



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Painter's tape (optional to mark off the floor to split the room in half)
- One sheet of white paper for each kid
- 10 sheets of red paper balled into balls

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- High energy Christmas song for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Countdown timer (*optional*)

What You Do:

- With the snowballs for this weekend, it is recommended that you have the kids do the work of balling up the snowballs before you play the game. Give each kid a sheet of scrap paper and have them crumple them up before the game begins. Then, at the end of the game, have kids return the now-crumpled paper to you to reuse at another time.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- “Quiztmas Quiz” Questions Slide
- One Big Story Intro Video
- Blank Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange’s permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the “Prelude” folder under “Monthly Planning.”

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Through It All
- Let Go

Born to Be Our Friend

Bible Story: Born to Be Our Friend (The Coming Birth of Jesus) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because God is with you.

Key Question: What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid?

Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

Life App: Joy—Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone

Opener

HOST: “Hello [*Name of Environment*] and Merry Next-Week-Is-Christmas! Whether you’re stuffing your face with Christmas cookies or taking time to box up the perfect gift for your friend, I hope you’ve been having an awesome time this December.

“I’m excited you’re here to help me celebrate this holiday season. Let’s start off today with one of my favorite Christmas games. Now, let me set the stage really quick. Imagine you’re living up north where snow is very common around Christmas time. You and your friends step outside to see the entire neighborhood covered in a blanket of frosty, powdery snow. What would be the first thing that goes through your mind when you see snow everywhere? I’ll give you a hint, it rhymes with ‘snowball fight.’ What do you think I’m talking about? (*Pause for response.*)

“If you guessed snowball fight, you’re right! If you didn’t, then you might be really bad at rhyming. Anyways, today we’re having an indoor snowball fight to recreate the joy of seeing snowfall at Christmas time.”

“The object of the game is simple: throw as many snowballs onto the other team’s side as possible. If you see snowballs on your side, toss ‘em back! Also, you may notice that there are red snowballs mixed in there as well. Those red snowballs are worth 10 snowballs if they end up on your side, so make sure you get those out as fast as possible.”

“Let’s go ahead and divide the room into two even teams with the teams sitting on opposite sides of the room with some space between them. You have 30 seconds to divide into teams and then sit down. Do that now.”

Help kids divide into two even teams. Have kids sit down once finished.

“Ok, now that we’re split up and everyone’s sitting down, let’s go over a few rules. First: you cannot stand up. That’s right! No standing, no leaning. Stay seated. Second: Don’t reach over people. That’s rude. Everyone say, ‘So rude.’” (*Pause for response.*)

“Rounds will be 30 seconds long, and at the end of 30 seconds, I’ll tell you to FREEZE and everyone must stay perfectly still or else I’m going to move a few snowballs over to your team’s side. Once everyone is frozen, I’ll count up how many snowballs are on each side of the room and we’ll determine our winner. Let’s hand out our snowballs and get ready to play!”

1. *Rounds should last approximately 30 seconds. With every new round, you can add in a new rule to make the game a little more exciting. You can add the following rules to subsequent rounds:*
2. *Can only toss snowballs backwards*

1. *Can only use your left hand*
2. *Must keep eyes closed*

Great job, everyone! Maybe you'll have a real snowball fight in the next few months, but if not, I hope this game brought you some Christmas joy. Small group leaders, if you could help me collect the snowballs, I'll be around in just a moment to pick those up before worship. Hey, speaking of worship, help me welcome *[name of worship leader]* to the stage!"

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER:

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

VIDEO: *One Big Story Intro*

CG: *Blank Key Question Slide*

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! So great to be with all of you today. As we get started, I need someone brave to help me out. Can I get one brave volunteer? And remember, if you're going to raise your hand, you should be absolutely fearless, ESPECIALLY when handling . . . you know what, never mind. Okay! Who wants to volunteer?"

Choose one kid with their hand raised.

"Great! Thanks for being today's victim. Wait, victim? I don't mean victim. I MEAN participant. So here's how this works. In just a moment, I'll bring a box on stage. That box has a hole cut into the side for you to place your hand into. Once you place your hand inside of the nest, I mean box, you'll have to guess what's inside. Easy enough, right? Okay! Bring out the box!"

Have a volunteer bring out the box. Inside of the box should be something prickly, like a small wreath, a decorative pine garland or a fake holly plant.

“Ok, go ahead and reach inside, but please, go slowly and carefully.”

Get the kids in the room to cheer as the kid places his or her hand in the box and tries to guess what’s inside.

“Okay, [*name of kid*], what do you think it is?”

Allow the kid time to answer. Adjust the following answer based on whether the kid gets it right or wrong.

“Great job, [*name of kid*]! Thanks for participating with me today. Hopefully we didn’t freak you out too bad. Go ahead and have a seat!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “I hope that [*name of kid*] knew that I wouldn’t do anything to put him/her in *that much* danger, and that if they needed anything, I’d be right here to help. But what about when we face situations where we feel all alone or like no one understands what we’re going through. What then?”

“At some point in our lives, we’ll find ourselves in situations where we’re afraid or unsure of what’s going to happen next. We might wonder we’ll get through it. We might even wonder if God is still with us or still cares about us.”

