



WEEK  
**TWO**  
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.  
("J" is for Jesus.)

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

## 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 "Christmas Party," which is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, everybody! Are you ready to worship? It's time to sing and dance to show God how much we love Him. He is worthy of all our praise. Why? Because He loves us! When I ask, 'How we do know God loves us?', you say, 'God gave us Jesus.' How do we know God loves us?"

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

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

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "That was fun! More than toys and gifts, we know what Christmas is! It's about 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.) Say that with me.

*Lead the children to say the verse with the motions.*

"We can tell the world that God gave us Jesus because He loves us SO, SO much. How do we know God loves us?"

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

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Everybody up! Sing this with me!

*Lead children in singing "Christmas Party."*

"Happy Birthday, Jesus! I love celebrating Christmas, the day God gave us Jesus. God loves you, and we can celebrate because God gave us Jesus."



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## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Christmas decorations (including the decorated tree and angel topper); small table; magnetic board with magnetic letters; jar of jelly; Baby Jesus ornament; and a big Christmas necklace that lights up (like Christmas tree lights)

**WHAT YOU DO:** Make sure the decorations from the previous week are up and add the Baby Jesus ornament to the tree. Remove the magnetic W, S, and J from the letters and give them to the Host. Put letters A through I on the board in order. Set the table in the middle of the story area. Put the magnetic board and jar of jelly on the table.

*The host enters wearing the Christmas lights necklace and singing a Christmas carol. They hold the magnetic W, S, and J.*

**HOST:** "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name]! It's me, [your name]!"

*Walk straight to the table with the magnetic letters.*

"I found this box of alphabet magnets when we decorated for Christmas!"

*Hold up the magnet letters.*

"See? They are letters that are also magnets. That means they can stick to some things. Cool, right? I want to put all of the letters in order on this magnetic board."

*Pick up the magnetic board for the children to see. Letters A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I are already on it.*

"Will you sing the ABC song with me? I need to find out what letter comes next. (Pause.) Great! I'll point to the letters while we sing. Ready?"

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I—"

*Sing the ABC song while pointing to the letters on the board. Break off and listen to the children when you get to the letter I.*

**HOST:** "Stop! You just said the letter! You said 'J' after you said 'I'! That's it! 'J' comes after 'I.' We have to find the letter J next!"

*Look through the magnet letters in your hand and hold up the 'W' magnet.*

"Is this the letter J? (Pause.) No, this isn't the letter J."

*Hold up the 'S' magnet.*

"Is this the letter J? (Pause.) No, this isn't the letter J, either."

*Hold up the 'J' magnet.*



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"Is this the letter J? (Pause.) YES! We found it!"

*Proudly hold the letter J magnet up with both hands for all of the children to see. Then trace the letter with your finger as you talk about it.*

"This is the letter J. It starts up here (finger on top of letter) and swoops down. (Trace the letter.)"

*Start doing jumping jacks.*

"'J' is for jumping jacks!"

*Stop and hold up the jar of jelly.*

"And 'J' is for jelly. Yummmm!"

*Put the jar of jelly on the table.*

"The letter J is so great! I will put it right here after the letter I on my alphabet board."

*Put the 'J' on the magnet board after the 'I.'*

"Yay! We've made it all the way to the letter J! I wonder if [storyteller's name] has a word that begins with 'J' in our Bible story today? Let's find out! See you later! Bye!"

*Host exits with the magnetic board, magnetic letters, and jar of jelly.*



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## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible; toy bus; toy train; donkey on a stick; brown butcher paper; scissors; markers; tape; baby doll wrapped in a baby blanket; and a suitcase or travel bag big enough to hold the baby doll, bus, train, and donkey on a stick.

*Optional Story Images*

*Optional three real doors instead of butcher paper, markers, and scissors*

**WHAT YOU DO:** Cut three large rectangle “doors” out of brown butcher paper. Draw doorknobs and outlines so they look like a door. Tape the three doors in a row along the back wall of your story area. Write “A” in the center of the first door, “B” in the center of the second door, and “C” in the center of the third door. Put the baby, donkey on a stick, toy bus, and toy train in the suitcase or travel bag.

*Option: Lean three real doors against the back wall of the story area facing the children. Write “A,” “B,” and “C” on three separate pieces of paper and tape them to the doors in the order above.*

*The storyteller enters carrying a Bible and travel bag. They will set the travel bag by the small table that is already in the center of the storytelling area.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Hello, friends! I’m so excited to be here today! I’m [your name], and I’m here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

*Hold up the Bible for the children to see then lay it open on the table.*

“And it DOES have a word in it that starts with the letter J! The word is a name for a very special baby.

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)*

“Now today’s part of the true story of Christmas begins with a woman named Mary and her husband, Joseph. Mary and Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth. But they needed to go far away to a city called Bethlehem.

“They could have walked to Bethlehem, but Mary was going to have a baby. She couldn’t walk aaaaall that way. So she needed a ride. Hmm . . . what do you think Mary rode to Bethlehem?

*Pull the toy bus out of the travel bag and hold it up for the children to see.*

“Do you think Mary rode on a bus? (Pause.) No, Mary didn’t ride a bus to Bethlehem.

*Pull the toy train out of the travel bag and hold it for the children to see.*

“Do you think Mary rode on a train? (Pause.) No, Mary didn’t ride a train to Bethlehem, either.

*Pull the donkey out of the travel bag and hold it up for the children to see, then straddle it.*

“Mary probably rode on an animal. Like a donkey! What does a donkey say?”



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**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw."

*Ride the donkey around the story area for a few seconds.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Whoa, donkey. Good boy!"

*Get off the donkey and pet it.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)*

"When Mary and Joseph finally got to Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay. So they began looking around town.

*Lay the donkey down beside the table and walk to the doors.*

"They knocked on Door A.

*Knock on Door A.*

"But there wasn't any room there. Then they knocked on Door B.

*Knock on Door B.*

"But there wasn't any room there, either. Oh, no! Where will Mary and Joseph stay? (Pause.) Well, they knocked on Door C.

*Knock on Door C.*

"And the innkeeper didn't have any room inside, but he told Joseph and Mary that they could stay in his stable.

*Walk back to the front center of the story area and pick up the donkey for the children to see.*

"Now a stable is a place where people keep their animals, like this donkey. And it was in that stable, with all of the animals, that something AMAZING happened.

*Lay the donkey down and pull the baby doll wrapped in the blanket out of the bag and cradle it for the children to see.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)*

"A very special baby was born. His name is Jesus! 'J' is for Jesus! Say that with me."

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "'J' is for Jesus! 'J' is for Jesus! 'J' is for Jesus!"

**STORYTELLER:** "God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus!"

"That's why when I ask, '**How do we know God loves us?**', you say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' Let me hear you! **How do we know God loves us?**"



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**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"**

**STORYTELLER:** "Whisper it so the baby can sleep. **How do we know God loves us?"**

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"**

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes! **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 that we get to learn about the true story of Christmas. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"Thanks for being such great listeners! I'll see you next time. Bye!"

*The Storyteller exits with the Bible and travel bag of toys while riding the donkey on a stick.*



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## OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: Baby Jesus ornament on the tree

*The Host enters smiling.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jesus was born in a stable. 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 Baby Jesus ornament on the Christmas tree.*

"And now we know what else 'J' is for.

*Host points to Baby Jesus.*

"'J' is for JESUS! Say it with me!"

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "'J' is for JESUS!"

*Host gently takes the Jesus ornament off the tree and rocks it like a baby while singing "Away in a Manger."*

**HOST:** (Sing a line.) "Bye, friends."

*Host waves at the children and continues to sing as they exit.*