



WEEK
ONE
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give
the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news
of great joy that will be
for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Halo Launchers
Gazing at the Stars
The News

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Best Friend" and "Start the Party"

Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Memory Verse with Motions
Start the Party!
Find the Joy
Joyful News
Good News
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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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" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files; and "Start the Party," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Start the Party," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm SO excited to see you today! We've are having SO much fun celebrating the good news about Jesus! So let's keep the party going because **Jesus gives me joy.**"

"When I ask, '**Who gives you joy?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus gives me joy!**' **Who gives you joy?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus gives me joy.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, **Jesus gives me joy.** Stand up and sing with me.

Lead children in singing "Best Friend," this month's worship song.

"In the Bible, we read that an angel said, 'I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,' (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) The good news was that Jesus was born!"

"Let's learn our Memory Verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, and then you can do it with me!"

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

"Great job, friends! What GOOD news of great joy. Stand up on your feet and let's get this party started!"

Lead children in singing "Start the Party."

"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!"



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HOME

10 MINUTES

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: small table, plush dog, plush cat, plush sheep, and party hats for plush animals and Host

Preset a small table in the storytelling area.

Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host is wearing a party hat and carries the plush dog, cat, and sheep, which are wearing party hats too.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment or story time]! My name is [your name], and today I am having a Plush Party to celebrate my toy animal friends!

Place plush animals on table, and pick up the plush dog.

"This is Mr. Pups! Mr. Pups LOVES treats. (to Mr. Pups) Don't you, Mr. Pups? Yes, you do!

Pick up the plush cat and put the dog down.

"This is Super Kitty! Super Kitty likes to fly really, REALLY fast.

Fly the cat around while making a zooming sound.

"Zoom . . . zoom . . . zoom . . . zoom!

Pick up the plush lamb and put the cat down.

"And this is Ammy. I named him Ammy when I was a baby because I couldn't say, 'Lamby!'

Hug the lamb and lay it down.

"I love my plush animals so much! They're always ready to play a game . . . or cuddle when I read a book . . . or dance!

"Everybody, stand up and dance with me. Let's dance like a chicken!

Do a silly dance while flapping your arms like wings.

"Now let's dance like kangaroos!

Do a silly dance while hopping like a kangaroo.

"It's time for my favorite: worms! Let's dance like wiggly worms!

Do a silly dance while wiggling your whole body.

"Wow, you can have a seat now. Thanks for dancing with me and celebrating my animal friends. Now, [Storyteller's



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name] has a Bible Story about something we can all celebrate. And it starts with some shepherds and their sheep.

Hold up plush lamb.

"I'll be back after the story! Bye!"

Storyteller enters as Host exits with plush animals.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: small table (*from Intro*), party hat, party horn, and Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

The small table is still in the storytelling area.

Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible, a party hat, and a party horn.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]."

Place party hat and party horn on table.

"And I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible!"

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

"Today's true story begins on a starry night in a field a long time ago. There were shepherds in the field taking care of . . ."

AUDIO: *Play Sheep sound effect*

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"What is that?"

Put one hand behind an ear to listen and encourage children to respond.

AUDIO: *Play Sheep sound effect*

"Sheep! That's right! Shepherds take care of sheep! While the shepherds were taking care of their sheep, something amazing happened."

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

"All of a sudden, an angel appeared in the sky! The shepherds were so surprised!"

"Can you show me your surprised face?"

Make a surprised face.



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"Wow! You really look surprised!

"The angel spoke to the shepherds and said: 'I bring you good news that will give great joy to all people!' Good news? Great joy? All people? Wow! Let's celebrate!

Put on party hat.

"Then the angel said: 'Jesus, God's Son, has been born! And Jesus has come to be EVERYONE'S friend forever!'

"Wow! That is good news! Because that means Jesus wants to be MY friend forever and YOUR friend forever! That IS good news worth celebrating!

Blow your party horn.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

"Then the whole sky filled with angels celebrating! They praised God and said: 'Glory to God in the highest!' (Luke 2:14 ESV). Say that with me!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "'Glory to God in the highest!' 'Glory to God in the highest!'" (Luke 2:14 ESV).

STORYTELLER: "After the angels shared the good news, the shepherds had so much joy, they ran to see Jesus!"

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

"Stand up and run in place like the shepherds.

Run in place.

"Run, run, run! Run, run, run! Run, run, run!"

Stop running.

"Whew! You can sit back down now.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 05)

"When the shepherds saw baby Jesus lying in the manger, the shepherds knew they needed to share the joy that Jesus gave them with EVERYONE because Jesus came to give everyone joy!

"Jesus gave the shepherds joy, and Jesus can give you joy, too, because Jesus came to give the whole world joy!"

"THAT is the good news we are celebrating!"

Blow the party horn.

"Woo-hoo! **Jesus gives me joy!**"



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"Make a party horn with your hand and celebrate with me!

Blow the party horn.

"Yay! **Jesus gives me joy! Who gives you joy?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus gives me joy!"

STORYTELLER: "Who gives you joy?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus gives me joy!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! Jesus gives me joy!"

[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 sending Jesus to give the world joy. Help us tell everyone the good news about Jesus, like the shepherds did, so they can have joy too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

"I have a feeling today is going to be a JOY-FULL day! See you next time! Bye!"

Host, wearing a party hat, enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible and props.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Party hat (*from Intro*)

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! The angels brought the good news about Jesus to the shepherds. Jesus gave them joy so the shepherds ran to share that joy!

"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!"

"Jesus gives me joy, just like He gave the shepherds joy! So now I can share the good news with others so they can have joy too!"

[Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.