



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that your kids will not just hear the story of God sending Jesus but that they will understand the depth and importance of His Son being given to us. Ask that each kid will lean into the childlike joy He has placed in each of them and will be full of His light today as they go into this Christmas week!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, name tags, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a name tag and a marker.
- Ask kids to pick a food that begins with the first letter of their name and write that food on their name tag.
- Explain how to play the following game:
 - Instruct one kid to say their food name twice followed by the food of another kid twice.
 - Direct the second kid to say their food name twice then the food name of someone else twice.
 - If the kids show their teeth while talking, they (their food) are "taken off the table," which means they're out.
- Play until only one "food" is left on the table (until one kid is left).

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.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Countdown" Activity Pages, paper plates, brads, glue, markers or crayons, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a paper plate, scissors, and a "Christmas Countdown" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and glue.
- Invite kids to carefully cut out the pieces on the "Christmas Countdown" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to color the carrot orange and the holly red and green.
- Direct the kids to glue each piece onto the paper plate as illustrated.
- Demonstrate how to use the brad to attach the nose of the snowman to the center of the plate.
- Direct the kids to write the numbers 1-6 on the bottom half of the paper plate as shown in the illustration on the "Christmas Countdown" Activity Page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are only six days left until Christmas! Point the carrot on your snowman to the number six. Tomorrow, move it to five. Every day as Christmas gets closer, move the carrot to the next number. Then think of something you can do on each of the remaining days to **celebrate because God sent a Savior.**"

"What are some things you can do in the next six days to **celebrate because God sent a Savior?** (Pause for responses.) Those are great answers! Maybe you can listen to some favorite songs that praise God for sending Jesus. Maybe you can lend a hand in helping your family prepare for guests who will celebrate with you. Or maybe you just want to take a few minutes each day to stop and thank God for this wonderful season in which we can give, receive, and—most of all—remember how God showed His great love for us by sending His Son."

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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO CONNECT
an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



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JINGLE JOHN 3:16
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles; Optional voice changing app

- WHAT YOU DO:**
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
 - Ask:
 - Can you remember the book of the Bible this month's memory verse is from? (*John*)
 - Can you remember the chapter and verse of this month's memory verse? (*3:16*)
 - Invite kids to look up the verse in their Bibles.
 - Invite a kid to read the verse out loud to the group.
 - Ask the kids which words of the verse they think are the most important and why.
 - Challenge the kids to close their Bibles and find John 3:16 on their own without help.
 - Ask the kids to share a favorite song they like to sing at Christmas.
 - As a group, try singing John 3:16 to the tune of a familiar Christmas song one of the kids named.
 - Try it again with two or three other favorite Christmas songs. This might be a challenge, but it will be fun!
 - *Option: Download a voice changing app to your phone or device. Let kids take turns saying the memory verse in a silly voice.*

WHAT YOU SAY:
"John 3:16 is such a great reminder to **celebrate because God sent a Savior**. It reminds us of how much God loves us. Jesus did something for us that we could not do for ourselves. He made a way for our sins to be forgiven so that we can have a relationship with God that will last forever. That's great news! Whoever believes what Jesus did for them can have life forever with God—that's the incredible message of John 3:16. And that's also the message of Christmas that we can celebrate, be grateful for, and share with others."





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Scented candles from "Opening Activity" and lighter or matches; *Optional glow sticks instead of candles*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the candles or glow sticks in a row in the middle of your small group area.
- Prompt the group by saying, "Celebrate because . . ." After they reply with "God sent a Savior" light one of the candles. (If using glow sticks, bend one to activate it.)
- Continue for as many candles or glow sticks that you have.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus as our Savior. Please help us remember to focus this week on Your love and shine the light of Your love to others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, send home any Christmas cards the kids made, the Nativity birthday candles, and the candle ornaments. Remind your families about any Christmas Eve services or other celebrations this coming week.

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