

WEEK

ONE

Large Group (Rug)

Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Love Here, There, Everywhere
2. Craft Stick Puzzles
3. You've Got Mail

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Ring the Bell
3. Color by Shape
4. God Gave Us Jesus
5. Angel Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and ParentCue.org



Today's Bible Story

The Angel and Mary Luke 1:26-33,38

An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. John 3:16 GNT



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

① Worship

LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is *[your name]*, and I am so happy to see you today.

"Did you know that God made every single person in this room? He did! And God loves you, and *[Basic Truth]* God loves me. God loves all of us! And God has given us so many good things ... like beautiful sunshine! Can you make a sun?

→ **Hold arms in a circle overhead.**

"Look at all those beautiful suns! Let's tell God thank you for the sun. Ready?

→ **Do the ASL sign for "Thank you": Move flat hand forward from chin.**

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

LEADER: "What else has God given us ... can you think of any food that God has given us? (*Listen.*) Like yummy blueberries or big red apples? Let's pretend to take a bite out of an apple.

→ **Pretend to take a bite out of an apple.**

"Mmmm, so yummy! Let's tell God thank you for the food He gives us. Ready?

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

LEADER: "God is SO good, He even gave us His Son Jesus! Let's tell God thank you for giving us Jesus. Ready?

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Thank you, God!"

LEADER: "Now let's stand up and celebrate our God and how He gave us Jesus.

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

→ **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world so much (*cross arms over chest*) that he gave his only Son," (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Can you do that with me?"

→ **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song about the night Jesus was born.

→ **Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."**

"Thanks for celebrating God with me! [*Transition*] And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

② Bible Story

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [*your name*], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible. It is in the book of Luke.

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

"The true story of Christmas begins with God's love for us.

SLIDE → Story Image W1 01

"Do you know that God loves you? He does! Give yourself a big hug!

→ **Hug yourself.**

"God loved you even before you were born! And because God loves you and God loves me SO much, God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever!

SLIDE → Story Image W1 02

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"It all started a long time ago when God sent a special message to a young woman named Mary.

"Now, how do you think God sent this special message to Mary? Do you think God sent the special message with a letter in the mail?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No. Do you think God sent the special message with a video call?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No! God sent the message in an even more amazing way. God sent an angel!

SLIDE → Story Image W1 03

"Whoa! Look at Mary's face. How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel? Mary was afraid.

"Everyone, show me your afraid face.

→ **Make an afraid face.**

"Yes, Mary was afraid!

"But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary." (*Luke 1:30 NIV*)

"Can you say that with me?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Do not be afraid, Mary."

LEADER: "The angel had a very special message to tell Mary, and it was GREAT news!

SLIDE → Story Image W1 04

"The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. The angel said: "The baby will be God's Son, and you will call him Jesus."

"That was great news!

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"God loves us so much He gave us His Son Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* "God gave us Jesus!"

LEADER: "Yes, *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus, and that is what we celebrate at Christmas. *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus."

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

Transition → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

③ Prayer

LEADER: "Dear God, thank you for giving us Your Son, Jesus. Help us to celebrate Jesus every day. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!" Lead small group to the first activity.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship and the Bible Story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (*or area*) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible Story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"
- ☐ "It's a Holy Night"

Optional Videos

Available through

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- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"
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What You Do:

1. Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
2. Visit Store.ThinkOrange.com for Music Scope and Cycle purchases.
→ store.thinkorange.com/collections/music-first-look-scope-cycle-2025-2026
3. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

Suggestions

1. A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks.
2. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

APlay

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What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Option: Cardstock

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Story Image W1 01
- ☐ Story Image W1 02
- ☐ Story Image W1 03
- ☐ Story Image W1 04

What You Do:

1. Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

Suggestions

1. Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advance preparation is necessary.

Supplemental Resources**WONDER! LOOK AT GOD'S STORY**

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First Look Pinterest Page

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bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes

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Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Hunt for the Gift
2. Mary and Joseph Travel
3. Where Do You Sleep?

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. The Gift of Verse
2. What's Missing?
3. Manger Builders
4. Pass the Gift
5. Best Gift Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus is Born Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the best gift.

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. John 3:16 GNT



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

① Worship

LEADER: "Hi, friends! I am SO happy to see you today! My name is *[your name]*, and I have a question for you.

"If you could give someone a really great gift, what would it be? *(Pause.)* Would you give someone a really fun toy car? Everybody, say: *(pretend to tap a car horn)* 'Beep-beep! *(pretend to turn a steering wheel)* Vroooooom!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: *(pretend to tap a car horn)* "Beep-beep! *(pretend to turn a steering wheel)* Vroooooom!"

LEADER: "Or what about a puppy—woof, woof! Or a cat—meow! Can you bark or meow with me?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Woof-woof! Meow! Woof-woof! Meow!"

LEADER: "Those would be really great gifts, but I know someone who has already given you the best gift ever. *(Point up.)* God gave you Jesus. And we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas. So, let's stand up and celebrate Jesus!

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. *(Open hands like a book.)* Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

→ **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* loved the world so much *(cross arms over chest)* that he gave his only Son," *(rock arms like a baby)* John 3:16. *(Open hands like a book.)*

"Can you do that with me?"

→ **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

→ **Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."**

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (**spin around**) ... sit down (**sit down**) ... shake the wiggles out (**wiggle hands**) ... so we can hear (**cup hands behind ears**) what the story's all about!"

② Bible Story

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm **[your name]**, and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

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

"Today's true story from the Bible is found in the book of Luke, and it begins with Mary and Joseph.

SLIDE → Story Image W2 01

"Mary and Joseph loved God. They were part of God's people. One day, Mary and Joseph had to go to a town called Bethlehem, but they had to travel a LONG way to get there. And Mary was going to have a baby!

SLIDE → Story Image W2 02

"Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem. Or maybe Mary rode on an animal—like a donkey!

"Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. A manger is a box that animals eat out of. So, that means Mary and Joseph stayed in a place that might have had some animals.

SLIDE → Story Image W2 03

"Look at this picture. Do you see any animals?

→ **Point to the chicken in the Story Image.**

"I see a chicken. Can you cluck like a chicken?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Cluck, cluck, cluck. Cluck, cluck, cluck."

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

LEADER: "Do you see a donkey?"

→ **Point to the donkey in the Story Image.**

"There it is. Can you hee-haw like a donkey?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw."

LEADER: "I also see a sheep."

→ **Point to the sheep in the Story Image.**

"Can you baa like a sheep?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Baa. Baa. Baa."

LEADER: "Wow! You are so good at making animal sounds."

"Mary and Joseph didn't stay some place fancy, but that didn't matter. God gave us something very special there. A very special baby was born there, and that baby was God's Son, Jesus!"

"Jesus was born! Everyone, say 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!'"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

LEADER: "Let's pretend we're holding baby Jesus."

→ **Rock arms like you're holding a baby.**

"The Bible teaches us that:

"Mary took baby Jesus in her arms, wrapped Him in strips of cloth, and laid Him in a manger. (**Luke 2:7**)

"Wow! Jesus is the best gift ever because He shows us how much God loves us. God loves us SO much that [**Bottom Line**] God gave us Jesus. Tell me: How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: [**Bottom Line**] "God gave us Jesus!"

LEADER: "Yes, [**Bottom Line**] God gave us Jesus.

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

Transition → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

③ Prayer

LEADER: "Dear God, you gave us the best gift ever. You gave us Jesus! Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Your Son. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!" Lead small group to the first activity.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

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PLANNING

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- ☐ Story Image W2 02
- ☐ Story Image W2 03

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WEEK

THREE

Large Group (Rug)

Leader Guide

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Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Fun Run
2. Herding Sheep
3. Build What You Feel

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Verse RevEWE
2. Story Puzzles
3. In The Story
4. Shepherds in Action
5. Circle Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)



Today's Bible Story

The Shepherds Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds run to Jesus.

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.
John 3:16 GNT**



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

① Worship

LEADER: "Merry Christmas, friends! My name is *[your name]*, and I am so happy you are here today!

"Today, we are celebrating Jesus. God loves us SO much that *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus! God loves you ... and *[Basic Truth]* God loves me.

"Wait ... who else does God love? Does God love the firefighters who keep us safe? (*Listen.*) Yes! God loves everyone.

"Let's run in place and pretend to tell our firefighters that God loves them. Ready? (*Hold up your fingers as you count.*) One ... two ... three ... Run with me!

→ **Lead children to run in place for a few seconds and then stop.**

"Okay, we made it to the fire station. Let's tell them God loves you. Ready? (*Hold up your fingers as you count.*) One ... two ... three!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "God loves you!"

LEADER: "Great job! What about the doctors and nurses who make us feel all better? Does God love doctors and nurses? (*Listen*) Yes! God loves everyone.

