

K3 LG Guide

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Worship Leaders to help with the game (see “What You Do”)
- Paper chain with the days of leading up to Christmas, from week 1 (see week 1 script for details)
- Lots of red and green plastic cups to make stacks or pyramids (six cups per stack)
- Table(s), on which you can stack the cups
- Lots of white wiffle balls
- Several buckets
- Masking or gaffer’s tape
- Host’s phone
- Stockings hung on stage, numbered 1 through 4 (keep these on stage all month for the week 5 game)—ideally, hang these on hooks so you can easily take them down and put them back up again

Luke 1:26-56.

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller (female, since she’ll be playing the part of Mary and Elizabeth)
- Bible
- Three “face posters,” hand-drawn on posterboard, using the “Face Poster Example Sheet” from the LG Assets PDF for reference (see “What You Do”):
 - Mary
 - Angel (Gabriel)
 - Elizabeth
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Fishing line (or other way to hang the posters) and binder clips, clothespins, carabiners, etc.

WEEK 2

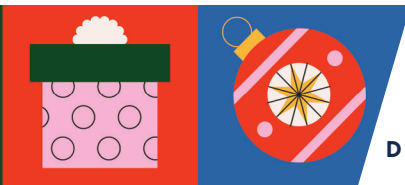
In week 2, we turn to **Luke 1:26-56**. The Messiah had been promised for generations, but no one would have guessed that God would use a young woman to bring that promise to fulfillment—including that young woman herself. Mary was awestruck when the angel came to announce that she was about to have a child who would be the Savior of the world. Mary found peace in trusting that through God, all things are possible.

Bottom Line: You can have peace because God has a plan. When God sent Jesus, it was the answer to many, many years of a plan to rescue the world. The people must have wondered what God was doing or if God was still working. We can feel the same way about our own circumstances. Yet, time and again, we realize that we can trust God no matter what. We might not understand God’s plan, but we can have peace when we remember how God has been faithful throughout history.

CHRISTMAS is about celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT CHRISTMAS WITH KIDS

The Christmas season can be an interesting time for families as they navigate how they’ll celebrate with their kids and extended family and friends. It’s important to keep in mind that not everyone will experience this season the same way. Some go all out with presents, while others keep it low-key. Christmas can be a time when people feel grief from losses over the past year or the pain of current health situations. Christmas can also expose some of the socioeconomic differences among the people who attend your church. It’s important to keep all of these things in mind as you talk about Christmas plans, what kids want for Christmas, or what kids are hoping for this year. Have a plan in place to make sure ALL kids feel at home in your church. Also, remind your Small Group Leaders and Storytellers that it’s not our job to tell kids what to think and believe about Santa Claus, Elf on the Shelf, or any of the traditions that people have. Just meet kids where they are and direct them back to their parents for these sorts of questions.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Our King of Peace
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can have peace
because God has a plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A child will be born to us.
A son will be given to us."
Isaiah 9:6a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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 KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, everyone! Can you believe we're one week closer to Christmas? (Pause for response.) This month at [your environment's name], we're talking about the reason we celebrate Christmas.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Christmas is all about **celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift!**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"Christmas is a time for giving gifts to the people we love. And that's definitely what God did by sending Jesus to be our Savior!

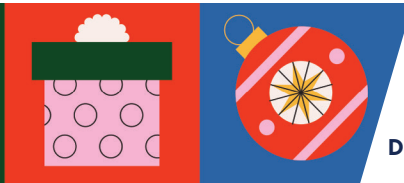
"One of my favorite Christmas traditions is a countdown to Christmas.

Point to the paper chain.

"Each of the rings on this paper chain represents one day. Each week, we'll take down the rings from the week before so we can continue our countdown. And that's not all! If we look at the ring for today, December [date], we'll find a fun activity that we can all do together!

"Who wants to come up here and take off the rings up until today?"

Select a child to come help you cut or tear off the correct number of numbered rings of the paper chain, including the one for today. (For example, if it's Sunday, December 10, then you'll remove rings 4 through 10.)



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Have the child hand you the rings so you can read the game, then dismiss them back to their seat. Read the game from the paper ring marked with today's number.

(reading from the paper ring) "Play Snowball Toss! (to audience) Oooooohhhh, sounds like fun!

Walk to the cup stacks on tables with the tape lines and buckets of white wiffle balls.

Note: The cup stacks should be far enough away from the tape lines that it's actually challenging for the kids to knock them down.

Worship Leaders enter to help with the game.

"As you can see, we have these cups stacked on the side of the room. And we have these (air quotes) 'snowballs.' (Hold up one of the wiffle balls.) In just a minute, you'll line up behind one of these tape lines and wait for your turn to try to knock down a stack of cups. We'll play for two minutes and see how many stacks we can knock down in that amount of time. After you throw your snowball, you'll go to the back of the line so the next person can go.

"Are you ready? (Pause for response.) Let the Snowball Toss begin!

AUDIO: FUN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (5-MINUTE VERSION, CUED UP TO 2 MINUTES)

If you're not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for two minutes.

Make sure the kids line up, single file, behind the different tape lines. Make sure each kid goes to the back of the line after they throw one wiffle ball.

As the kids throw the wiffle balls, help the Worship Leaders collect them and put them back into the buckets to be tossed.

If a cup stack gets knocked over, then encourage the kids from that line to join a different line. Or the Worship Leaders can always stack the cups again if they all get knocked down too quickly.

When the timer runs out, see how many cup stacks the kids have knocked down. If you get the feeling that some kids haven't had a turn to throw yet, add more time.

"Great job, everyone! Nice snowball tossing. Let's get this place cleaned up by putting all of the snowballs back into the buckets.

Help the kids collect the wiffle balls in the buckets. Set all game supplies to the side so they're out of the way for Worship and the Bible story.

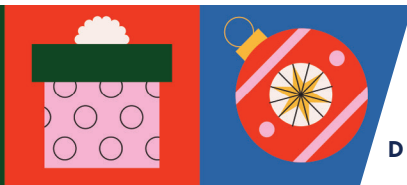
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"Thanks for helping! Now, let's stay on our feet and get ready to sing some fun Christmas worship songs."

Worship Leaders stay on stage.

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “There are so many fun ways to celebrate this time of year! And all of the celebration is because of one important reason—because God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Let’s sing this song about Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

AUDIO: “GREATEST GIFT REMIX” / TRACK 1 FROM GREATEST GIFT REMIX SINGLE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: “GREATEST GIFT REMIX” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

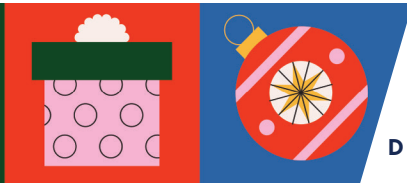
“Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

“In Psalm 29:11, David wrote: ‘*The Lord gives strength to his people. The Lord blesses his people with peace.*’ (NirV) We can have peace in our lives because of Jesus. This song, ‘Silent Night,’ is about the night that Jesus, God’s greatest gift, was born. Sing it from your heart.”

AUDIO: “SILENT NIGHT (THE KING IS BORN)” / TRACK 1 FROM SILENT NIGHT (THE KING IS BORN) SINGLE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: “SILENT NIGHT (THE KING IS BORN)” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

Note: The Storyteller today should be female, since she'll be playing the part of Mary and Elizabeth.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today, we're continuing to look at everything that led up to the birth of Jesus . . . because of course, that's what Christmas is all about.

"When we look back at God's Big Story, we see how God chose the family of Abraham—the Israelites—and promised to bless the whole world through them. But over and over again, God's people turned away from God and did things their own way.

"The Israelites were attacked by other nations. But God still had a plan. God used prophets who shared God's words with the people. Through these prophets, God promised to send a Savior. That's what we looked at last week, with the promises about the Savior that we can find in the books of Isaiah and Micah.

"For hundreds of years, there was no recorded word from God. But when the time was right, God's promise came true! That's where we'll pick up the story today."

Attach the three face posters to the clips hanging from the ceiling. (These should be at head height for the Storyteller.)

AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

Step into the Mary face poster, so that your face is visible through the hole in the poster.

STORYTELLER: "A young woman named Mary lived in the town of Nazareth.

Step into the angel face poster.

"One day, an angel named Gabriel visited her. The angel said to Mary . . .

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

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

Step into the Mary face poster.

"I can imagine that Mary would have been pretty frightened to see an actual angel right in front of her!

Step into the angel face poster.

"But listen to what the angel said to her next.



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.

Step into the Mary face poster. Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.

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

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

STORYTELLER: "Mary then traveled to see her cousin Elizabeth.

Step into the Elizabeth face poster.

"Oh, wait—I forgot to tell you something else that the angel said to Mary! Let's rewind for a second.

Step into the angel face poster.

"The angel had said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:36-37 (NirV) and read.

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.

Step into the Elizabeth face poster.

"There you have it. Just like the angel said, Elizabeth was also going to have a baby . . . even though it seemed impossible!

"When Elizabeth heard Mary coming, the baby inside of her 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!"

THANKFUL MARY

Step into the Mary face poster.

STORYTELLER: "Do you know what Mary did next? She praised God!

"She said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-55 (NirV) and read.



My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. He has always remembered to be kind to Abraham and his children down through the years. He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.

Step into the Elizabeth face poster.

"Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months.

Step into the Mary face poster.

"Then she went back home."

Step out of the poster and come up to the front of the stage as you wrap up.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "It's pretty amazing to hear how Mary reacted when she heard this news from the angel. Even though Mary didn't know the whole story yet, she trusted God. She believed that God had a good plan for her, and for the whole world. And because she trusted God, she was able to have peace in the middle of something completely unexpected.

"That's something you can remember, too.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"You can have peace because God has a plan.

"Let's pray and thank God for being so good to us."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, we are so glad to know that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** Thank You for giving us Your peace, no matter what might be happening around us. Even when life seems scary or confusing, we can trust that You have a good plan. You are always there, just like You were there with Mary. Help us learn more about You and trust You even more. 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: "When Mary first heard that she was going to be the mother of Jesus, how did she feel? *(Pause for response.)* Right. She was afraid! It seems like that would be a pretty natural way for her to react.

"But remember, the angel told her, 'Do not be afraid.' *(Luke 1:30, NIV)* Sure enough, Mary was able to be at peace because she trusted God. She believed that God had a good plan.

"You can trust God, too—no matter what might be happening in your life or in the world around you.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"You can have peace because God has a plan.

"Remember, God sent Jesus to be Immanuel, which means 'God with us.' That's why Jesus is the greatest gift ever! It was all part of God's plan to send Jesus to rescue us. When we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have a relationship with Him that will last forever.

"One of the best things about following God is having peace, deep inside, because we know that God is good. God ALWAYS has a plan, no matter what's happening. And we can trust God with everything. Even when things happen that we don't quite understand, we can still put our faith in God and believe that God does have a good plan. God WILL make everything right in the end.

"Raise your hand if you're thankful for the peace God gives us. *(Raise your hand.)* Me, too! You can go to Small Group now and talk some more about that. I'll see you later!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP