



WEEK FIVE – DECEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Led by the Light • 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

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.*

Summary: In Matthew 2:1-12, we see how the announcement of Jesus' birth was far-reaching. Wise men from the East saw a star that set them on an adventure to find a promised King of Israel. When they finally found Jesus, they worshipped Him as king. God protected Jesus and the Wise Men from Herod's plot to kill Jesus.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Play a game of “I Spy,” with you being the first “spy.”
- Say, “I spy with my little eye, something that is ____.” Fill in the blank with the item’s color, size, first letter, or another descriptor.
- Allow kids to take turns asking yes-or-no questions and/or guessing what the item is until someone guesses correctly.
- The winner gets to be the next spy.
- Continue playing as long as you have time.

2. Search and Find

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

What You Need: “Search-and-Find Picture” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and a marker.
- Challenge kids to find and circle all of the items noted on the page.
- As they finish, they can color the page.

What You Say:

“What were some of the items you searched for and found on that picture? (Pause for responses.) [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll find out about something else we can search for.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can find joy when you search for God. When we believe that Jesus is the promised One sent from God to rescue us from our sins, we become part of God’s story. That story isn’t something we can keep to ourselves. It’s a story we need to share with everyone.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Search in God’s Word

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Paper Chain” Activity Pages, scissors, glue

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and some scissors.
- Instruct kids to cut the strips apart.
 - *Optional: Tell kids they can trade some of their strips with someone who has another color of paper. Just make sure they exchange the same strip, so each kid ends up with a complete set.*
- Show kids how to bend the first strip into a circle and glue the ends together. Help with this as needed.
- Then show them how to slip the second strip through the circle and bend it around to make another circle, or another link in the chain.
- Guide kids to finish making their chains.
- As kids work, quickly review each Bible story from the month.

What You Say:

*“This month, we searched for God in His Word, and we found Him! We can always find God in His Word. We can learn all about Him and His Son, Jesus. We can discover how much they love us! When we search for God, we will always find Him. I want you to take this paper chain home with you and use it to help decorate your house. But don’t just use it as a pretty decoration! Use it to help tell everyone today’s Bible story about how the wise men searched for Jesus . . . and found Him! **[Bottom Line] You can find joy when you search for God.**”*

2. Crown Phrases

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Crown Phrases” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Give each kid a crown phrase.
 - If you have fewer than 10 kids, you can give kids more than one phrase, but make sure the phrases are next to each other in order.
- Tell kids to hold their crowns, with the words facing out, on their foreheads.
- Challenge kids to stand in a line in memory verse order.
- If they have some trouble with this, point out that the crowns are numbered in the bottom right corner.
- Once they're in order, say the verse together.
- Instruct kids to switch crowns and get themselves in order again.
- Repeat as long as you have time and/or interest holds.

What You Say:

*“The wise men in today’s story went on a search for Jesus, and they found Him! We can search for God, too, and one of the ways we can do this is by talking about Him with people who are older and wiser. They can help us know more about God and Jesus, and they can help us read and understand God’s Word, the Bible. **[Bottom Line]** You can find joy when you search for God.”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Kids’ paper chains from the “Search in God’s Word” activity

What You Do:

- Tell kids to hold their paper chains.
- If you have time, ask kids to share which of this month’s Bible stories was their favorite. (Or which part of the Christmas story is their favorite. Kids in this phase might not be able to remember where one part of Jesus’ birth story stops and another begins.)
- Guide kids to silently thank God for giving us His Word so we can search for and find Him in the Bible.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Dear God, we thank You for giving us Jesus and for giving us Your Word. We are SO grateful that we can search for You and find You in the Bible. We are so glad we can talk to You by praying to You. Help us to remember that when we need You, we can always find You! Amen. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can find joy when you search for God.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about their paper chains and where they can search for God.