

DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK
ONE

DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Why do you think it's important to have hope?
- What keeps us from having hope?
- Why is Jesus our best source of hope?
- How would you explain hope to someone?
- Aside from gifts, what are you hoping for this Christmas?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Goodness and Light

Jesus Is Promised

Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; 7:14-15

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can have hope
because God is faithful.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace."

Isaiah 9:6a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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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. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] **WHAT YOU NEED:** Whiteboards, dry-erase markers, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible, dry-erase marker, and a sheet of clear acetate.
- Together, look up Isaiah 9:6 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Isaiah. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's toward the middle of the Bible. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 9. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 6 in chapter 9.*

- Choose a kid to read the verse aloud to the group.
- Divide Isaiah 9:6 into as many sections as you have kids.
- For example, if you have seven kids, you might section the verse as follows (using NIV translation):
 - A child will be born to us.
 - A son will be given to us.
 - He will rule over us.
 - And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.
 - He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.
- You might section the verse as follows if you have seven kids (using the NIV translation):
 - For to us a child is born,
 - to us a son is given,
 - and the government will be on his shoulders.
 - And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 - Everlasting Father,
 - Prince of Peace.
- If you have more kids than words, pair kids up.
- Give each kid a dry erase marker and white board
- Instruct the kids to draw something that represents their assigned part of Isaiah 9:6.
 - Share that the kids can draw a picture, create an abstract design, word art, or whatever they feel best illustrates the meaning of the verse.
- When everyone is finished, invite the kids to share their drawings and explain the meaning.
- Say the verse together to help kids memorize it.

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(4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Ask:
 - Many of God's people would have been familiar with Isaiah 9:6. Based on this verse, what do you think they expected Jesus to be like?
 - In what ways is Jesus a Wonderful Adviser? (or Wonderful Counselor in the NIV)
 - Why can Jesus be called Mighty God and a Prince Who Brings Peace? (or a Prince of Peace in the NIV)
 - How do these descriptions of Jesus give you hope?
- Collect all of the acetate sheets (or sheet protectors).
- Stack the sheets one on top of the other (if using sheet protectors, remove the cardstock).
- Hold up the entire stack and let kids observe how the drawings layer together into a collage of images.
- Set the drawings aside for use in prayer time.

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, drawings on acetate sheets (or page protectors) from the “Verses to Take with You” activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Use the last four acetate sheets (or page protectors) the kids created in the Verses to Take with You activity to review the words from Isaiah 9:6 that describe God’s promised Savior. The four sheets are:
 - Wonderful Adviser (Wonderful Counselor in the NIV)
 - Mighty God
 - Father Who Lives Forever (Everlasting Father in the NIV)
 - Prince Who Brings Peace (Prince of Peace in the NIV)
- Place the four sheets in the center of the group.
- Pray together as a group by praising God for keeping all of God’s promises.
- As kids are willing, ask them to take turns choosing one of the descriptions of Jesus and praying aloud as the others pray silently.
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Goodness and Light

Jesus Is Promised
Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; 7:14-15

TODAY’S KEY QUESTION

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TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

You can have hope
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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Isaiah 9:6a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God’s greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Wonderful Adviser who gives us what we need to make wise choices. Thank You for the hope we have in our Mighty God because there is nothing too hard for You. Thank You for sending us the Prince Who Brings Peace who made a way for us to have a friendship with You. Thank You for always keeping Your promises and for the hope we have through the Father Who Lives Forever. We can find hope this Christmas season because You have shown us that You keep Your promises. Amen.”