



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Nine Months
Elizabeth & Zechariah
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are some things you celebrate?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God can do anything.

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

GAME SUPPLIES

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

STORY SUPPLIES

- All digital
 - On screen images

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

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 & Way Maker
- Week 2 – This Christmas & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
- Week 3 – JOY to the World & This is Living

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters carrying a Christmas box.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: JOY to the World

AUDIO: Way Maker

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! I am so pumped for another month here at [Name of Environment]. It's time to kick off December and let the Christmas celebration begin! Let me know, how many of your houses are already decorated for Christmas? (Pause for response) Awesome. **I also love watching Christmas movies and listening to Christmas music. Anyone else love this time of year?**

Well the game today is going to test your **CHRISTMAS MOVIE** skills.
EXPLAIN GAME: Christmas Movie Madness

Host chooses three volunteers.

First one to hit their stool and answer correctly wins a candy cane. Then, we'll pick another 3 contestants.



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everybody! Great to see you. I'm so excited to begin another month together. On top of that, it's Christmastime—truly the most wonderful time of the year! As we jump in, I have a random question for you. Out of curiosity, how many of you like to run?"

Pause for responses.

"Cool. Now, how many of you have ever or would ever be interested in running a marathon?"

Pause for responses.

"That is quite an accomplishment. A marathon is 26.2 miles! Not impossible but pretty hard, for sure. What about running two marathons two days apart? Does that sound pretty tough? Yeah, I'd say. Okay, then wait until you hear about Dean Karnazes. Back in 2006, Dean completed the seemingly impossible—a 50/50/50. Do you know what that is?"

Pause for responses.

"Check this out! A 50/50/50 is 50 marathons, in 50 US states in 50 consecutive days! Tell me that is not impossible! But he did it, starting in St. Louis on Sept 17, 2006 and ending in New York City on Nov 5th."

"Right now, from where I am, that seems impossible. Just thinking of running one marathon feels like an impossible task. Maybe it's not running, but have you ever had to face something in your life that you thought was impossible?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Yeah, I think we all have. Which makes me wonder, why can it be so easy to see something as 'impossible'? Why do we face these moments sometimes and just want to give up rather than believing there might actually be a way through? On top of that, if we want to change our perspective and start to see the situation differently, how do we do that?"

"Wow. These are some great question for us to consider. When we have big questions, the first place we should head is the Bible to learn from the wisdom God has for us. The people who wrote the Bible had these amazing experiences with God who inspired them to write them down so others could learn from them, too. Let's head there now."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "All month long we are going to be in the New Testament of our Bible, specifically in the Gospels. The Gospel stories tell about the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Since it is Christmas, we're really focusing on His birth. So much of what we know about Jesus' birth, we know because of these Gospel stories."



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“Our story today starts in the hill country of Judah with a couple—maybe you heard of them. They’re named Elizabeth and Zechariah.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 1

“Now, there are a few important details you should know about these two. First, Zechariah was an Israelite priest. This was a high honor. Both he and Elizabeth were from the priestly line of Aaron. That was a big deal! Not only did Zechariah have a big title, and they both had an important family line, but they also both followed God with their whole hearts. They obeyed God’s commands and did what was right.”

“So you might expect that an important and faithful couple like this would experience a lot of blessings and be the envy of all those around them, right? But check this out.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:7 (NIRV) and read.

“*But they had no children, because Elizabeth was not able to have any. And they were both very old.*”

Elizabeth and Zechariah were unable to have children. In that culture, many other people would have thought this was because they had done something wrong and that perhaps God was even punishing them. Unfortunately, that’s just how many people thought about things like this back then. For Elizabeth especially it was a source of great shame in her life. And it sure was looking like the time had passed for this older couple to have children.”

“Well, as a priest, Zechariah had certain responsibilities from time to time, and the greatest of those took place at the temple in Jerusalem.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 2

“The priests were on sort of a rotation to serve in the temple, as there were prayers to be offered, sacrifices to be made, and so on. While his group of priests was on duty, Zechariah was chosen to burn incense inside the temple—a huge, once-in-a-lifetime honor! So Zechariah headed into the temple while the rest gathered outside to worship.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 3

“But Zechariah’s extraordinary day was about to get even more extraordinary. Look at this!”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:11-12 (NIRV) and read.

“*Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah. The angel was standing at the right side of the incense altar. When Zechariah saw him, he was amazed and terrified.*”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 4

“Can you imagine! Zechariah was inside the holy place of the Temple for the first and only time in his life when all of the sudden—AHHHHHHH (*angelic singing*), an angel appeared. Check out what the angel said to Zechariah.”



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Open the Bible to Luke 1:13 (NirV) and read.

“But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John.””

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 5

“The angel had come to answer their prayers! They had been praying for the impossible—a child—even though Elizabeth couldn’t have one and they were older. But they would soon find that nothing is impossible with God. And Zechariah was about to find out the important role that this special miracle child would play.”

“The angel continued . . .”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:16-17a (NirV) and read.

“He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will prepare the way for the Lord.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 6

“In a powerful and important way, God would use Elizabeth and Zechariah’s child to bring the people back to God but also to prepare the way for God’s promised Savior to come. More on that in a moment. But first let’s check back in with Zechariah. He was not so sure how this was all going to work out. He wanted some proof! And the proof he got was not exactly what he was asking for.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:19-20 (NirV) and read.

“The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That’s because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen.””

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 7

“Now meanwhile, all of the people were still outside of the temple waiting for Zechariah. What was taking so long!?”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:22 (NirV) and read.

“When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple. They knew this because he kept gesturing to them. He still could not speak.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 8

“Sure enough, it wasn’t long after that that Elizabeth became pregnant. And she declared . . .”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:25 (NirV) and read.



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““The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days, he has been kind to me. He has taken away my shame among the people.””

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 9

“Eight days after the child was born, family and friends gathered around to celebrate.”

SLIDE: ILLUSTRATION 10

“Zechariah gave him the name John, as the angel Gabriel had instructed. Everyone looked on with wonder.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:64-66 (NIRV) and read.

“Right away Zechariah could speak again. Right away he praised God. All his neighbors were filled with fear and wonder. Throughout Judea’s hill country, people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it. And because the Lord was with John, they asked, “What is this child going to be?””

“What seemed impossible had become possible. God had given Zechariah and Elizabeth a child in their old age. God had stopped Zechariah’s speech and returned it. And when John grew older, he would play an important role in introducing his cousin, Jesus, to the world!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “It’s easy to place limits on what God can do. When something seems impossible for us, we might just simply believe that it must also be impossible for God. But this story of Elizabeth and Zechariah reminds us that what seems impossible for us is, in fact, NOT impossible for God. By the end of the story, family and friends were gathered around with Elizabeth and Zechariah celebrating what God had done—what only God could do! I’m sure nine months earlier they would have never imagined being there!”

“Think about some of the ‘impossible’ situations you are facing right now? Maybe you are really struggling in school and feeling really discouraged about it. Or maybe there are troubles at home and you don’t see a way that they will ever get fixed. Or maybe you’re not getting along with a friend and things are just really tense right now. These situations can feel impossible and out of our hands. But remember, you can bring these things before God. It doesn’t mean that they will always work out exactly the way we want them to, but we also might be surprised by the way that God shows up. It probably won’t be an angel dropping in on you like Zechariah, but it may surprise you nonetheless. And who knows—maybe even leave you speechless!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“What are some things you celebrate? In other words, when you look back over this last month, or even year, where can you see that God has been working in a way that only God can? How can you celebrate that God can do anything? If you’re having trouble coming up with something, ask your Small Group Leader or other kids in your Small Group. They can help you see what God has been doing in your life. Before we head to groups, let’s pray and thank God for showing up and doing the impossible in our lives.”



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Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

NOTE: 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

AUDIO PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: LIGHT SHOW THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP





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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

1. WELCOME/OPENER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Christmas box with tangled lights
- Blindfolds
- Power strip (not plugged in)
- Promo video for The Giving Tree (*optional*; see "What You Do")

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat Christmas Music (for game)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Light Show Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Tangled Light Challenge Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services.*

We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.

- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Take three long strands of lights and individually tangle them up for the competition. Keep the power strip unplugged for safety reasons. However, when the competition is over, you can plug it in for effect.
- This Christmas, we invite you to join with Orange and Compassion International through **The Giving Tree**: a partnership to provide life-changing gifts for critically vulnerable kids and families all around the world. These "12 ornaments of Christmas," which you can display on a Christmas tree (or trees) in your environment, feature items ranging from \$10 to put a Bible in the hands of a child, to \$60 for water wells, and many more. Each ornament features a text-to-give option for the individual who chooses the ornament. However, funds may also be collected by the church to send to Compassion. All funds raised through the Giving Tree project will purchase items from Compassion International's Gift Catalog or go directly to Compassion International's Un-sponsored Children Fund. You can download all project materials with your curriculum download, including promotional resources for leaders, families, and kids. Please visit www.compassion.com/orange if you have any further questions about the project. Plan to promote this initiative and collect money each Sunday through December 26.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)



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MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "12 Days of Christmas" from *Jingle Jam: Wrapped Up*
- "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King)* single
- "Greatest Gift Remix" from *Greatest Gift Remix* single (In *Get Reel* there is a *Live Loud* video you can show to help teach and encourage worship in our everyday lives. Consider using this segment before doing "Greatest Gift Remix.")

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "12 Days of Christmas" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "Greatest Gift Remix" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com) or Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com) and have them ready to use. *Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000

- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

3. COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Communicator
- Nlrv Bible

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Illustration Slides 1-10
- Key Question Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEO (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- *The So & So Show* from Feature Presentation (available through the 252 Media Package). Use *The So & So Show* if you'd like to show the Bible story on video instead of telling it live.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download the slides or optional video and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you*



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VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic weekly Large Group experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- 252 Story brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.
- Also included: Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or 252 Story.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

GET REEL: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments.

Four videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:

- Discovery*—Listen to God's words (HEAR)
- Dear God*—Dialogue with God (PRAY)
- One Thing*—Articulate your faith (TALK)
- Live Loud*—Worship with your life (LIVE)

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDING:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

MONTHLY WIDGET*: LIGHT SHOW CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Each month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

***widg-et [wij-it]** –noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job
Origin: 1925–30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget

Let the Christmas celebration begin! This themed, collectible ornament will remind families of the real reason to celebrate: because God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Families can place the ornament in front of their own Christmas bulbs and let the light shine through. It's a great way to remember God's greatest gift, year after year!