



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

God told us He would give us Jesus.
("A" is for Angel.)

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38, 46-49

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

LARGE GROUP

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

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6, NCV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "What Christmas Is About," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "What Christmas Is About" is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "Special Delivery," which is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, friends! Do you know what time it is? It's worship time! We can sing and dance together and tell God how much we love Him. Guess what? God loves you! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.** I'm so glad that God loves you and, **God loves me!** Tell me, **how do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! That's what Christmas is all about. Stand up and sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "What Christmas Is About," this month's worship song.

"Great job! We'll sing that song all month long to remind us that **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! **God gave us Jesus!** The Bible teaches us that 'God has given (*point up*) a son (*rock the baby*) to us (*thumbs to chest*),' Isaiah 9:6. (*Open hands like a book.*) That means **God loves me.** Let's learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Listen and watch me say it with the motions. Then you can do it with me!

Lead the children to say the verse with the motions.

"Way to go! I'm so glad God gave His Son to us and His name is Jesus! We can clap our hands and stomp our feet because **God gave us Jesus.** Sing this with me!

Lead children in singing "Special Delivery."



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"That was fun. Thanks for worshipping with me, friends! Remember, **God loves me** and you, and we can know that for sure because **God gave us Jesus.**"

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Small table; Christmas decorations (including a decorated tree with angel topper); three large "A" cookies; Christmas cookie tin; large red apple; toy airplane; and a Christmas sweater for the host

WHAT YOU DO: Decorate the story area for Christmas, displaying the tree with the angel topper for the children to see. Place the table in the middle of the story area and set the airplane and apple on it. Put the "A" cookies in the cookie tin for the host to carry.

NOTE: You will keep the story area decorated for Christmas all month.

The host enters, wearing a Christmas sweater and carrying the cookie tin.

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment's name]! It's me, [your name]! I am so excited because my very favorite day is almost here! My sweater should give you a hint. (Point to sweater.) If you know what day I'm talking about, shout it out!

Pause to listen as you set the cookie tin on the table.

"Yes! Christmas day is almost here. Christmas is coming! (Look around at the decorations.) And I love our Christmas decorations, soooo much, that I decided to look at them while I eat my snack. Let's see what yummy thing I have to eat.

Open the cookie tin.

"Ooohhh, alphabet cookies!

Hold up an "A" cookie.

"I know this letter! Can you tell me what this letter is? (Pause.) Shout it out if you know. (Pause.) You got it! This is the letter A! 'A' is for . . .

Hold up the apple.

"Say it with me."

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Apple!"

Take a big bite.

"Mmm . . . I love eating apples.

Set the apple down and look in the cookie tin.

"There are more cookies. Let's try another letter.

Hold up a second "A" cookie.

"Ha! It's another A!



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Pick up the toy airplane and zoom it around the story area.

"'A' is for . . . airplane! Zoom . . . zoom . . . zoom!"

Stand by the table, lay the airplane down, and look in the cookie tin again.

"Do you think there could be any more letter A's in here?"

Hold up a third "A" cookie.

"Yes, there is! It's another A! I'm going to let [storyteller's name] tell you what THIS 'A' is for, because it's in our Bible story today! (Put the cookies back in the tin.) Put your best listening ears on, and I'll be back to see you after the story. Bye!"

Host exits carrying the cookie tin, apple, and airplane.



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BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, large gift box with a removable lid, large red heart (*plush, poster board cut out, etc.*), cell phone, large letter envelope, and a large angel; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Place the heart and angel inside the large gift box and put the lid on it.

The storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and the large gift box.

They set the Bible on the table and the gift box on the floor in the middle of the story area where all of the children can see it.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Pick up the Bible for the children to see, then lay it opened on the table.

"AND, I'll tell you what that third letter A is for. I'm extra excited to tell you today's story, because today's story is the true story of . . . CHRISTMAS!

Rub hands together and stand right behind the box like you're getting ready to tell the story.

"The true story of Christmas begins a long, long, time ago, and it is AMAZING! I brought a few things in this box to help me SHOW you the story.

Open the box and pull out the large red heart for the children to see.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"Do you know that God loved you before you were even born? (Pause.) It's true! God loved you (*point to a child*) and you (*point to a child*) and you (*point to a child*) and you (*point to a child*) . . . God loved all of us before we were born!

"Give yourself a BIG hug like this (*demonstrate*), and say, '**God loves me.**'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God loves me."

STORYTELLER: "That's right! God loves you, and **God loves me**. And because God loves us sooo much, **God gave us Jesus!** THAT is where the true story of Christmas begins. It's also where we find out what that third letter A stands for.

Lay the heart in front of the gift box.

"One day, God told a woman named Mary that she would have a very special baby named Jesus. Now how to you think God told Mary she would have Baby Jesus? Do you think God called her on the phone to tell her?

Pull the cell phone out of the box and hold it up.

"Noooo . . . God didn't call Mary on a cell phone.



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Put the phone back in the box.

“Do you think God sent her a letter in the mail to tell her?”

Pull the envelope out of the box and hold it up.

“Noooo . . . God didn’t mail Mary a letter.

Put the envelope back in the box.

“This is how God told Mary about Jesus. God sent an . . .

Pull the angel out of the box and hold it up for the children to see.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

“. . . ANGEL! ‘A’ is for ANGEL! Everyone say, “‘A’ is for Angel!”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: “‘A’ is for ANGEL!”

STORYTELLER: “God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have Baby Jesus. When Mary saw the angel, she was surprised and afraid. Show me your afraid face.

Make an “afraid” face with the children.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

“Yes, just like that! But the angel looked at Mary and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary. I have good news!’ Good news? Now we need to make a happy face for the good news! Show me your happy face!

Make a “happy” face with the children.

“I love your happy faces! Now, like I said, the angel told Mary, ‘I have GOOD news!’

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

He said she would have a baby boy, and His name would be Jesus! He told her Jesus would grow up to do amazing things, because He is God’s Son.

Put the angel back in the gift box and pick up the heart.

“And that’s how we know God loves us. God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever.

Put the heart back in the gift box and put the lid on it.

“I’m so glad **God gave us Jesus** and that we get to celebrate Him at Christmas! Now when I ask, ‘**How do we**



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know God loves us?, you can say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' Let's try it! **How do we know God loves us?**'

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Louder! How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! God gave us Jesus! Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus is the best gift! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible and gift box.



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OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: Angel topper on the tree

The Host enters smiling.

HOST: "Wow! God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have Baby Jesus. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus!"

"I think I got the story. Did you get it? (Pause.) If you did, give me two thumbs-up (demonstrate) and say, 'Got it!' (Pause.) Get it?"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good!"

Walk to the angel topper on the Christmas tree.

"Well, now we know what the third 'A' stands for. (Point to the angel.) Say it with me!"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "'A' is for ANGEL!"

HOST: "Just like the angel who told Mary about Jesus! I hope you have a great day, and I will see you next time. Bye!"

The Host exits, waving and smiling at the children.