

K3 LG Guide

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Paper chain from Week 1, with just the remaining ring(s) left (See Week 1 script for details.)
- Four stockings, numbered #1-4, that you've had on stage all month (Ideally, hang these on hooks so you can easily take them down and put them back up again.)
- Candy cane
- Four poster signs, numbered #1-4
- Tape or mounting putty

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Adult male volunteer to play the wise man (see "What You Do")
- Ornate, royal-looking robe and fake beard for the actor to wear
- Bible
- Photo album (can have any photos inside, since the photos for the story will be on screen)
- Two music stands
- Two printed scripts (on the stands)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "We Three Kings" by Mannheim Steamroller (optional)

WEEK 5

We finish up our Christmas season celebration in **Matthew 2:1-12**. We see how the announcement of Jesus' birth was far-reaching. Wise men from the east saw a star that set them on an adventure to find a promised king of Israel. We're not sure how long it took, but when the wise men finally found Jesus, they worshipped Him!

Bottom Line: **Celebrate Jesus all year long.** After the Christmas decorations come down, it can be easy for kids to assume that the spirit of Christmas gets packed away too. We want kids to realize that they don't need a fancy holiday to celebrate Jesus. They can celebrate when they sing to Jesus, read the Bible, and show Jesus' love to others.

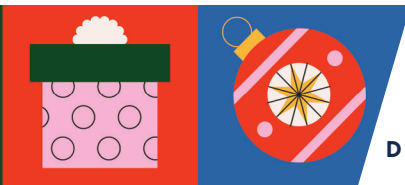
CHRISTMAS is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

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.

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Following Yonder Star
Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

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: "Hi, everybody! How was your Christmas? What was your favorite part? When I count to three, everybody tell me your favorite part of Christmas this year. One . . . two . . . three! *(Pause for response.)* Wow! It sounds like you had a lot of fun.

"We've had a lot to celebrate this month here at [your environment's name] as we've taken a look at what Christmas is all about.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Remember, Christmas is about **celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"I know it's kind of a bummer that Christmas is over. I mean, we already finished our paper chain on Christmas Day. *(Reference the one ring left on the paper chain.)*

"But the good news is, we can KEEP celebrating Jesus, even after December ends. That part never has to stop! *(looking around)* We probably should put away these decorations, though, before it's 2024.

"You know what? I bet we can use these stockings to play one last Christmas game before we put them away.

Point to the stockings that have been on stage all month.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"Each stocking has a number that matches the number in one of the corners of the room.

Point to the signs in each corner of the room, numbered #1-4.

"ONE of these stockings has a candy cane inside. (*Pull out the candy cane and hold it up.*) As you can see, that time it was in stocking number [number].

"Now YOU will try to guess which stocking has the candy cane inside. I'll go ahead and put it in one of the stockings for the first round.

Take the stockings off the hooks. Gather them together and turn your back on the kids. Put the candy cane in one of the stockings discreetly, so that no one can see which one you put it in.

(If this isn't possible given your stage setup, you can take the stockings backstage, put the candy cane in a stocking, then bring the stockings out again.)

Then hang the four stockings back on the hooks.

"All right. When I say, 'Go,' you'll go stand by the number that matches the stocking you think has the candy cane inside. Ready? Everyone choose your number!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Once everyone has chosen a number, choose a kid to come up and see which stocking has the candy cane. Then, the same way as before, discreetly move the candy cane to another stocking and play again.

Note: You can either play this for fun, with no one getting "out" or you can play this as an elimination game, meaning only those who chose the correct corner move on to the next round. In that case, make sure to give the kids a practice round first so no one is out right away.

"That was super-fun! And now it's time for us to lift our voices and worship God together."

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "We've been celebrating with some fun Christmas songs all month long. What do you say we keep the fun going? Let's sing 'I will go and tell it' and let everyone know that Jesus has been born for us!"

AUDIO: "GO TELL IT" / TRACK 1 FROM GO TELL IT SINGLE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "GO TELL IT" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"There is no name higher, greater, or stronger than the name of Jesus. As we read in Philippians 2:10-11: 'When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone will kneel down to worship him. Everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will kneel down to worship him. Everyone's mouth will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory.' (NirV) Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Let's lift up His name today as we sing and worship."

AUDIO: "WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME" / TRACK 1 FROM KIDMIN WORSHIP VOL. 6

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO



BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! We've been celebrating Christmas all month, and we're about to head into a brand-new year.

"I just want to know . . . do any of you wish Christmas didn't have to end? (*Raise your hand.*) Do you wish we could keep on celebrating Christmas all year round? (*Raise your hand.*) I know! Me, too. The really cool part is that our Christmas celebration CAN keep going.

"Today, I want to tell you about a part of the Christmas story that actually happened a while after Jesus was born.

"But before we get into it, let's recap really quickly and see where we've been so far. (*Hold up Bible.*) We know that God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family, the Israelites. But God's people kept turning away from God. Then they were attacked by other nations. God still had a plan, though.

"God spoke to the Israelite people through prophets. God promised to send a Rescuer. And when the time was right—hundreds of years later—God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. Mary gave birth to God's Son, Jesus, just as God had promised. A choir of angels showed up to announce the news of Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds. Then those shepherds ran to see Jesus . . . and they went to tell everyone that the Savior had been born!"

A NEW STAR

STORYTELLER: "That brings us to today's story, which we can find in the book of Matthew. (*Hold up Bible.*) I've invited a special guest to help. Please welcome my friend . . . a very wise man . . . Gaspar!

AUDIO: "WE THREE KINGS" BY MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER (OPTIONAL)

Pre-selected actor enters, wearing an ornate robe and fake beard and holding a photo album. Storyteller and actor both stand in front of the music stands with the printed scripts.

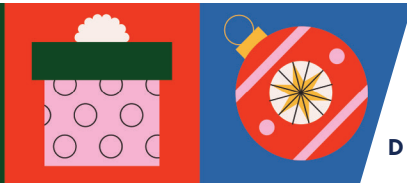
Actor and Storyteller: Read the lines from the printed script, but be sure to make as much eye contact with each other as possible.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

(to the actor) "Gaspar, welcome! We're so glad you could be here with us today, and we can't wait to hear your story! Can you tell us a little about yourself?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAS): "Sure! As you can see, I'm not from around here. I am a very wise man from a long, long time ago. As you probably know, God typically used prophets and angels to spread the word about Jesus. But I heard about Jesus when God placed a special star in the sky.

Actor puts his hand over his eyes and looks up into the distance.



"I actually have a picture of this star in the photo album I brought with me." (*Hold up the photo album.*)

STORYTELLER: "Wow—a photo album! (*Pause.*) Did you even have cameras back then?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "Don't think about it too hard. (*Pause.*) Here's the star we saw.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1 (STAR)

"It was pretty amazing!"

STORYTELLER: "That's so cool! So, I've always been told that we don't exactly know how you, the wise men, knew about the star. Some people think that maybe you knew about Daniel—as in Daniel and the lions' den—because he had served as an adviser in Babylon, hundreds of years before you were born.

"Some people wonder if you maybe had copies of ancient Hebrew scrolls, and that's how you knew there was a passage in the Scriptures about a star."

GASPAR: "Are you referring to Numbers 24:17?"

Actor opens the Bible to Numbers 24:17 (NIV) and reads.

A **star** will come from among the people of Jacob. A king will rise up out of Israel." (*emphasis added*)

STORYTELLER: "Yes, that one! Is that how you knew that a new star in the sky meant that a new king had been born for the Israelite people?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): (*straight-faced*) "I can't reveal that information."

STORYTELLER: "I see. Okay. Well . . . let's move on! What happened after that?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "After we saw the star in the distance, we just knew that we had to follow it and see this king who had been promised. So, we packed up special gifts and set out across the desert to see Him for ourselves. Here's a road trip pic!"

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (WISE MEN TRAVELING)

SNEAKY KING HEROD

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

STORYTELLER: "Okay, wow! So, when you arrived in Jerusalem, where did you go?"

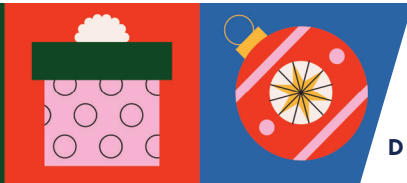
ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "We started asking around, looking for the child."

STORYTELLER: "Got it. But then, King Herod heard about that, right?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "Yep. He was not happy. I think I've got a picture of him here.

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3 (KING HEROD)

"When King Herod heard the news about a new king, he was upset. You see, Herod had been put in place by the Romans who were in charge."

STORYTELLER: "Right. I understand King Herod then called together the chief priests and teachers of the law, and he asked them where the Messiah would be born. They told him it would happen in the town of Bethlehem, because of what God had spoken long before through the prophet Micah."

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "You mean from Micah 5:2.

Actor opens the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NIRV) and read.

Bethlehem . . . you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel."

STORYTELLER: "That's it! That's why the priests and teachers believed that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

"So, Herod called for the wise men and asked them when the star had appeared. He told them to go and search carefully for the child and report back as soon as they found Him. King Herod said it was because he wanted to go worship the new king, too. But I don't really think that's what he wanted. Do you?"

(to the actor, referencing the screen) "I mean, you can just tell from this picture you took that he was up to something."

GIFTS FOR THE TRUE KING

STORYTELLER: "So then what happened?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "We left the palace and followed the star again. The star stopped over the place where Jesus was.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4 (THE HOUSE)

"We went into the house and saw Jesus with His mother, Mary."

STORYTELLER: "Wow! What a moment! What did you do when you saw Him?"

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "It was incredible. We bowed down and worshipped Him. We knew this was no ordinary child. This was God's Son, the true King. We gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5 (GIVING GIFTS)

STORYTELLER: "That's incredible!"

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

STORYTELLER: "Now, Gaspar, when it was time to leave, you didn't go home the same way as before, did you?"

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

ACTOR (AS GASPAR): "We did not. That night, God warned us in a dream NOT to return to King Herod. So we took a different way home."

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 6 (ROAD SIGN)

STORYTELLER: "Wow. Gaspar, thank you for being with us today. And thank you for bringing your photo album, too. (to audience) Let's give Gaspar a hand!"

AUDIO: "WE THREE KINGS" BY MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER (OPTIONAL)

Actor exits the stage.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

"It's pretty amazing how far the wise men came—all because of the star they saw in the sky. When they finally found Jesus, they celebrated Him! They gave their worship and their gifts to honor Him as king.

"We can follow their example by honoring Jesus. In fact, even though Christmas is over this year, we can KEEP celebrating Jesus all year long.

"That's what we need to remember.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

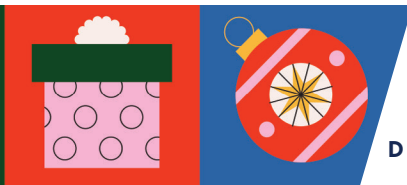
"Celebrate Jesus all year long.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You so much for loving us and sending Jesus for us. Help us remember that we can celebrate Jesus all year long! Show us how we can follow where You lead us, just like the wise men did. Give us wisdom to live Your way and show Your love everywhere we go. 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 God placed the star in the sky, the wise men saw it, and they knew something amazing was happening. They followed the star and found Jesus—God’s only Son, and our one true King!

“I love Christmas, and I love that it gives us a chance to celebrate Jesus together. But Jesus didn’t come just to make Christmas special. Jesus came to be our Savior. AND He came to show us how to live. He came to make every day better!

“So like the wise men did, we should take time to honor and celebrate Jesus. That’s something that doesn’t have to stop when Christmas is over. We can keep celebrating Jesus, whether it’s January, April, October, or whenever!

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Celebrate Jesus all year long.

“When Jesus came to the world, He changed everything.

“He brought HOPE . . . because He showed us that God is faithful and that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.**

“He brought PEACE, because through His life and what He did for us, we can see that God has a plan.

“Jesus brought JOY, because He showed that God’s LOVE is for everyone.

“When we remember who Jesus is and what He’s done for us, we can live with hope, peace, joy, and love every day! That’s a great way that we can **celebrate Jesus all year long.**

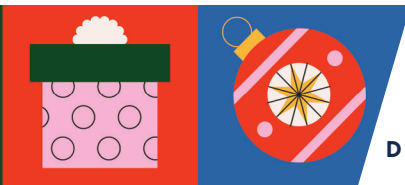
“You can head to Small Group and talk about that with your leader and your friends. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Paper chain from Week 1, with just the remaining ring(s) left (See Week 1 script for details.)
- Four stockings, numbered #1-4, that you've had on stage all month (Ideally, hang these on hooks so you can easily take them down and put them back up again.)
- Candy cane
- Four poster signs, numbered #1-4
- Tape or mounting putty

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat Christmas music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun instrumental Christmas music

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

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

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Virtue
- Virtue Transition to 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® or Amazon Music® and have it ready to play. If your church has a license agreement with a streaming service, please refer to the legal coverage of the license.
- 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.
- Put the candy cane in one of the four stockings.
- Hang the four numbered signs in the four corners of the room so they are easily visible.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Go Tell It" from *Go Tell It single*
- "What a Beautiful Name" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 6*

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Go Tell It" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "What a Beautiful Name" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- 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. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Adult male volunteer to play the wise man (see "What You Do")



GETTING READY

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

- Ornate, royal-looking robe and fake beard for the actor to wear
- Bible
- Photo album (can have any photos inside, since the photos for the story will be on screen)
- Two music stands
- Two printed scripts (on the stands)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "We Three Kings" by Mannheim Steamroller (optional)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Story Images

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download the slides 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® or Amazon Music® and have it ready to play. If your church has a license agreement with a streaming service, please refer to the legal coverage of the license.
- Recruit someone ahead of time to play the part of Gaspar, the wise man. This person does not need to memorize any lines in advance, because both he and the Storyteller can use printed scripts for reference. However, explain that the "interview" will be better if they can make eye contact as much as possible. Ideally, take time to rehearse with the Storyteller and actor.

VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling 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):

- In *StoryLab*, two inquisitive young Hosts invite kids to engage with the month's Virtue, setting up a simple and direct telling of the Bible story by a professional Storyteller.

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

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts and a Communicator 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
- Virtue and monthly widget promo videos (Melv and Greg)
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Virtue
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday