

# DECK THE HALLS

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



WEEK  
**TWO**

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:**

- How would you define peace? What is the opposite of peace?
- What do you believe about God that can help you when you start to feel worried or anxious about something?
- What does it look like for a kid your age to have peace? How does it show up in things you say and do?

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Our King of Peace

Gabriel Appears to Mary  
Luke 1:26-56

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are your plans  
this Christmas?

## 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. 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 9:6, NIV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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## 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 15:13 using the Bible

Navigation Tips below.

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*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:* Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the verse together.
- Ask:
  - How would you describe "perfect peace"?
  - Based on this verse, where does peace come from and how do we get it?
  - What are some situations we face that can steal away our peace?
- Read the kids the Memory Verse - Isaiah 9:6 - and ask them which name Isaiah used to describe Jesus that contained the word PEACE. ("Prince Who Brings Peace" NIV or "Prince of Peace" NIV.)
- Why do you think Jesus is called the Prince Who Brings Peace?
- Why is Jesus the best source of peace?
- Read Romans 15:13 again.
- Work with the kids on memorizing the part of the verse that focuses on the peace we have when we trust Jesus.
  - NIV: "May you have perfect peace as you trust in him."
  - NIV: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."
- Challenge kids to use different voices to say the portion of the verse above, or use some of the suggestions below:
  - Sing it to the tune of Jingle Bells.
  - Imagine you're shivering in the cold.
  - Imitate an excited little kid on Christmas morning.
  - Speak with a mouthful of Christmas cookies.
  - Whisper it.
  - Use your squeakiest chipmunk voice.
- Lead the kids to turn to a friend and say, "May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him." Then, turn to another friend and say, "May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope."
  - Or for the NIV: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

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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:** "Gift Tag Prayer Prompt" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a tag from the "Gift Tag Prayer Prompt" Activity Page.
- Invite the group to focus a prayer around the two words on their gift tag.
- Encourage any volunteers to pray aloud.
- After a few moments, instruct the kids to exchange tags.
- Invite the kids to pray again based on the two new words on their gift tag.
- Repeat as time allows.
- Close your group time in prayer.

*NOTE: If you use the "Gift Tag Prayer Prompt" with "Salvation" on it, have a conversation with your group about what it means to follow Jesus. Be sensitive to where your group is at, and be sure to include their parents or caregivers in any decisions the kids would like to make about following Jesus.*

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. He came as a baby and was placed in a manger but would one day be the Savior of the world. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have peace in our heart and with You. As we get ready to celebrate Christmas with friends and family, help us to remember that You have a plan and Your plans are always for our good. Whether things go the way we want or not, help us trust You no matter what. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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