

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUg>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray for the kids on your roster by name, one by one. Ask that they may connect with the Gospel about the Christmas story in a way that is meaningful to them.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, dry-erase board, and dry-erase marker (or index cards and a marker)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show the kids how excited you are that they came to church by greeting each kid by name.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Play a game of Reverse Charades.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Let each team select a "guesser" to go first. The guesser should stand facing their team.
- Stand behind the guessers, facing the rest of the kids (the guessers should not be able to see you).
- Write something Christmas-themed on the dry-erase board (or index card). Here are a few examples:
 - Christmas tree
 - A Christmas song title
 - Someone from the story of Jesus' birth
 - A holiday dessert
- Show the teams what you wrote, making sure the guessers can't see.
- When you say "GO," the teams should silently act out what you wrote on the dry erase board (or index card).
- Award the first correct guesser a point for their team.
- Continue playing as time allows and be sure everyone gets an opportunity to be a guesser.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Play snowballs and/or snowball-like items such as crumbled paper wads, white ping pong balls, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to take turns tossing one of the snowball items in the air.
- Encourage them to see how many times they can clap before catching it.
- If you have multiple snowball-like items (play snowballs, cotton balls, paper wads, etc.) let kids try a variety of options.
- Ask the kids to determine which object lets them clap the most times before catching.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! That was cool to watch—did you clap more after some practice? When we clap, we are normally celebrating something. Sometimes we celebrate a person or an event by clapping. It shows we're excited or appreciative! **[Transition] Today we'll hear about an important moment in God's Story, something that should make us all want to clap and celebrate!**

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "JOY Ornament" Activity Page, markers, glue sticks, scissors, pens, yarn

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids if they know the words to the song, "Joy to the World."
- Sing or say the following verse together.
*"Joy to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room.
And heaven and nature sing."*
- Ask:
 - How can choosing Jesus give you the gift of joy?
 - What makes you most joyful when you think of Jesus? **[Make it Personal]** *Share your answer to this question. Consider sharing the joy you have that celebrates how Jesus came to rescue us and make a way for us to be close to God.*
- Set out scissors, prepared yarn, glue, markers, and pens.
- Give each kid a copy of the "JOY Ornament" Activity Page.
- Invite kids to write or draw something on each circle that they can celebrate about Jesus.
 - Encourage creativity, but if needed, you can suggest simple ideas such as a heart, a cross, a manger, etc.
- Guide kids through the steps at the bottom of the Activity Page to create a 3-sided ornament.
- Have each kid write their name on their ornament using a pen.
- After the ornaments are complete, allow a few minutes for kids to show one another their ornaments and share what they wrote.
- Encourage kids to take their ornaments home to celebrate Jesus who came to bring joy to the world!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Luke 2:1-7, Hula-Hoop or ring, prepared gift bag, "Hula-Hoop Review" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a wide circle.
- Set the gift bag containing the cards from the "Hula-Hoop Review" Activity Page in the center of the circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns carefully rolling the Hula-Hoop so that it stops and drops over the bag.
 - If the Hula-Hoop misses the mark, the kid next to them takes a turn, and so on.
 - Whenever the Hula-Hoop successfully lands around the bag, invite the kid who rolled it to remove one of the cards from the bag and read it aloud.
- Discuss the question and answer as a group. As you play, adjust the size of the circle if needed.
 - Move in closer if kids are not successfully getting the hoop around the bag or widen the circle (if space allows) for a challenge!
- Use the Bible to refer to Luke 2:1-7 if kids are not sure of an answer.
- Play until all the cards in the gift bag have been read and discussed.
- Remind kids that sometimes life feels a bit like the Hula-Hoop in this review game. Things don't always go the way we think it will or the way we hoped it would.
- Encourage kids that like the fun we had in this game, regardless of what happens, we can have joy and find a reason to celebrate the best part of Christmas—Jesus.
- Close by challenging kids to keep their focus on Jesus this week even if something doesn't go as they hoped it would.
- Invite kids to share how they can still find joy even if there are disappointments or changed plans or if they don't get the things they want.
- Share with the kids one thing that will be true no matter what: God gave us Jesus so we could have the kind of joy that is bigger than what's under the Christmas tree. Jesus is the real reason to celebrate and have joy!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2024

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 do you think Mary and Joseph found joy despite their unusual circumstances?
- Can you think of a time when you felt joy even though things didn't go as you expected?
- How is joy different from happiness?
- What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY
 an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Form teams of two or four kids and have them spread out in your group space.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
 Jesus Is Born
 Luke 2:1-7

- Give each team a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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.*

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

- Direct the teams to practice saying it together.
- Ask
 - Philippians 4:4 says to rejoice always or be joyful always. Does always mean *always*? Even when everything is going wrong? Explain.
 - If you're sad or discouraged at Christmas time, what can you do to help turn those feelings into the kind talked about in Philippians 4:4?
 - We celebrate God's son at Christmas! Imagine what it would be like if God hadn't sent Jesus. Name at least three things that would be different for us without Jesus.
- Ask each team to name a familiar Christmas song that is known by everyone on their team.
- Challenge teams to replace the words of the song they chose with the words of Philippians 4:4 while keeping the same melody of the original song.
- Repeat the verse again together and give them a few minutes to come up with their song.
- Once the song is complete, ask them to give it a title.
- Bring everyone together and let teams sing their newly created songs to the group.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
 Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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: Paper and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Using a marker, write the word "JOY" in large letters on a piece of paper.
- Pass the paper and a marker around.
- Encourage each kid to draw a smiley face on it and pass it to the next person.
- As they take turns, ask kids to share something that gives them joy this Christmas. What are they looking forward to and thankful for as Christmas approaches?
- Close in prayer (or invite a few kids to pray), thanking God for Jesus and the gift of joy.
 - Be sure to name some of the things kids mentioned from the question above in your prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Born to Save
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does Christmas mean to you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Small dry-erase board, one for every Small Group
 - *Optional: Index cards (several) and a marker (one) for each Small Group*
- Dry-erase marker, one for every Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Play snowballs and/or snowball-like items such as crumbled paper wads, white ping pong balls, rolled white socks, etc., one for each kid

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Joy Ornament" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Glue sticks, enough for the Small Group to share
- Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- Pens, enough for the Small Group to share
- Scissors, one pair for every kid
- 12-inch pieces of yarn, one for every kid

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Luke 2:1-7, one for every Small Group
- Hula-Hoop, one for every Small Group
- Gift bag, one for every Small Group
- Print "Hula-Hoop Review" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Before group time: Place a set of the cards inside the gift bag.

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for every two to four kids

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- Plain paper, one sheet for every Small Group

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**