

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Breath of Heaven
Zechariah/Elizabeth and
Gabriel/Mary
Luke 1:5-66

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Anything is possible with God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Go Tell It" and "Silent Night" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Act It Out (*k-1st grade*), Dumbbell Challenge (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Application Activity: Impossible Helicopter (*k-1st grade*), Guess Who? (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Memory Verse Activity: Christmas Cheer (*k-1st grade*), Verse Dance (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Breath of Heaven
Zechariah/Elizabeth and
Gabriel/Mary
Luke 1:5-66

- Open the Bible to Luke 1:13-17 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:19-20 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:35-37 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV)*
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:42-45 (NirV)*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Anything is possible with God.

HOST SUPPLIES

- "The Big Give Show" Trivia Sheet printed from the LG Assets PDF
- Clipboard

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NirV

STORY SUPPLIES

- Zechariah costume: Long, biblical-style robe and "ZECHARIAH" name tag
- Elizabeth costume: Long dress with long sleeves and "ELIZABETH" name tag
- **Host** - Angel costume: long white tunic or robe and "GABRIEL" name tag
- Mary costume: long, simple dress with long sleeves and "MARY" name tag
- Tape or bandanna to cover Zachariahs mouth
- Sign with name John on it or medium chalk board to write John on
- Box or similar decorated as an altar

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

LARGE GROUP

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Can you believe it? Christmas is almost here! Only [number] more days until Christmas morning! Christmas is the very best time of year, because we get to celebrate the very best gift EVER.



25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

“I love this time of year because there are so many fun things to do. There’s time to see friends and family. There are so many delicious treats to enjoy. I love the big Christmas trees and the Christmas lights . . . the Christmas cookies and fun music . . . the candy canes and hot apple cider! Mmm-mmm!

“Quick, tell me YOUR favorite thing about Christmas.

Take a few quick answers from the audience.

“Those are great answers. I love all those things, too! There’s so much to love about Christmas that I thought we could kick off our time today with a little bit of Christmas trivia. Let’s play ‘The Big Give Show’!

“I’ll ask you a series of trivia questions. If you know the answer, raise your hand. If I call on you, you can answer out loud. Be sure to speak up so everyone can hear you, okay? If I call on you but you get stuck, you’re allowed to ask a friend. But here’s the challenge: let’s see if we can work together to answer ten questions correctly in only two minutes. Do you think we can do it? (Pause) Okay, let’s go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (5-MINUTE VERSION, CUED TO THE 2:00 MARK)

Use the printed ‘Big Give Show’ Trivia Sheet for the list of questions. Be sure to call on kids from all over the room, not just the kids in the front. Repeat each answer after the kid shouts it out, so everyone in the room can hear it.

If there’s a question that no one can answer, pass that question and move on to the next one.

Just for fun, you can go through the remaining questions after the kids have successfully answered ten.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“We did it! Give a friend a high-five or a pat on the back. We are ‘Big Give Show’ champions! Now let’s all get ready to sing and worship God together.”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everybody! It's great to see all of your smiling faces. We're taking this whole month to celebrate Christmas and see how Jesus came to the world.

If you're using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here as you recap.

"If we look back at God's Big Story, we can see how God made an amazing world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham's family, the Israelites.

"Over and over again, the people turned away from God. Then, other countries invaded and captured the Israelites. The Israelites must have wondered if God still loved them and had a plan for them.

"God spoke through people called prophets who talked about the great Rescuer who God would send. *(Pause.)* But then, for hundreds of years, the Rescuer didn't come. During that time, people waited for God's promise to come true.

"We'll pick up the story today in the New Testament of the Bible. We've gone all the way through the Old Testament, and now we're right here.

Hold up the Bible and flip to the New Testament, making sure the kids can see what you're doing.

"Here in the New Testament, we read about Jesus and the early church. This is where we can read the story of how Jesus was born!"

SILENT TREATMENT

STORYTELLER: "When this part of the story took place, God's people were being ruled by the Romans. There was a priest named Zechariah and his wife was named Elizabeth.

Point to the Zechariah and Elizabeth costumes and pick two children to dress up as them

"Zechariah and Elizabeth faithfully served God, but they had no children. They believed they were way past the age that they COULD have children.

Guide Zechariah in front of made up altar.

"One day, Zechariah was chosen to enter the temple and burn incense before God while his group of priests was serving. As Zechariah stood before the altar, the angel Gabriel appeared before him!

Host dressed in Gabriel costume. Hide him and have a reveal as you tell the story if possible

"The angel said to Zechariah . . .



25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Luke 1:13-17 (NirV) and read.

“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. He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. He will be important in the sight of the Lord . . . He will prepare the way for the Lord.

“This was a lot for Zechariah to take in. He asked the angel how he could be sure this was true. How could he and Elizabeth have a baby in their old age?

“The angel said to Zechariah . . .

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

“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.

Put a piece of low tack tape or bandana across Zachariah's mouth. Be carefull not to cover their nose

“Zechariah came out of the temple, and the other priests tried to find out why he had been in there so long. But just like the angel said, Zechariah couldn’t speak. He could only try to tell them by gesturing with his hands.

Have Zachariah wave his hands in the air.

“And get this. Just like the angel had said, Elizabeth became pregnant!”

MARY’S BIG NEWS

STORYTELLER: *“In the town of Nazareth, Elizabeth’s relative Mary was about to receive amazing news, too.*

Pick a child to dress in Mary costume.

“The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.

Have Gabriel Move over to Mary. Host does their best floating imitation

“He told her some really big news. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and read.

“The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.

25 MINUTES

"Mary was quite shocked to be visited by an angel!

Mary with surprised look on her face.

"But Gabriel told her not to worry. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and read.

"Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.

"Mary asked how this would happen.

"Gabriel responded.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:35-37 (NirV) and read.

"The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true.

"Mary was no longer worried. She chose to trust God. She said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.

"I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.

"Then the angel left her."

MARY AND ELIZABETH

STORYTELLER: "Mary then hurried to the hill country of Judea to visit her relative, Elizabeth.

"When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth JUMPED!

"Elizabeth said to Mary . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:42-45 (NirV) and read.

"God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“Mary knew that God had blessed her in a special way. She stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she went home.

“Soon after that, it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby! When the baby was born, all of Zechariah and Elizabeth’s relatives and neighbors came to celebrate. They were going to name the baby Zechariah, after his dad, but Elizabeth said he must be called John.

“Zechariah still wasn’t able to speak. So he gestured for something to write on. Then he wrote, ‘His name is John.’ Right away, Zechariah could speak again! And right away, he praised God!”

Have Zachariah hold up sign with Johns name and remove the covering from his mouth.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Everyone was amazed when they heard Zechariah and Elizabeth’s story—of the visit from the angel and their new baby boy. The news spread as people wondered about John, saying, ‘What is this child going to be?’ (Luke 1:66, NIV)

“The really cool part is that John would grow up to play a big part in the life of Jesus. He would prepare the way for Jesus by telling others that Jesus was the Savior who God had promised.

“When the angel Gabriel said that both Elizabeth and Mary would have a son—it seemed like, for both of them, that it would be impossible. But it WAS possible, because it was part of God’s plan.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Anything is possible with God.

“It’s always so helpful to remember that God can do anything. When we find ourselves in situations that are so tough that they seem impossible, we can trust God and believe that God is always in control.

“Anything is possible with God. Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for the way You brought both John and Jesus into the world. It seemed impossible to both Elizabeth and Mary that they could have a baby. But everything happened just as the angel said because it was all part of Your plan. Thank You for loving us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for this reminder that, with You, anything is possible! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: (Reference the clothesline costumes.) "Mary was so young, and she thought she wasn't ready to have a baby. Elizabeth thought she was way too OLD to have a baby. So when the angel said that BOTH of them would have a baby, it must have seemed impossible!

"The most amazing news of all was that the angel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus, God's Son!

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 2 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"Of course, Mary chose to trust God and believe what the angel had said. John and Jesus were born, just as the angel had said. And John went on to prepare the way for Jesus.

"Next week, we'll get to look at the way Jesus was born. I can't wait for that! But for now, let's remember this amazing truth.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Anything is possible with God.

"I don't know if you've ever been in a tough situation that seemed almost impossible. Maybe you've had a really tough time with a subject at school, like math or spelling. Or maybe you got in trouble for something at home, and now you have to do extra chores to make things right. Or maybe your mom or dad got a job in another place and you had to move to a new school.

Option: Share a quick, age-appropriate story of how God brought you through something that seemed impossible.

"If you're going through something tough like that, it can help to remember how God has brought you and your family through difficult times in the past. You can remember that God is faithful and **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what.** You can pray and ask God for the strength you need. You can also talk to the people God has put in your life. They can encourage you to keep going, because God is always with you and NOTHING is impossible for God.

"Let's head to Small Group and talk about that some more!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY CHRISTMAS MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP