

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Send Me an Angel

An Angel Appears to  
Mary and Joseph  
Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What helps you remember  
that God is with you?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God is with you.

### 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, take some time to pray for your students by name, especially those you know who are going through difficult life circumstances. Pray that they would find the peace, hope, and joy that are offered to us through Jesus and that they would connect with the story today.*

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**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

**What helps you remember that God is with you?**

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Celebrate because God is with you.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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Matthew 1:21, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift**

**BASIC TRUTH**

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

**1. JUST FOR FUN**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, prepared ribbon

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage the kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- When enough kids have arrived, invite them to form a circle.
- Give each kid a prepared ribbon and instruct them to hold it in their right hand.
- Have the kids hold the ribbon of the person next to them using their left hand.
- Tell the group their challenge is to turn the circle inside out without letting go of the ribbons.
  - At the end, everyone should be facing the outside of the circle.
- Let the kids try for as long as time allows.
- *Note: If the kids don't complete the challenge before time is up, join the circle and model how to do it.*
  - Have two people raise their hands as the rest of the group walks under.

Activity example: <https://bit.ly/4712CF9>



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO CONNECT**

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



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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**2. OPENING ACTIVITY**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper, markers, "Picture It" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather the kids together in your group space and set out paper and markers.
- Invite a kid to the front of your space and give them a card from the "Picture It" Activity Page.
- Instruct them to keep their card a secret for now.
- Explain to the group that the kid with the card will guide them to draw an image by sharing steps but not the name of what they are to draw.
- Explain the following as an example:
  - If the image on the card was a flower, the kid could give the following instructions:
    - Draw one large circle.
    - Add 5 smaller circles around the edges of the first circle.
    - Draw a long line at the bottom of the large circle.
    - Add 2 oval shapes connected to the line.
- Point out that in the example, words directly related to the picture such as petals, leaves, flowers, or a stem were not used.
- Encourage the rest of the group not to share their guess until all directions have been given and everyone is done drawing.
- Invite kids to take turns choosing a card and giving drawing directions as the rest of the group follows along.
- Assist kids as needed with sharing clues about their pictures.
- Have the kid reveal the picture on the card to the group.
- Let the group display their drawings and determine whose drawing resembles closest to the image described.
- Repeat as interest and time allow or until all cards are complete.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"When someone describes something but you can't see it, can you know for sure what it is? You all did a great job drawing the images your friends were describing. All the images in our game were things you've seen before. Some of you could picture them in your mind before the instructions were complete! Can you imagine trying to picture something you've never seen before? **[Transition]** In today's Bible story, someone was given a description of something that had never happened before or been seen by anyone—EVER! Let's go to Large Group and find out what it was."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



# CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



WEEK  
**TWO**  
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



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Inflated balloon, duct tape, permanent marker, scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Remind kids that when we choose to follow Jesus, we can have a relationship with God. God is with us no matter what!
- Invite kids to think of specific times it's helpful to remember that God never leaves us.
- If kids need a prompt to get the discussion started ask:
  - When have you felt sad, hurt, or disappointed?
  - When have you tried something new, gone to a new place, or had to make new friends?
  - When have you been sick?
  - When have you been embarrassed?
  - When have you needed to apologize for something you said or did?
- As kids share, pass the balloon and permanent marker to them.
- Instruct the kids to use the permanent marker to write a few words on the balloon that describe the example they mentioned.
- **[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate example from your own experience such as being bullied or facing a challenge that made you feel uneasy. How did it encourage you to remember that God was with you? What do you do to remember that he's always there? Be sure to add some words to the balloon too!**
- Ask:
  - How does knowing God is with you change the way you think about a difficult situation you're in?
  - How does it make you stronger?
- After the discussion, use scissors to cut each kid a piece of duct tape (about 4-6 inches long).
- Invite the kids to take turns carefully attaching their piece of tape to the balloon.
- Then, have them use the permanent marker to write, "With (their name)" on their piece of tape.
- Once everyone has finished, invite kids to observe the covered balloon.
- Remind kids that we might still feel the impact of a bad thing that happens even when we know God is with us, but it doesn't have to steal our peace. We can remember that God is always with us, and knowing that can give us true peace no matter what.

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## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

## BASIC TRUTH

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25 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Recap Cards" Activity Page, tape or similar

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Designate two start and finish points for both teams using tape or similar.
- Place a set of cards from the "Recap Cards" Activity Page at both finish points facing down.
- Have each team pick a kid to go first.
- Explain that the first kid will run to the finish point, grab a card, and run back.
- Give the teams a few moments to discuss the card together.
- Determine which team returned first and have them share something about today's Bible Story based on the card they picked up.
- Allow the other team an opportunity to share an answer based on their card afterward.
- Continue until everyone gets a turn or all cards have been answered.
- Ask:
  - What does the name Immanuel mean?
  - Can you share a situation where knowing God is with you could change how you respond?
  - How can knowing God is with you give you peace?
- Remind kids that when we choose to follow Jesus, we can trust that God will never leave us. We can have peace because God is always with us, no matter what's happening around us.
- Close by giving kids an opportunity to think about how they would finish the following sentence:
  - I can remember that God is with me this week when \_\_\_\_\_.
- Invite those who are willing to share their answers.

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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:

- What helps you remember that God is with you?
- What has God done to make it possible for our relationship to be restored?
- Is there anything that keeps you from remembering that God is with you?

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## MADE TO CREATE

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



## 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, sheet protector, and dry-erase markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Isaiah 9:6, following 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, Isaiah, is in the Old Testament or New Testament. Since 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 Isaiah. Once the kids find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for, 9. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find verse 6 within chapter 9.*

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- Call on a kid to read the verse aloud to the group as everyone follows along.
- Inform kids that Isaiah 9:6 was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.
- Repeat the verse as a group.
- Ask:
  - After hearing this verse, what do you think the people in the Old Testament expected Jesus to be like?
  - How does Jesus show us that He is with us as a:
    - *Wonderful Adviser (or Counselor)*
    - *Mighty God*
    - *Father Who Lives Forever (or Everlasting Father)*
    - *Prince Who Brings Peace (or Prince of Peace)*
  - How does believing that Jesus is all these things give us peace when we're worried?
- Give each kid a dry-erase marker and a sheet protector.
- Assign each kid one of the names that describe Jesus in the last half of the verse.
  - It's okay to assign some kids the same name.
- Challenge each kid to illustrate their part of the verse with a picture, words, or a design that reminds them of that name.
- When everyone is finished, give kids the opportunity to display their drawings and share why they chose to draw what they did.
- Collect all the drawings and stack them on top of each other.
- Hold up the stack so everyone can see the drawings layered together.
- Point out that when we trust that God is with us, we can see all the different ways God shows up for us.
- If kids would like to take their drawings home, invite them to do so. Otherwise, the sheets can be wiped clean.

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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.
- Hand each kid a marker.
- Use a marker to write "Immanuel" in big letters on a piece of paper.
- Remind kids that the name Immanuel means "God with us."
- Pass the paper around and invite kids to take turns writing their names as close as they can to the word "Immanuel."
- Let the kids know they can write anywhere near the name.
  - For example, alongside a letter, on top of the name, around it, etc.
- Encourage a kid who is willing to pray aloud to thank God for being near to us and with us no matter what.
- Close your group in prayer.

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## 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
- Ribbon, one roll for each Small Group
  - Before group time: Cut a 12-inch piece of ribbon for each kid

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**Made to Connect:** an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper, a few sheets for each kid
- Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Print "Picture It" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

### 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 Explore:** an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Duct Tape, one roll for every Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for every Small Group
- Balloon (inflated), one for each Small Group (and one additional for backup)
- Scissors, one pair for every Small Group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Tape or similar
- Print "Recap Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group

#### 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
- Dry-erase marker, one for every kid
- Sheet protector, one for every kid

#### 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:**

- Paper, one sheet for each Small Group
- Markers

### 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.**