



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES**

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



*Before kids arrive, take a few minutes to sit in quiet prayer for your students and the time you're about to spend together. Pray that you would be able to help them grow in their confidence that God is who he says He is and still can do things in our lives that we think are impossible.*

### 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

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, candy canes, two buckets, mobile device or timer

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Tell teams to stand in a line.
- Give each kid a candy cane.
- Place a bucket of candy canes at one end of each team's line.
- Place an empty bucket at the other end of each team's line.
- Tell teams they have two minutes to transfer the candy canes from one bucket to the other.
- The rules are:
  - Teams must use the candy canes they are holding to pass candy canes from the bucket to each other. No one can touch the candy cane they are transporting with any part of their body.
  - If a candy cane falls, teams can opt to retrieve it using the candy cane they are holding or just leave it on the ground and start over with a new candy cane.
  - The team to transfer the most candy canes from one bucket to the other in the allotted time is the winner.
- Play a few rounds. If necessary, vary the time of each race.





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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES**

### MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



### BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Story Sentence Cards" Activity Page, Bibles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a "Story Sentence Card."

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- Tell kids read the card to themselves without showing it to the other kids in the group.
- Challenge kids to form a line so their cards are in the order of the story.
- The catch is that to get in the correct order they can't talk to each other and they can only show two other people what's on their card.
- Once the group thinks they have the right order, tell kids to lay their cards face up in front of them.
- Read the cards out loud in the order they are placed on the floor.
- The correct order is:
  - Zechariah and Elizabeth loved and served God. They were unable to have kids.
  - Zechariah was chosen to burn incense before God in the temple while the other priests waited outside.
  - An angel appeared and said Zechariah and Elizabeth would have a son who would prepare the way for the Lord.
  - Zechariah thought it was impossible and didn't believe what the angel said and so the angel said Zechariah would have to be silent and unable to speak until his son was born.
  - Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a son.
  - The people celebrated and were going to name them Zechariah, like his father. Elizabeth said, "No, he must be called John."
  - Zechariah asked for something to write and wrote, "His name is John."
  - Right away Zechariah could speak and right away he praised and celebrated God.
- Ask:
  - Are there any changes you want to make to the order?
  - Is there anything you want to add that is missing from the storyline?
- Potential discussion questions:
  - How did Zechariah respond to the angel? (Refer to Luke 1:12, 1:18)
  - Why do you think Zechariah questioned the angel?
  - When is it easy to give up, to lose hope, and stop believing something good could happen?
  - What are some things in the story worth celebrating?
  - Why is this story part of the Christmas story? What does it have to do with Jesus?



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HOME

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25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

#### Ask:

- Why did people think they baby should be named Zechariah? Does anyone know why it was unusual for Zechariah and Elizabeth to name the baby John? (*It may be necessary to explain the culture was to name babies after a family member. Zechariah or Elizabeth did not have a relative named John.*)
- How were Zechariah and Elizabeth celebrating God by naming the baby John? (*Zechariah and Elizabeth were obeying God even though it was different from the "norm".*)
- God can do anything but sometimes He doesn't do what we think He should. What can help you to remember to celebrate God even when things don't go your way?
  - **[Make It Personal] Share about a time when thing didn't go the way you thought they should, but you were able to see God's hand in the situation. Were you able to celebrate God's "version" of the story?**
- What are some impossible things has God done? (*Examples can be from the Bible or from their own lives.*)

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



### MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Light Bulb Cards" Activity Page, scissors, hole punch, markers, string/yarn, Optional: a Christmas tree or other way to display the "Lights"

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a "Light Bulb Card" and tell them to cut out the light bulb.
- Ask kids to write a prayer praising God for who He is.
- Instruct kids to use the hole punch to make a hole at the top of their light bulb.
- Help kids create a string of "celebration lights" by tying their light bulb onto a long piece of string.
- Space out the light bulbs along the string.
- Encourage the kids to take turns reading to the group what they wrote as a prayer.
- Place the string of lights on a Christmas tree or tape them to the wall.
- Save any extra "Light Bulb Cards" to be used next week.
- Close in prayer.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, as we hear the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, we are reminded nothing is impossible for You. You can do anything! We can trust You no matter what! You are *(allow kids to fill in the blank)*! Thank You for being You! Thank You for loving us so much You sent Jesus so we can believe and have eternal life! We love You! Amen!"

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