



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Because of Christmas Day
Jesus Is Born/Shepherds Visit
Luke 2:1-20

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 sent a Savior.

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

- This is the last week to be 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 & Way Maker
- 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

- All digital - on screen images

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Because of Christmas Day
Jesus Is Born/Shepherds Visit
Luke 2:1-20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate because
God sent a Savior.**

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: JOY to the World

AUDIO: This is Living

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Can you believe it? Christmas is almost here! I'm so excited! I just love Christmas—don't you? *(Pause for response.)* I love celebrating what God has done for us by sending Jesus.

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 Christmas is by playing fun games—and I've got a REALLY great game for us to play today! **Your leaders will be going HEAD TO HEAD against one another in a game called BACK AND FORTH - Christmas Edition.**

Explanation on screen

Get 2 leaders for every 2-3 rounds (move through them fast)





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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! Today, I need all of you to help me tell the story. And you can do it from right where you are! As I tell the story, I’ll ask you to help me make sound effects and do whatever action you see on the screen. If you’re willing to help, give me a thumbs-up. *(Pause for response.)* Great! Let’s get started!

“As you might remember from last week, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with a big announcement.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #1 (TRUMPET)

Pose like you’re blowing a trumpet and make a trumpet noise. Then motion for the kids to mimic you.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“The angel told Mary that she would have a baby, whose name would be Jesus. And this was the biggest news EVER, because this child, Jesus, was the Savior God had promised!

“Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was also going to have a baby. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, then she went home to Nazareth. Then the ruler of the land, Caesar Augustus, made a new law.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #1 (TRUMPET)

Pose like you’re blowing a trumpet and make a trumpet noise. Then motion for the kids to mimic you.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“This law said that everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted. And when the ruler of the land makes a law, you have to follow it!”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #2 (GAVEL)

Look stern and hit the table with your palm. Then motion for the kids to mimic you, hitting their hand on the floor.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

BETHLEHEM BOUND

STORYTELLER: “Does anyone know the name of Mary’s husband? *(Pause for response.)* Right—Joseph.





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25 MINUTES

“Joseph’s family came from Bethlehem. So that’s where Mary and Joseph had to go in order to be counted. There’s a good chance that Mary and Joseph had heard the words God had spoken through the prophet Micah hundreds of years before.

Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NirV) and read.

“Bethlehem . . . you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel.

“The journey to Bethlehem would have taken several days over rough roads.”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #3 (FOOTSTEPS)

Use your palms to make the sound of footsteps on the table. Then motion for the kids to mimic you, hitting their hands on the floor or their chairs.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

HE’S HERE!

STORYTELLER: “Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem . . . but it was so crowded that there was no place where they could stay!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #4 (CROSSED ARMS, SHAKING HEAD)

Point to a Small Group Leader. She should cross her arms and shake her head. (You may need to cue her.) Then point to several kids, one at a time, to cue them to do the same thing.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“Eventually, Mary and Joseph ended up in a place where animals stayed.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #5 (COW)

Point to a Small Group Leader. He should moo.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #6 (DONKEY)

Point to another Small Group Leader. She should hee-haw.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #7 (ROOSTER)

Point to another Small Group Leader. He should crow like a rooster.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND





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25 MINUTES

“Right there, Mary had her baby boy. She wrapped Jesus, God’s very own Son, in some large pieces of cloth. She laid Him in a manger, which was the place where the animals normally ate their food.”

RUN, SHEPHERDS, RUN!

STORYTELLER: “Meanwhile, in the fields outside Bethlehem, there were some shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly, an angel appeared to them!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #1 (TRUMPET)

Pose like you’re blowing a trumpet and make a trumpet noise. Then motion for the kids to mimic you.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“The shepherds were terrified . . . but the angel told them . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 2:10-12 (NirV) and read.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

“Then, a large group of angels appeared. They were praising God and saying . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 2:14 (NirV) and read.

“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #8 (GLORY TO GOD!)

Point to one half of the room and cue them to say, “Glory to God!”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #9 (PEACE ON EARTH!)

Point to the other half of the room and cue them to say, “Peace on earth!”

Then cue everyone to go back and forth, alternating their lines, following the slides on screen.

- SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #8 (GLORY TO GOD!)**
- SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #9 (PEACE ON EARTH!)**
- SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #8 (GLORY TO GOD!)**
- SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #9 (PEACE ON EARTH!)**

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND





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25 MINUTES

“The angels left, and the shepherds RAN to Bethlehem. They found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, just like the angel had told them.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The shepherds were so excited that they went and told EVERYONE that the Savior had been born.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE #10 (TELLING EACH OTHER)

Turn to someone in the front row and say, “Jesus is born!” Then motion for the kids to mimic you.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said. But Mary kept everything that had happened in her heart, like a wonderful treasure.

“This is why we celebrate Christmas.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“We **celebrate because God sent a Savior!**

“You see, God always had a plan to rescue all people from sin. And this plan came true when God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus is God’s greatest gift. His birth brought good news of great joy for EVERYONE—including us today!

“Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior! It’s such an exciting time as we get ready to celebrate Christmas. In the middle of all the fun times with our family and friends, please help us remember what Christmas is really about. Remind us of what’s most important: You sent Jesus to save us. Jesus really is the best gift we could ever receive. We are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”





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25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "That was such a fun way to tell the Christmas story! Maybe that's your first time hearing how Jesus was born or maybe you've heard the story before. Either way, I hope you'll never forget how amazing it is that God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

"As we celebrate Christmas this week, let's remember what God has done for us.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

"It's so cool because God always had a plan to rescue us . . . and God's plan came true through Jesus! The angels announced good news that would be for everyone. God had sent a Savior, Jesus. And Jesus is God's very own Son.

"Jesus would grow up to teach people a better way to live. He would perform miracles and heal people. He would give His life to save people who were lost and broken. Jesus is God's greatest gift!

"It's like we read in our memory verse, John 3:16. Say it with me."

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: "When we put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever! Now THAT is something to celebrate!

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

"Now it's time to have some more fun in Small Group. Merry Christmas, friends! See you next time!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

