



## FOR LEADERS ONLY

### GOD VIEW:

**GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

**CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CELEBRATING JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT.**

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote that every good and perfect gift comes from God, but the best gift God ever gave was Jesus. From the beginning, God has had a plan to rescue the world from the consequences of sin. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known.

### WEEK 1

Key Question: **What are your plans for Christmas?**

While this might seem like a simple question, it starts a good conversation about expectations for what we hope will happen—not only during Christmas, but for any time of the year. When our plans don't go the way we expect, how should we respond? This is a great way for preteens to consider God's plans to send the promised Savior.

We kick off December with an Old Testament prophecy found in **Isaiah 9:6-7**. The story of Christmas begins with promises that God made long before Jesus was born. God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years for God to send the Savior. Many gave up hope, but God was still working in the background. The promises God made and fulfilled remind us that God's plans are best!

Bottom Line: **God always has a plan.** Sometimes it's hard to stay hopeful in the middle of a tough situation. We want things to happen a certain way, and when they don't, we can become discouraged. Thankfully, when we look through the Bible, we can see that God has always been at work. When we remember that God faithfully kept promises in the past, we can find hope because God will continue to be with us through whatever we face.

### WEEK 2

Key Question: **What's the most amazing thing you've**

**ever seen?** Often, to see past our circumstances, we need a reminder of God's ability to do the impossible. We start with a question that gets preteens thinking about the amazing things they've seen and experienced. We pray the conversation will lead them toward celebrating what God has done in their lives.

In week 2, we head to **Luke 1:5-66**, where we find Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary. Zechariah and Elizabeth were older, and it seemed impossible that they'd ever have a child of their own. But one day an angel came to Zechariah and told him that he would have a son, and that son would prepare the way for the Promised One, Jesus. The angel also came to visit a young woman named Mary. No one would have guessed that God would use Mary to bring that promise of the Messiah to fulfillment—including Mary herself. Mary was awestruck when the angel came to announce that she was about to have a child who would be the Savior of the world.

Bottom Line: **Anything is possible with God.** We will face some difficult moments throughout our lives. But no matter what we face, we can trust God and remember that God can do anything. God may still allow us to go through whatever we're facing, but God will be with us and will give us what we need to get through it.

### WEEK 3

Key Question: **What are you excited about giving?**

As we head into Christmas week, we want preteens to focus on the gifts they are able to give, rather than the gifts they might receive. Gifts can be so much more than things bought at a store. We can give our time, attention, creativity, and love. Let's help our kids get into the spirit of Christmas and think about the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

In **Luke 2:1-7** we see how God's greatest gift finally arrived. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for



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the census. The town was bustling with people, leaving no room for them to stay. Thankfully, they found a place where the animals were kept. In the humblest of locations, Jesus, the King of Kings, was born and placed in a manger to sleep. The Savior of the world had been born!

Bottom Line: **Jesus is the greatest gift.** God's people had waited for so long for God to send the Savior. When Jesus was born, God's promises came true. We pray that the kids in your ministry remember what Christmas is all about—that God sent Jesus to make a way for us to be with God forever.

### WEEK 4

Key Question: **What are ways you can share the good news?** As we celebrate Christmas together, let's take a moment to discover ways that we can share God's love and the message of Jesus with others. We can take a cue from the shepherds and see that the message of Christmas is so incredible that everyone needs to hear it and experience it for themselves. We'll talk about how we can worship Jesus with our lives and show others just how much Jesus loves them!

Jesus is born! God could have announced the birth of the Savior to anyone. But in **Luke 2:8-20**, we read that God didn't choose to share Jesus' birth with kings, government officials, or religious leaders. Rather, God sent an angel choir to announce this news to a bunch of shepherds on a hillside. The shepherds ran to find Jesus, where they worshipped Him. They were so full of joy that they made sure to tell everyone what they had seen!

Bottom Line: **The good news is for everyone.** The message of Jesus . . . the gift of His love . . . isn't something we can keep to ourselves. Our relationship with Jesus changes us, and everyone needs to hear about it. This week, we want kids to start thinking about how they can share the good news about Jesus. From the words they say to the life they live; they can point people to Jesus and show God's love to others.