



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Christmas A-Z" Activity Page and pens or pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask the kids to pair-up.
- Give each pair a "Christmas A-Z" Activity Page and a pen

## 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, NIRV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

or pencil.

- Instruct the pairs to work together to write a word or phrase associated with Christmas for each letter of the alphabet. It can be a place, thing, song, emotion, or anything!
- Examples:
  - Angel
  - Ice skating or "I'll be Home for Christmas"
  - Ornament or "O Christmas Tree"
  - Quiet or quilt
  - Unwrap gift or under the tree
  - Vacation
  - Xtra special or Xtra ordinary
  - Yule or "You better watch out"
  - Z for Zzz

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Great job with your lists! We associate so many things with Christmas, don't we?  
[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out about a special gift for all of us that is associated with Christmas."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



## 3. PUT A BOW ON IT VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible marked at Isaiah 9:6, stick-on bows, markers, and piece of Christmas wrapping paper

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Isaiah 9:6.
- Read the verse out loud.
- Write each word of the verse on a separate bow and number each bow as you write the words to help pre-readers.
  - "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us." Isaiah 9:6, NIV
  - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given." Isaiah 9:6, NIV
- Place the piece of Christmas wrapping paper near the group.
- Scatter the bows on the opposite side of the Small Group area.
- Instruct the kids to form a line opposite the bows.
- One at a time, direct the kids to walk to grab a gift bow and bring it back to the group.
- Once all bows have been retrieved, help the kids work together to stick the bow onto the wrapping paper in order of the memory verse.
- Read the verse from the gift bows together.

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## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse reminds us that God had a plan to send a rescuer—Jesus! And hundreds of years later, Jesus was born just as God had promised. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift. We can put all our trust in God knowing that God is in control. **You can have peace because God has a plan.**"



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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal understanding  
and application



### 3. JESUS IS [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Isaiah 9:6 using the Bible navigation

tips below.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Our King of Peace

Gabriel Appears to Mary  
Luke 1:26-56

**Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "Isaiah" in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Isaiah, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Isaiah. Help the kids find the page. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 9. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 6 in chapter 9.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can have peace  
because God has a plan.

- Read the entire verse a few times together.
- Invite the kids to think of a word that describes them to put before their name.
  - For example, Happy Silas, Creative Brielle, etc.
- Share an adjective that you know applies to each kid if they get stuck.
- Ask the kids to take turns sharing what they thought about by saying an adjective that describes them and their name.
- Play multiple rounds so kids can share a few words that describe them.
- When done, read the entire verse a few times.
- Ask the kids to share the different adjectives from the verse that describe Jesus.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Isaiah 9:6a, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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God's greatest gift

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who did Isaiah say was coming? (*Invite responses.*) That's right, Jesus was coming. When Isaiah said that Jesus was coming, no one knew exactly who He was or how long it would be before He came to Earth. But Isaiah used words like Wonderful, Mighty, Everlasting, and Prince of Peace to describe Jesus so everyone knew He was going to be amazing and powerful.

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

"What does WONDERFUL mean? (*Invite responses.*) Wonderful means that Jesus is very, very good. Isaiah also said that Jesus is Mighty. What does mighty mean? (*Invite responses.*) Mighty means powerful and strong. This verse also says that Jesus is the Everlasting Father. What does everlasting mean? (*Invite responses.*) It means that He has no beginning and no end. Jesus will live forever! Isaiah also told God's people that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. What does that mean? (*Invite responses.*) It means that Jesus is the ruler of peace who brings peace to His people. Because Jesus is all of these adjectives, God's plan to send Jesus is worth celebrating! **You can have peace because God has a plan.**"



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## MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



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## 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Advent Ornament" Activity Page that kids started Week 1 (extras for kids not present in Week 1); and markers or colored pencils

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to form a circle.
- Set out the markers.
- Give kids their "Advent Ornament" Activity Page that they worked on the previous week.
- Give any kids who did not start an ornament on Week 1 a blank "Advent Ornament" Activity Page and encourage them to write their names on the back of the triangle.
- Draw the group's attention to the stocking.
- Invite the kids to recite the Bottom Line with you a few times, putting extra emphasis on "peace." **You can have peace because God has a plan.**
- Inform the group that they will color a different word on the ornament each week. They will have the opportunity to assemble the ornament and take it home later in the month.
- Discuss what "peace" means and instruct the kids to color the word "peace" and the section with the stocking as you talk.
  - For example—Peace can mean showing you care more about each other than winning an argument. To show peace, you can listen to understand and say things like, "I can see why you feel that way, and I care about our friendship more than being right." Or "Instead of arguing, let's find a solution that we both like." Peace can also be a calm feeling because we have a reason to trust that something will work out. God made peace with us by sending Jesus. We can have PEACE because God always has a plan—even when we're scared or sad or uncertain about something.
- When done, recite last week's Bottom Line. **You can have hope because God is faithful.**
- If time allows, encourage kids who did not start an ornament during Week 1 to color the word "Hope" on the Christmas tree.
- Collect the ornaments and store them for future weeks.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"The fact that God had a plan to rescue everyone and that the promise was fulfilled is worth far more than anything else you could ever do or that anyone else could ever do for you. We can trust that God's plan for our lives is perfect. **You can have peace because God has a plan.** That is something to be thankful for! Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that just like You had a perfect plan for Mary, You have a perfect plan for our lives. Help us remember that You

# DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK  
**TWO**  
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

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## (4. PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)

promise to make everything that is wrong and confusing right. We want to trust You with the plan You have for our lives and come to You with our concerns, worries, and disappointments so we can have peace in all our situations. Thank You that **[we] can have peace because God has a plan.** Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to take home one of the "Story Ornament" cards and use it to share today's story with adults.