



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- All Small Group Leaders
- Fun Christmas attire for the Host
- *Optional:* "Front door" scene on stage (see Week 1)
- Large shipping box
- Large table
- Lots of full-size candy canes (maybe 50 to 100, depending on how many Leaders are participating)
- One bucket for each small group that will have a contestant in the game (designate buckets with numbers or Small Group Leader names)
- Host's phone
-

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat Christmas music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun Christmas music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Joy Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Put all the candy canes inside the shipping box. Set it by the “front door” on the stage (*optional*). You’ll want to pull all of the candy canes out of their individual boxes so the Host can dump them out onto the table for the game.
- Designate a bucket for each small group that’s participating in the game. Label the buckets with numbers or Small Group Leader names.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller (due to playing characters, it might be best for the Storyteller to be female)
- Bible
- Prop box containing:
 - Biblical head covering that looks like what Mary might have worn
 - Angel halo headband (like <http://bit.ly/328ZDHX>)
 - Gray “granny” wig
 - Backpack

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Place the costume pieces in the box and have it close so the Storyteller can use the props easily.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Through It All
- Let Go

What You Do:

- Download all songs (available through Store.OrangeKidsMusic.com) and have them ready to use.

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.

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 Christmas music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters, dressed in fun Christmas attire.

Opener

HOST: "Welcome, welcome! This is such a great day to be here at [your environment's name]. My name is [your name], and I just love this time of year. It gives me so much joy!"

CG: *Joy Slide*

“Joy is finding a way to be happy, even when things don’t go your way.

CG: Theme Slide

“I love Christmas so much. I love the lights and the decorations, and I love coming home and seeing packages at my front door. Have you seen packages by your front door, or maybe by your neighbor’s door? *(Pause for response.)* I thought so.

“Speaking of packages, I should have one around here somewhere! *(Look around to find the package.)* I had to order some very specific supplies for this game we’re playing today.

Find the box and act like it’s really heavy as you lift it.

“Whoa. This is much heavier than I expected it to be!

Open the box and gently pour the candy canes all over the table that’s set up on the stage.

“I’ll need all of our Small Group Leaders to join me on stage for a game called ‘Hook That Cane.’

Bring all the Leaders up on stage.

(To Leaders) “Leaders, go ahead and pick up a candy cane. Unwrap the straight end and put in your mouth. Mmmmm! Yummy. All right, now hold the cane there in your mouth, with the hook side down. Now put your hands behind your back.

“You’ll use your candy cane to try to ‘hook’ and pick up the other candy canes that are here on the table. Once you’ve hooked a candy cane, you’ll carefully carry it to your small group’s bucket on the front of the stage and drop it in. You’ve got one minute get as many candy canes into your bucket as possible.

(To audience) “Audience, cheer for your Leaders. (To Leaders) Let’s do this! Three, two, one, go!

Set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

SFX: Fun Christmas music

Cheer for the Leaders as they compete. During the latter half of the game, get the crowd to chant, “Hook that cane,” along with you.

Once the timer ends, count how many candy canes are in each bucket and declare the winner.

“That was maybe the most amazing thing I’ve ever seen! Great job, Leaders! You can go back to your seats now.

Dismiss the Leaders to their seats.

“Now, everyone, stand up and get ready to worship God. He gives us so much to be joyful for, so let’s sing to Him now!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Everybody get on your feet. I love this time of year and all the Christmas songs we get to sing. This one is a classic. Let’s sing about the night when Jesus, our Savior, was born.

SFX: “*Silent Night*” / track 2 from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*

WORSHIP LEADER: “God sent His Son because of His great love for us. Christmas is the perfect time for us to do what it says in Psalm 95:1: ‘*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.*’ (NirV) Let’s celebrate as we sing about the joy we have in Jesus.”

SFX: “*Joy to the World*” / track 3 from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: *One Big Story Intro*

CG: *Blank Bottom Line Slide*

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here today, because we’re taking a look at the events that led up to Jesus’ birth. God had promised that He would send a Savior to rescue His people, but no one knew when it would happen or who the Savior would be.

“To find out what happened next, we’re looking today in the book of Luke. (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Luke was written by a guy named—you guessed it—Luke! Luke kept really good records of everything that happened so he could share them with people like us! Isn’t that cool?

“In the book of Luke, we read that Mary . . .

Put on the head covering.

“... lived in the town of Nazareth. She was an ordinary teenager living in an ordinary place. And she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.”

ANGEL IN THE HOUSE!

STORYTELLER: “One day, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.

Take off the head covering and put on the halo headband.

“The angel said these words.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-33 (NirV) and read—in a deep, booming voice.

“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.”

Take off the halo headband and put on the Mary head covering.

BUT HOW?

STORYTELLER: “Mary asked Gabriel how this could happen.

Take of the Mary head covering and put on the halo headband.

“Gabriel said that God’s Holy Spirit would make it happen. Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, even though she was very old.

Take off the halo headband and put on the Mary head covering.

“Mary must have been afraid and confused. But her response was amazing. Listen to what she told the angel.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NIV) and read.

“I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.

“Then the angel left her.

VISITING ELIZABETH

Put on the backpack.

STORYTELLER: “Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth. She saw that Elizabeth was pregnant, just as the angel had said.

Take off the backpack and Mary head covering. Put on the gray “granny” wig.

“Remember, Elizabeth’s baby was John, who would grow up to prepare the way for Jesus. Well, when Elizabeth heard Mary’s voice, the baby inside her—John—jumped for joy!

“Elizabeth was amazed and honored that Mary, her cousin, would be the mother of the Savior of the world!

Take off the gray wig and put on the Mary head covering again.

“Mary’s heart was filled with joy. God had chosen HER to be the mother of Jesus!

“She sang this.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-48 (NirV) and read.

“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.

“Mary went on to sing about all the ways God had helped His people and how God had kept His promises from the very beginning.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

Put on the backpack.

STORYTELLER: “After three months, Mary returned home to Nazareth.

Take off the backpack.

“She was filled with joy to know that God was with her and that He would continue to be with her through the days ahead.

Take off the Mary head covering.

“Just like Mary had joy because God was with her, you can have joy because God is with YOU!

“That’s what we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.

“No matter what you’re going through—in the good times and bad—God is always there. He loves you so much, and He’ll never, ever leave you!

“Let’s pray and thank Him right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for being with Mary through this amazing part of her story when—all of a sudden—her life started to look a lot different than she thought it would. Thank You for being good and for being a God we can trust. Thank You for reminding us today that we can count on You no matter what. Help us to have joy knowing you are always right there with us! We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “The Christmas story is something that a lot of us have heard before. So, it’s easy for us to forget what it must have been like back then for Mary and for all of God’s people as they waited.

CG: Timeline

“You see, God’s people, the Israelites, had been waiting for THOUSANDS of years for God to rescue them. They knew a Savior was coming, but they didn’t know how or when.

CG: Today’s Story Image

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“Mary was the first person to find out that it was finally time for the Savior to come! She found out when the angel, Gabriel, visited her. She was probably confused and maybe even frightened by this news, but still, she trusted that God would be with her.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“Just as the angel said, Mary would get to be the mother of Jesus—God’s Son. And sure enough, Jesus grew up to change the world. He loved people so much that He gave His life for them and for us. Jesus died on the cross, but then God brought Him back from the dead! Because of what Jesus did, we can trust that God will ALWAYS be with us. We can find true joy when we remember what God has done for us. We have nothing to be afraid of, because He will never leave us!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.

“There are a lot of things that can make us feel afraid or out of control. Some people are afraid of snakes and spiders . . . while other people are afraid of the dark or being called on in school. Maybe you worry about something that’s happening with your family. Maybe there are times when you just feel sad or alone.

“Here’s the really great news. The same God who was with Mary that day is with YOU today! He loves you. He knows how you feel. He’s always there with you to be your friend and to help you through any challenge you might face.

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.

“It’s time for you to head to Small Group now. I know you’ll have a blast. See you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide