From the very beginning, God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. God always has a plan, and God's plans are GOOD! When God sent Jesus, His plan was VERY good! At Christmas, we celebrate God's plan to send Jesus. So remember to **celebrate because God has a plan.**"



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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 into a responsive prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"From the very beginning, God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. And one day, Mary learned that she was part of that plan! God's plan for her was bigger and better than she could IMAGINE. God chose her to carry His Son into the world! Wow! God's plans are GOOD! Let's pray.

(As you pray, guide kids to respond with today's Bottom Line when you pause.)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God has a plan.

SGL: "Dear God, You always have a plan."

KIDS: **"Celebrate because God has a plan."**

SGL: "From the very beginning, You had a plan to send Your Son, Jesus."

KIDS: **"Celebrate because God has a plan."**

SGL: "You had a plan to send Jesus to be our Savior."

KIDS: **"Celebrate because God has a plan."**

SGL: "Thank You, God, for sending Jesus."

KIDS: **"Celebrate because God has a plan."**

SGL: "Thank You, God, that we can celebrate with Christmas!"

SGL AND KIDS: **"Celebrate because God has a plan."**

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them today's Bottom Line.
Celebrate because God has a plan.

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Christmas Counting" Activity Page on paper; one for each kid.
- Offering container
- Pencils
- Markers

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Tangram Templates" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one set for every two to three kids.
- Print the "Tangram Pieces" Activity Page on white cardstock and cut out the pieces; one set for every two to three 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 #3.

1. ORDINARY?

[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:

- No supplies needed.

2. A SURPRISING PLAN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Recipe" Activity Page on paper; one for each small group.
- Clear washable glue
- Saline solution
- Baking soda
- Glow-in-the-dark paint (such as Decoart paint, available online and at some stores and craft stores) For best results, pour the amount you need into an open container and place in indirect sunlight for 15 to 20 minutes prior to mixing.
- Mixing bowl
- Measuring spoons (tablespoon and ½ tablespoon)
- Portion cups or similar
- Mixing spoon
- Zipper top bags

* 3. LIFE AND LIGHT

[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:

- Bible marked at John 3
- Glow sticks—about 30

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.**