



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Fun Christmas attire for the Host
- Bible

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Joy Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- “One Hoof, Two Hoof, None” Slides (see “What You Do”)

What You Do:

- Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Explain to your technical volunteers that they should show one of the “One Hoof, Two Hoof, None” slides each time—in random order—AFTER the kids have chosen their pose.
- For a version of the game with a higher production value at a reasonable price, you can purchase it [here](#), from Crowd Control Games.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Kid helper (to hold the flashlight)
- Bible
- Long table
- Prop box containing:
 - Story Location Picture Signs from the LGV, representing Persia, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem, printed on cardstock and folded over into tent-shaped signs
 - Action figures to represent the wise men, Daniel, King Herod, and Jesus (we suggest the baby Jesus from the Little People® nativity); these can be silly!
 - Flashlight
 - Items to represent the three gifts (such as small jewelry boxes or tiny gift boxes with G, F, and M on them; for gold, you may want to use a Hershey's® Nugget with a golden wrapper, as long as allergies aren't a concern)

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Story Location Picture Signs (printable)

What You Do:

- If you have a lot of kids in the room, you may want to project images of your action figures on the screen so kids in the back of the room can still see. You'll need to take these photos, using your action figures and props, ahead of time, and load them into your presentation software. The photos you'll need are indicated in the script.
- Print the Story Location Picture Signs on cardstock and fold them over. The Storyteller will need to set these up on the table so the Persia sign is on the far left (from the kids' perspective), then Jerusalem sign in the middle, and then the Bethlehem sign on the far right.
- Place the picture signs, action figures, flashlights, and gifts in a prop box so you can pull them out as you introduce them.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- I Choose You
- Wide Open

Led by the Light

Bible Story: Led by the Light (The Wise Men Visit Jesus) • *Matthew 2:1-12*

Bottom Line: You can find joy when you search for God.

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 need to make the wise choice.

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, still dressed in fun Christmas attire.

Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today! You know, I woke up today feeling kind of sad because Christmas is over. I mean, all the presents have been opened, we've started packing up our decorations, and I thought for sure I'd be the only one here today . . .

"BUT YOU CAME! You're here, and I'm here, and this is going to be a great day after all! The decorations may be packed up, the presents might already be opened, but we can still have fun, right? We can still have joy!

CG: Joy Slide

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

CG: Theme Slide

**“I KNOW today will be full of joy because we’re here together! Who’s up for playing some reindeer games?
(Pause for response.)**

**“Well, I’ve got a really fun game for us today, and I know you’re going to love it because everybody gets to play!
This game is called ‘One Hoof, Two Hoof, None.’**

**“In just a minute we’ll all stand up and play. I’ll say ‘One Hoof, Two Hoof, None!’ and then you have to strike a
pose.**

“You have three choices: one hoof, . . .

Raise one hand in the air.

“. . . two hooves, . . .

Raise two hands in the air.

“ . . . or none.

Put your hands down at your sides.

“Then an image will pop up on the screen. It will be either one hoof, two hooves, or not. If the pose you chose is the one that’s on the screen, you get to keep going . . . while everyone else sits down. We’ll keep going until we have a winner. Sound like fun? If you’re ready, give me two hooves! *(Pause for response.)*”

SFX: Fun Christmas music (instrumental)

CG: “One Hoof, Two Hoof, None” Slides (in random order); put up a slide each time, AFTER the kids have chosen their pose

First do a practice round that doesn’t count. Then play the game. Encourage kids to be honest and sit down if they get out. If you have time, you can play two or three rounds of the game.

“That was so fun! Thanks for playing. I know another fun thing we can all do together. We can all sing to God and worship Him. Let’s do that now!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

Worship Leaders exits as

Storyteller enters.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! It was so awesome to celebrate Christmas this week. I love how we get to take time to celebrate how Jesus, the Son of God, was born in Bethlehem.

“Well, when Jesus was born, a group of shepherds were the first to hear the news. They came running to see Him. But the shepherds weren’t the only ones who came looking for Jesus. Far to the east lived a group of wise men.”

Hold up the action figures you’re using to represent the wise men. Set them on the far side of the table, in front of the picture sign representing Persia.

CG: Photo of your wise men action figures (optional)

Optional: You may want to project images of your action figures on the screen so kids in the back of the room can still see. You’ll need to take these photos ahead of time.

THE PROPHECIES

STORYTELLER: “These wise men belonged to a long line of scholars and astronomers. That means they studied books and writings, and also the stars and the planets. These wise men also served as advisors to great kings and rulers. They were very familiar with the night sky . . . so when a **NEW** star appeared in the sky, they noticed.

“Can I get a helper to shine the star for me?”

Bring up a kid volunteer. Have her turn on the flashlight and shine it straight down on the Bethlehem picture sign on the other side of the table. Ask her to keep shining it until you tell her to stop.

“The wise men had never seen this star before. It wasn’t marked on any of their maps.

“Here’s where it gets really interesting. Many, many years earlier, the king of Babylon had conquered Israel and brought the Jews to live as slaves in Persia. One of those men was Daniel.

CG: Photo of your Daniel action figure (optional)

Hold up the action figure representing Daniel. Set him down next to the wise men, in front of the Persia picture sign.

“We learned about Daniel a few weeks ago. You might remember that God saved him from a den of lions. Well, God also helped Daniel explain dreams and visions, so several kings had made Daniel an advisor. Because of Daniel, the wise men would have known about the Jewish writings and prophecies that told about the promised Savior.

“Maybe they had heard this prophecy from the book of Numbers:

Open the Bible to Numbers 24:17 (NIRV) and read.

“A star will come from among the people of Jacob. A king will rise up out of Israel.

“Did you hear that? A star will come from among the people of Jacob.

Point to the “star” (the flashlight beam shining on the Bethlehem picture sign).

“The wise men would have known that a new star in the sky meant something special. It meant that a king had been born in Israel! So, the wise men decided to go and worship Him. They gathered royal gifts and journeyed across the desert.”

Make the wise men action figures start traveling to the Jerusalem sign in the middle of the table.

KING HEROD SCHEMES

STORYTELLER: “At last, the wise men reached Jerusalem. They began asking about this child who was going to be the king of the Jews. Well, Jerusalem already had a king: King Herod.

CG: Photo of your King Herod action figure (optional)

Hold up the action figure representing King Herod.

“Do you think King Herod was happy when people started talking about a new king? *(Pause for response.)* No way! King Herod immediately started trying to come up with a way to stop all of this.

Set King Herod down in front of the Jerusalem sign.

“Herod called together all the chief priests and teachers of the law. He wanted more details about this child and where he could find Him. So, the priests and teachers told Herod about a prophecy from the book of Micah. *(Hold up Bible.)* The prophecy said that the Savior would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

“Herod asked the wise men to come back after they found this new king. He told them he wanted to go and worship the child. But really, Herod just wanted to get rid of Him.”

Make the Herod action figure do an evil laugh (“Mwahahaha!”).

THEY FOUND HIM!

STORYTELLER: “The wise men started back on their journey to find the special child. They were full of joy when they saw the star.

Point again at the “star.” Move the wise men action figures over so they’re next to the Bethlehem sign (right where the flashlight is shining).

“They followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was.

CG: Photo of your baby Jesus action figure (optional)

Hold up the action figure used to represent Jesus. Set it down so it’s surrounded by the wise men.

“The wise men worshipped Jesus, and they gave Him gifts:

“Gold, for a king.

Set down a gold-colored Hershey’s Nugget. (Or, if airborne allergies are a concern, you could use a small jewelry box, or a tiny gift box with a G on it.)

“Frankincense, to show that He was God’s Son.

Set down the small jewelry box or tiny gift box with an F on it.

“And myrrh, which was a hint that one day Jesus would die on the cross.

Set down the small jewelry box or a tiny gift box with an M on it.

CG: Photo of Jesus surrounded by the wise men, with your three gifts (optional)

“The wise men knew that this child was a gift from God!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The night before the wise men were going to leave, something really amazing happened. In a dream, God warned them NOT to go back to King Herod. So instead, they returned to their country by a different road.

Pick up the wise men action figures and carry them in a silly, roundabout way back to the Persia side of the table.

(Point to the “star”) “The wise men were so excited when they first saw the star that they decided to go and search for Jesus. Their hearts were filled with joy when they reached Him!

“And you know what?

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “YOU can find joy when you search for God, too.

“You can read the Bible. You can pray and talk to Him. You can talk ABOUT Him with your friends and family and Small Group Leader. There are lots of great ways you can grow closer to God and find joy as you learn more about Him.

“Let’s pray and talk to Him right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Your love for us is amazing! You fill our hearts with joy. Help us to always keep searching for You and discovering more and more about You every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Thank your helper and dismiss her to her seat.

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It’s easy to find joy at Christmas, isn’t it? But where do you find joy when Christmas is over? Well, we can find joy ANYTIME when we search for God—when we spend time with Him and learn more about Him.

CG: Today’s Story Image

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

“The wise men searched for a long time and traveled a long distance until they found the Savior, Jesus. And when they found Him, they were filled with joy!

CG: Timeline

“Jesus brought joy to the world, because He was the Savior who had been promised from the beginning. There were clues all throughout the Bible that showed when, where, and how the Savior would come. The wise men studied hard and picked up on some of those clues. That’s how they knew to be looking for Jesus!

“Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can find joy when you search for God.

“We can read the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Reading the Bible can help us discover more about God and find out what matters to Him. We can also search for God by looking at all the things He’s created. We can see how God is working in the people He’s created and put in our lives. And of course, we can talk TO God and talk ABOUT God with others.

“There are reminders of God everywhere. And we can *[Basic Truth]* make the wise choice when we search for Him.

[Bottom Line] “You can find joy when you search for God.

“So, let’s all go do that this week! Let’s really search for God and discover the kind of joy He wants us to hav

If your church is partnering

“I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide