



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

LARGE GROUP

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

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your monthly files; and "Jesus Is," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Video for "Silent Night," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Jesus Is," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. God gave us Jesus because God loves us! **How do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "You've got it! Now stand up on your feet, and let's sing all about it!"

Lead children in singing "Silent Night," this month's worship song.

"God loves me. God loves you, too! And He showed us just how much He loves us when He gave us Jesus! The Bible teaches us that 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's say our memory verse together with the motions.

Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.

"Yes, God loves you and God loves me. And we celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas. Stand up and sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Is."

"What an awesome song. We can sing and dance and say, 'Thank You, God, for sending us Your only Son, Jesus!' One more time, **how do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"



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WORSHIP LEADER: "God loves us SO much that He gave us Jesus! That's why Christmas is such a big celebration! Thanks for worshipping with me today. **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart stickers; resealable plastic bags; gift box or bag; and train whistle, train costume, and fun Christmas sweater, headband, or necklace from previous weeks

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name]. I hope everyone had a merry Christmas. I had such a great time giving people gifts that I want to give more gifts.

"When I blow my train whistle (*hold up train whistle*), I want you to move your arms like this (*move arms like a train, bending at elbows and moving in a circle*) and say, 'Chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga (*pull hand down*) choo-choo!' Let's practice. Ready?"

Blow train whistle.

CHILDREN AND HOST: (*Move arms like a train.*) "Chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga (*pull hand down*) choo-choo!"

HOST: "Great job! Now each time we do that, I'll go to each small group to give you a small gift. Ready?"

Blow train whistle and move to first small group.

CHILDREN AND HOST: (*Move arms like a train.*) "Chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga (*pull hand down*) choo-choo!"

HOST: "Here you go, [small group's name]!"

Give a bag of heart stickers to the Small Group Leader.

"I see another small group that I need to visit."

Blow train whistle and move to next small group.

CHILDREN AND HOST: (*Move arms like a train.*) "Chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga (*pull hand down*) choo-choo!"

HOST: "Here you go, [small group's name]!"

Give a bag of heart stickers to the Small Group Leader. Repeat until each small group has a bag of stickers.

"Today, our Bible story is about some people who traveled a long, long way to give gifts to someone very special. I can't wait for you to hear it!"



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Storyteller enters as Host exits.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wise Men" Activity Page; cardstock; cardboard box; brightly colored butcher paper in a variety of colors, or paint and paintbrushes; construction paper; tinsel garland; scissors; packaging tape; utility knife; Bible; three wrapped gift boxes or gift bags; and items from previous weeks (*train whistle, train engineer costume, Christmas story train engine and "Mary and Angel," "Joseph and Mary on Donkey," "Baby Jesus," "Shepherd and Sheep," and "Birthday Cake" train cars*); *Optional Story Images* and cardstock

Preset the Christmas Story train in the storytelling area.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible, as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"And our Christmas train is going to help us learn one more part of the true story of Christmas! Are you ready a story? (*Listen for response.*) Fantastic! When I blow my whistle, I want everyone to say, 'ALL ABOARD!' Get ready!"

Blow train whistle.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "ALL ABOARD!"

STORYTELLER: "Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born. God loves us so much, **God gave us Jesus!**
Walk to the "Wise Men" train car.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 01)

"Now there were people called wise men who lived very far away. They were waiting for Jesus to be born because they knew Jesus was God's Son.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 02)

"After Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men the way to Jesus so that they could celebrate Him.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 03)

"The wise men knew they could follow the star to get to Jesus. It was a long journey, but they finally got there! The wise men were SO happy to see Jesus.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 04)

"As soon as they saw him, they gave Jesus gifts and worshipped Him.

Pull wrapped gifts from train car and place on top of flap.



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(Option: Display Story Image W5 05)

"They wanted to show how special Jesus is. And we know Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son! God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus!

"Wow! What an amazing story! Do you think we could start at the beginning and look at the whole Christmas story train? I think we can!

Walk to "Angel and Mary" train car.

"The true story of Christmas begins with Mary.

Point to Mary on the train car.

"God sent an angel (*point to angel*) to tell Mary she would have a baby and the baby would be named . . .?"

Pause for children to respond.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "JESUS!"

STORYTELLER: "And we know Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son!

Step to the "Joseph and Mary" train car.

"Later, Mary and Joseph (*point to Mary and Joseph*) went to a town called Bethlehem.

Step to the "Baby Jesus" train car.

"Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable where animals live because there were no rooms anywhere else. And that's where Baby Jesus was born—a stable!

Step to the "Shepherd and Sheep" train car.

"There were some shepherds out in a field taking care of their . . .?"

Point to the sheep.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "SHEEP!"

STORYTELLER: "God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The shepherds ran as fast as they could to find Baby Jesus!

"When the shepherds got to the stable, they saw Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus, just like the angels said they would. Step to the "Birthday Cake" train car and point to the birthday cake.

"Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday! Yay! Happy birthday, Jesus!

Step to the "Wise Men" train car.



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"Later, God sent a star to show some wise men where to find Jesus. When the wise men found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts.

"And that is the true story of Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate that **God gave us Jesus!** And now that you know the true story of Christmas, when someone asks, '**How do we know God loves us?**', you can say, '**God gave us Jesus!** **How do we know God loves us?**'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "One more time! How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Christmas is over, but knowing God loves us and gave us Jesus is something we can celebrate every day! **[Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for the true story of Christmas. Help us celebrate Jesus like the wise men did. We don't have to wait for Christmas to celebrate that You love us and gave us Jesus. We can do that every day! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Host enters.

HOST: "Wow! The wise men saw the star and made a long trip to take gifts to Jesus. God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus. I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"I hope your heart stickers remind you that God loves you. God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.