



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God that even in the midst of unforeseen and difficult circumstances, He has a plan for us. Pray that today you will be able to encourage kids that joy is possible in hard times because God has a plan for us. Ask God to help you trust His perfect plan for your life and the life of your small group kids.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful, Joyful

Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Nothing.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive and ask them about their week.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because
God has a plan for you.**

- Ask "would you rather" Christmas-style questions below.

Would you rather:

- Have a snowball fight or make a gingerbread house?
- Be able to eat only Christmas cookies or only candy canes this Christmas season?
- Wear a full-zip up snowsuit (even inside) or mittens on your hands every day for a week?
- Eat a huge bowl of figgy pudding or a large slice of last year's fruit cake? (*Figgy pudding is generally a form sweet and savory cake with a sour-sweet layer of honey, fruits, and nuts and a savory filling of pork sweetmeats.*)
- Have candy cane legs or gumdrop eyes?
- Get one amazing Christmas gift or ten "just okay" gifts?
- Build a snowman or a snow fort?
- Wash your hair with cranberry sauce or mashed potatoes and gravy?
- Have to sing "Jingle Bells" at the top of your lungs every time you walk through a doorway or have to sing "The 12 Days of Christmas" every time someone says "Hello" to you?
- Have Christmas tree tinsel for hair or Christmas tree lights for fingernails?
- String a mile-long popcorn garland or wrap 100 Christmas presents?
- Eat a gingerbread house or live in a gingerbread house?
- Have a partridge in a pear tree or six geese a laying?

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Today in the town of David a
Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.**
Luke 2:11, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.





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MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joyful Ornament" Activity Page, "Sad Ornament" Activity Page, music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid the "joyful" ornament and another kid the "sad" ornament.
- Instruct the kids to pass the ornaments to the right when the music plays.
- When the music stops, the kid holding the "sad" ornament must share one thing that makes them sad.
- The kid holding the "joyful" ornament must share one thing that makes them joyful.
- Continue playing the game until it's time to go to large group, making sure you end with something joyful.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Thank you for sharing with the group what makes you joyful and what makes you sad. It's normal to feel both ways. Today, we'll hear a story where someone felt two ways, too—except she felt scared at first then joyful. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out why we can be joyful, no matter what.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.





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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



CANDY CANE VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles and candy canes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open a Bible to Luke 2:11 and read it aloud to the group.
- This week, talk about the second phrase found in the verse: A Savior has been born to you.
- Ask . . .
 - Who is the Savior? (*Jesus*)
 - Do you know what the word "Savior" means? (*A person who saves someone or something. God sent Jesus to save us! Because sin—stuff we do that we know is wrong—separates us from God, He sent Jesus so that everyone who believes in Him can be a part of God's family forever!*)
- Have the kids sit in a circle on the floor.
- Hold up a candy cane so that it makes a "J" and point out how "JOY" starts with a "J."
- Hand the candy cane to the kid your left.
- Repeat the words of the verse together as you pass the candy cane around the circle.
- When you get to the reference (Luke 2:11), whoever holds the candy cane gets to keep it and sit in the center of the circle.
- Repeat, passing a new candy cane around the circle.
- Allow the last kid to keep each candy cane and move to the center. Guide kids to spread out as more kids move to the center of the circle.
- Encourage kids to hold onto their candy canes and NOT open them yet!
- Continue until there are more kids in the center than in the outer circle.
- Then, stop the game and give the rest of the kids a candy cane.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"The angel told Mary she would have a baby. Mary wasn't sure how everything would work out, but she chose to trust God's plan. God sent His only Son, Jesus, as our Savior because He loves us. That's a huge reason to have JOY. Every time you see a candy cane this Christmas, turn it around so you see the 'J' and remember that **you can have joy because God has a plan for you.**"





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How To: Christmas Edition

WHAT YOU NEED: "How To: Christmas Edition" Activity Pages, paper, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Let the kids choose a partner. Give each pair a "How To: Christmas Edition" Activity Page (*Pairs will have a different page from others, but give the same page to at least two pairs and compare and contrast their steps.*)
- Encourage pairs to think through the steps to complete each activity and draw pictures to show each step.
- Give pairs a few minutes to complete the page.
- Allow each pair to share their steps with the group. Compare and contrast the steps of pairs with the same page.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, everyone! It's important to have a plan when you build a snowman or make Christmas cookies. **[Transition] Did you know that God has a plan? He does! Come on, let's go!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS (option 1)

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Candy canes from previous activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have the kids hold onto their candy canes as you pray.
- As you finish praying, allow the kids to open their candy

canes and enjoy their treats!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"We can have joy even when our candy canes are all gone. We have joy when things don't go our way. We can have real joy, joy that's bigger than happiness, when we remember that God has a plan for each one of us. Let's thank God today that **you can have joy because God has a plan for you.**

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because
God has a plan for you.**

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the plan You had for Mary. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Thank You for the joy we can ALWAYS have when we remember that You have a plan for us. We know that Your plan is the best plan ever. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

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PRAY AND DISMISS (option 2)

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards and pens
WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out an index card and a pen to each kid.
- Invite the kids to write one word on the index card that

describes how they feel when they think about the fact that God has a plan for their life.

- Invite the kids to interject the words they wrote as you close with the following prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Lord, we are so grateful that You have a plan for our lives. When we think of Your plan, we feel *(pause to let kids read the words they wrote on their slips of paper)*. Remind us that You are working for Your good plan in our lives, even on our hardest days. Remind us that You are always with us, no matter what. Thank You for giving us a way to find joy even when things don’t go our way. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen. **You can have joy because God has a plan for you.**”

As adults arrive to pick up, have them ask kids to show them their index cards. Let it prompt a conversation about how kids learned that God has a plan for their lives.

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