



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Nine Months

Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because  
God can do anything.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that  
he gave his one and only Son.  
Anyone who believes in him will  
not die but will have eternal life."  
John 3:16, NIV

### GAME SUPPLIES

- \*\*All digital
- Large container of mini-Candy Canes for prizes (just in case)

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Assorted "mouth" signs from provided resources
  - happy, sad, shocked, etc.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

##### - JINGLE JAM

- During each Christmas Eve service, we will have Jingle Jam for all Kinder-6th grade
- After each service, we will have a family experience outside with a giant snowglobe for pictures, fun stations with Candy canes, and more...
- INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

##### - Invite Challenge

- Begin thinking about who you may invite to join you for Christmas Eve services this year
- Talk about it with your family and pray about who you can invite... then we will have invites for you soon to use to invite them

#### MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

- Week 1 – JOY to the World & The Blessing
- Week 2 – This Christmas & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
- Week 3 – JOY to the World & This is Living

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN



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**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Nine Months**  
Elizabeth & Zechariah  
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that  
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### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Yes, now is the time to worship and celebrate our amazing God.

**AUDIO: JOY to the World**

**AUDIO: The Blessing**

*Host enters.*

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! I just love Christmas! Don't you? Well, this month we're talking all about . . . Christmas!

**SLIDE: LIFE APP**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP**

**"Christmas means celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME**

"One of my favorite ways to celebrate this time of year is by decorating— with LOTS and LOTS of lights! (*Reference the lights on stage.*) Can you tell? What are some other ways we celebrate Christmas? Raise your hand and tell me—what are the ways people celebrate Christmas? (Pause for responses.) Those are all great answers!

**"I also love celebrating Christmas by playing fun Christmas MUSIC! That's what our game is about today.**

## EXPLAIN PROPRESENTER GAME



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## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! I'd love to have your help as I tell our story. Who would like to do some acting on stage?"

*Choose an older boy and an older girl to be Zechariah and Elizabeth. Give each of them their respective "happy mouth" signs. Cue them to hold up the printed mouth signs in front of their mouths.*

"This is Zechariah (*point to the boy*), and this is Elizabeth (*point to the girl*). Don't they look happy? Zechariah and Elizabeth were married, and they both belonged to a family line of priests. As a priest, Zechariah would talk to God for the people in his town. Both he and Elizabeth loved and served God . . . but they hadn't been able to have any children."

*Take back the two "happy mouth" signs, and give Zechariah and Elizabeth their "sad mouth" signs to hold up instead.*

### BIG NEWS!

**STORYTELLER:** "Each year, a different priest was chosen to go into the temple to make an offering to God. This was a huge honor for any priest. One year, Zechariah (*point to him*) was chosen to enter the temple and burn incense before God.

*Take back the two "sad mouth" signs, and give Zechariah and Elizabeth their "happy mouth" signs to hold up.*

"The other priests waited outside while Zechariah went inside. While he was inside, an angel appeared to him!"

*Take back Zechariah's "happy mouth" sign, and give him his "shocked mouth" sign to hold up.*

*Host enters, wearing an angel costume. He/she holds up the "excited angel mouth" sign over his/her mouth.*

*Host opens the Bible to Luke 1:13-15 (NIV) and reads.*

**HOST:** "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. He will be important in the sight of the Lord."

**STORYTELLER:** "Zechariah was SHOCKED. I mean, just look at him! Zechariah asked the angel how he could be sure of this. It didn't seem possible since he and Elizabeth were both quite old.



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"The angel, Gabriel, told him . . ."

*Host opens the Bible to Luke 1:20 (NirV) and reads.*

**HOST:** "Now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen."

*Take back Zechariah's "shocked mouth" sign, and give him his "mouth-taped-shut" sign to hold up.*

**STORYTELLER:** (to Host) "Thanks, Angel Gabriel! You did a great job."

*Host bows and exits.*

### IT'S REALLY HAPPENING!

**STORYTELLER:** "The other priests were outside the temple, wondering why Zechariah was taking so long. When Zechariah came out, he couldn't speak! The priests realized that he had seen a vision. Zechariah finished his time of service, then he returned home.

"In a short time, Elizabeth found out that she would have a child.

*Take back Elizabeth's "happy mouth" sign, and give her the "shocked mouth" sign to hold up.*

"Then the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby.

*Take back Elizabeth's "shocked mouth" sign, and give her the "happy mouth" sign to hold up.*

"And just like the angel had said, she gave birth to a son!"

### ZECHARIAH SPEAKS

**STORYTELLER:** After eight days, friends and family gathered to help name the baby. They had planned on naming him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said he must be called John. Everyone turned to look at Zechariah.

*Look at Zechariah.*

"Zechariah motioned for something to write on. And he wrote . . .

*Give Zechariah the "His name is John" sign to hold up (with his other hand).*

"His name is John." (Luke 1:63, NirV)

"Suddenly, Zechariah could speak again!

*Take back Zechariah's "mouth taped shut" and "His name is John" signs. Give him his "happy mouth" sign to hold up.*



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“Zechariah praised God! All the neighbors were amazed at what had happened. It was clear that God was with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their new baby, John.”

*Take back the mouth signs and send Zechariah and Elizabeth back to their seats.*

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “What seemed impossible had become possible! God had given Zechariah and Elizabeth a child in their old age.

“And this is the really cool part. When John grew older, he would play an important role in introducing his cousin, JESUS, to the world! We can . . .

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**Celebrate because God can do anything.**

“Nothing is too difficult for God! Let’s pray and thank God for being so powerful.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

### PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You so much for reminding us today that You can do anything! It seemed like there was no way Zechariah and Elizabeth could have a child. But You made it possible. And their baby, John, grew up to play an important part of the story of Jesus! Help us remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** Help us remember that You can do things that might seem impossible. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”





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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “It’s true—God can do anything! It seemed like Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have children, but God made it happen. Their son, John, would grow up to introduce his cousin, Jesus, to the world.

“Take time to remember that God can do ‘impossible’ things. When we do that, trusting God through anything we might face in life becomes easier. We can choose to celebrate because we know that God can do anything.

“That’s what we need to remember today.

### SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

**“Celebrate because God can do anything.”**

“Sometimes there are things in OUR lives that might seem impossible. Maybe a subject at school seems impossible. Maybe getting along with your sister seems impossible. It might feel impossible to make peace with your friend after you’ve had an argument. In those times, remember that God can do anything. God is big enough and powerful enough to help you in any situation.

“As we celebrate Christmas this month, we’re celebrating God’s love for us! We’re celebrating how God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That’s what our memory verse, John 3:16, is about. Let’s say it together.”

### SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

**KIDS AND HOST:** “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

**HOST:** “Wow. Isn’t that SO great to know? God sent Jesus because He loves us!

*If your church is partnering with Orange and Compassion International in supporting The Giving Tree, we suggest using the time before dismissal to promote the initiative to your kids. (Please see the “Getting Ready” section for more information about this partnership.) Consider showing one of the available promo videos here to get your kids excited about providing life-changing gifts for critically vulnerable kids and families all around the world. Throughout the month, share how much money you’ve raised and how that money can help.*

### OPTIONAL VIDEO: PROMO FOR THE GIVING TREE

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John—and how God can do ANYTHING. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