“No one wants to feel like that. But what’s the alternative? Great question! And when we have questions like that, the best place to start is the Bible. The writers of the Bible were inspired to include all sorts of moments where people felt like they didn’t know what would happen or how God would take care of them. We can learn a ton from their example.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s dive into one of their stories today found in the book of Luke, chapter one. I’m pretty sure most of you have heard about this person before; her name is Mary. Yes, *that* Mary—the mother of Jesus.”

“Now, some of you may have heard about everything that happened leading up to Jesus’ birth. I could use your help telling it. When I get to certain points in the story, I’ll stop and ask a question for YOU to answer. Think you can help? Great! Let’s get started!

“Mary grew up in Nazareth. Nazareth was a small town in Galilee . . . and to be honest, it wasn’t very impressive. It wasn’t the capital or center of all the towns. It wasn’t really seen as important.

“Like Nazareth, Mary appeared to be ordinary. But Mary was engaged to marry a man named _____. Okay, here’s our first question. Take a look at the screen!”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 1

“Is it? A. Larry, B. Joseph, C. Moses, or D. Randall the Magician.

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job! Yes! Mary was to marry a man named Joseph, not ‘Randall The Magician.’ Both Mary and Joseph were from the family line of King David. God had promised long ago that the Savior of the world, the Messiah, would be a descendant of David’s family. But when God made that promise, no one knew when the Savior would be born. But even though Mary and Joseph seemed pretty ordinary, God had an amazing plan for their lives.”

“One day, an angel named Gabriel visited Mary. Check out what Gabriel told her.”

“(Read directly from Luke 1:30-33) ‘Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord

God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people.”

“Can you imagine? Talk about life being unexpected! But when Mary heard this, she might have remembered the words a prophet who spoke about a child being born who would be the Prince of Peace. Who was the prophet who’s talked about the Prince of Peace? Take a look at the screen.”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 2

“Was it A. Zebadiah, B. Bob McDonnell, C. Paul, or D. Isaiah?”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job! Isaiah was the correct answer. This is what he said: *‘A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.’ (Isaiah 9:6, NIRV)*”

“Even though this was incredible news, Mary wasn’t too sure. In fact, she had some questions for Gabriel. She wondered, *‘How can this happen?’ (Luke 1:34, NIRV)*”

“Gabriel explained it will all happen with the power of God’s Holy Spirit. What seems impossible to us is never impossible with God. Gabriel also told her about her cousin who was also pregnant when it seemed impossible. Which leads us to our next question. This shouldn’t be too hard if you were here last week: Who is Mary’s cousin? Take a look at your options on the screen.”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 3

“Is it A. Ursula, B. Elizabeth, C. Ruth, or D. Naomi?”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job. Yes, Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant with a baby boy. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that God was with Elizabeth even though Elizabeth was old. And God would be there to take care of Mary even though Mary was scared. Mary believed what Gabriel said. She responded to him, *(Read directly from Luke 1:38 NIV) ‘I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.’*”

“Almost immediately, Mary packed her bags and went to go see Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s voice, Elizabeth’s baby jumped with excitement inside of her. Mary ended up staying with Elizabeth for three months, and during her time with Elizabeth, Mary wrote something. What did Mary write while staying with Elizabeth?”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 4

“Was it A. A Song, B. A Poem, C. A recipe for awesome cinnamon rolls, or D. Both parts of a rap battle”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“That’s right! Mary ended up writing a song, not ‘both parts of a rap battle.’ Although, I might actually like to hear that. Listen to the words of her song. *(Read directly from Luke 1:46-48, 52, 54-55)*”

“My soul gives glory to the Lord.

My spirit delights in God my Savior.

He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.

From now on all people will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.

His name is holy. . . .

He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

But he has lifted up people who are not considered important. . . .

He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.

He has always remembered to be kind

to Abraham and his children down through the years.

He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago,” (NirV).

“Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, then returned home, knowing that God would be with her every step of the way.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Mary had every right to be afraid. She could have been afraid of just the pain and uncertainty of being pregnant. She could have been afraid of what people might think about her, or she might have been afraid of whether or not she could have been a good mom to the literal Savior of the world! But thanks to the angel Gabriel and the help and kindness of her cousin, Elizabeth, Mary remembered that God would be with her every single step of the way.”

“Okay, final question, and this one’s an easy one. Take a look at the screen. Is God always with you?”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 5

“Is it A. Yes, B. Of Course He Is, C. Absolutely, or D. All of the Above?”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“That’s right. Without a doubt, God is with you. He’s with you during times when you’re sad. He’s with you in times when you’re uncertain or afraid. And He’s with you during times of happiness and celebration, too. God made you a promise to be with you and to never forsake or leave you. God is a God who keeps His promises. We can trust God no matter what.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you had back to your small groups, think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

COMMUNICATOR: “**What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid?** Mary went to find comfort with a friend and to write a song. You may not do what Mary did, but what DO you do? Think about how you can refocus from worry about your situation to trusting God with joy. This is a tough one, but don't worry. You'll have a chance to talk all about this with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for always being with us!”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide