



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Tidings of Comfort and Joy
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because
God has a plan.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

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

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

GAME SUPPLIES

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

STORY SUPPLIES

- Clothing rack with Assorted costumes
 - Mary
 - Angel
 - Elizabeth
- Acoustic guitar (or similar)

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Tidings of Comfort and Joy
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because
God has a plan.**

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

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: This Christmas

AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

Host enters.

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I have to say . . . Christmas is my FAVORITE time of year! I just love Christmas! Don't you? (Pause for response.) Well, guess what? This whole 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

"Okay, shout it out—one of the ways we celebrate Christmas is by giving and receiving . . . (pause for response). Yes, gifts or presents! As you can see, we've got seven of those here on stage. **And in our game today, everyone gets to participate. You'll be deciding whether these Christmas gifts are DOPE... or NOPE. Dope = YES, you would want it for Christmas... NOPE = NO way... you wouldn't give this gift to your worst enemy. It's simple... everyone stand up and when the gift comes up on the screen, if you think DOPE... go this way; if you think NOPE... go this way.**



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! It's great to see you. Today, I've asked my friend [helper's name] to help me tell the story. Come on out, [helper's name]!"

Female helper enters.

"She'll play the people in the story today by standing behind these costumes. *(Point to the clothesline costumes.)*

Throughout the story, the helper will move quickly between the costumes—also putting on and removing wigs, halo, etc.—as each character is talked about. She should make facial expressions that go along with whatever is being said.

Storyteller: Use different voices for each character for added fun!

"Let's get started! This story comes from the Bible, in the book of Luke. *(Hold up Bible.)* It's about a young woman named Mary.

Helper moves behind the Mary costume.

"Mary was an ordinary young woman who was engaged to an ordinary man named Joseph. She lived in an ordinary town called Nazareth. Mary loved and trusted God. She believed that someday God would send a Savior."

AN ANGEL VISITS

STORYTELLER: "One day, the most amazing thing happened! An angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary.

Helper moves behind the angel costume.

"The angel said to her . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and read.

"The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.

"How do you think Mary responded to this incredible sight?"

Helper moves behind the Mary costume.

"Let's find out.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:29 (NirV) and read.



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"Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be.

"But the angel had good news for Mary.

Helper moves behind the angel costume.

"He said to her . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and read.

"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.

"Mary asked how this could happen. She wasn't married yet.

"The angel answered . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:35 (NirV) and read.

"The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So, the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God."

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

STORYTELLER: *"Then, the angel said something very interesting!*

Open the Bible to Luke 1:36-37 (NirV) and read.

"Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old.

Helper moves behind the Elizabeth costume.

"People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true.

"If you were here last week, you'll remember that part of the story. Mary's relative, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby . . . even though it seemed impossible! So how did Mary respond to this news—that she would carry God's Son into the world?

Helper moves behind the Mary costume.

"Mary trusted God. She said . . .

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

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



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"Then the angel left. Mary decided to visit her relative Elizabeth. She wanted to share this amazing news, and she knew that Elizabeth would understand!

"When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house . . .

Helper moves behind the Elizabeth costume.

". . . Elizabeth said to her . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:44 (NirV) and read.

"As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy!

"That's pretty amazing, isn't it? Elizabeth told Mary . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:45 (NirV) and read.

"You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"

MARY'S SONG

STORYTELLER: "During the time Mary stayed with Elizabeth, the joy in her heart overflowed.

Helper moves behind the Mary costume.

(Hold up Bible.) "Luke records that Mary responded with a joyful song to share what she felt.

Hand the acoustic guitar to the helper. Helper reaches around the costume to hold the guitar, and pretends to strum it.

AUDIO: "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" ACOUSTIC GUITAR VERSION (SUGGESTION: BY KIM ASPEN)

(talking over the music) "I don't think Mary had a guitar back then . . . but you get the idea.

"Mary said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-49 (NirV). Read the following lines slowly and deliberately, over the top of the music. This should be sincere, not silly.

*"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.
The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy."*



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WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Mary was just beginning to see God's plan really take shape. She stayed with Elizabeth for three months . . . then she returned home.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"Let's all thank our friend [helper's name] for helping with the story!

Helper exits, carrying the guitar.

"Isn't it amazing how Mary trusted God? She never could have expected that she would have a visit from an angel. Then to find out that she would be the mom of Jesus, the Son of God! But Mary was able to be joyful because she believed in God's good plan.

"You and I can choose to trust God, too. We can be joyful because we know that God has a good plan for our lives.

"Let's do this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Celebrate because God has a plan. Will you pray with me?"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for helping us remember that You always have a plan. Mary trusted Your plan when she heard the amazing news that she would be the one to bring Your Son, Jesus, into this world. She trusted You, and she was full of joy! Please help us trust You like Mary did. When things don't make sense to us, help us remember that You're always with us . . . and that You always have a good plan for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “God ALWAYS has a plan. And His plan is a good plan!

“That’s what Mary knew. It’s what she believed. That’s why she could celebrate with joy when she got the news from the angel that she would be the mother of Jesus!

“Of course, that big news was VERY surprising for Mary at first. It couldn’t have been easy for her to think that her whole life had suddenly changed—just like that. But Mary chose to trust God. She believed that God’s plan for her was bigger and better than any plans she may have had for herself. God’s plan was for her to carry Jesus into the world.

“Here’s what we need to remember.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Celebrate because God has a plan.

“You see, God has a good plan for OUR lives, too. We might not always be able to see it. Sometimes things just don’t work out the way we want. But in those moments, we can remember that God has a BIGGER plan. God is with you, through anything that might happen around you. **[Basic Truth] You can trust God no matter what.**

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

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about how we can trust God’s plan!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