"Let's run in place and pretend to tell our doctors and nurses that God loves them. Ready? (*Hold up your fingers as you count.*) One ... two ... three ... Run with me!

→ **Lead children to run in place for a few seconds and then stop.**

"Okay, we made it to the hospital. Let's tell them God loves you. Ready? (*Hold up your fingers as you count.*) One ... two ... three!

CHILDREN and LEADER: "God loves you!"

LEADER: "Yes, God loves you, and *[Basic Truth]* God loves me— God loves everyone! And God gave us Jesus to show us how much He loves us. So, let's sing and celebrate together!

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

→ **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world so much (*cross arms over chest*) that he gave his only Son," (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Can you do that with me?

→ **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

→ **Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."**

"Thanks for celebrating God with me! Merry Christmas!

[Transition] "And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

② Bible Story

LEADER: "I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

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

"Today's true story is found in the book of Luke, and it begins with shepherds.

"Do you know what shepherds take care of? (*Listen.*) Shepherds take care of sheep. But not just one sheep! Shepherds take care of a lot of sheep.

"Let's pretend we are sheep. Everyone, say, "Baa!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Baa! Baa! Baa!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

LEADER: "Good baa-ing! Now, I need you to listen carefully, because I've got something special to tell you.

SLIDE → Story Image W3 01

"One night, there were some shepherds watching their sheep. They were in the fields outside the town of Bethlehem. **(With quiet excitement, like you are telling a secret.)** The shepherds didn't know it yet, but God's Son, Jesus, was born!

"God wanted EVERYONE to know about it. So, God sent a very special messenger to the shepherds. God sent an angel!

SLIDE → Story Image W3 02

"The shepherds were so surprised ... and afraid! Can you make an afraid face?

→ **Make an afraid face.**

"Yes, the shepherds were afraid!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people." **(Luke 2:10 NIV)**

"The angel told them that Jesus had been born and that the shepherds would find Him in a manger.

SLIDE → Story Image W3 03

"Then, even more angels appeared. The angels praised God and said:

"Glory to God in the highest!" **(Luke 2:14 NIV)**

"Let's say that together. Ready?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Glory to God in the highest!"

LEADER: "Louder!"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

LEADER: "Great job! The angels praised God because Jesus was born. **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus!

"After the angels left, the shepherds were so excited that they ran to find baby Jesus.

"Let's pretend to be the shepherds and run in place to find baby Jesus. **(Hold up your fingers as you count.)** One ... two ... three ... stand up and run in place!

→ **Lead children to run in place.**

"Whew! It's time to sit. **(Hold up your fingers as you count.)** One ... two ... three ... sit down with me! Let's see what happens next.

SLIDE → Story Image W3 04

"The shepherds ran to find baby Jesus, and just like the angel said, the shepherds found baby Jesus in a manger. They were so happy the shepherds told EVERYONE that Jesus, God's Son, was born!

"Everyone who heard the good news about Jesus was amazed, and the shepherds praised God.

"Friends, God loves you and **[Basic Truth]** God loves me so much that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: **[Bottom Line]** "God gave us Jesus!"

LEADER: "Yes, **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

Transition → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

③ Prayer

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus. We know You love us because You gave us Your Son. Help us tell everyone about Jesus, just like the shepherds, so they will know that You love them too. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!" Lead small group to the first activity.

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PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship and the Bible Story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (*or area*) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible Story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Option: Cardstock

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Story Image W3 01
- ☐ Story Image W3 02
- ☐ Story Image W3 03
- ☐ Story Image W3 04

What You Do:

1. Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

Suggestions

1. Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advance preparation is necessary.

Supplemental Resources**WONDER! LOOK AT GOD'S STORY**

First Look offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God's story. Available in your media files and APlay.

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://www.thinkorange.com)

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes

WEEK

FOUR

Large Group (Rug)

Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Race the Shapes
2. Follow
3. Star Path

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. God Loved the World
2. Sparkly Star
3. Shine the Story
4. Wise Men Walk
5. Story Star Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and ParentCue.org



Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

The wise men follow a star to Jesus.

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.

John 3:16 GNT



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

① Worship

LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is *[your name]*, and I am SO happy to see you today! Tell me: how did you get here today?"

"Did you walk here? Stand up and walk in place with me.

→ **Walk in place.**

"Maybe you rode a horse here. Can you gallop like a horse?"

→ **Gallop like a horse in a tight circle.**

"Or maybe you drove a car here. Everybody, say: (*pretend to tap a car horn*) 'Beep! Beep!'"

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pretend to tap a car horn.*) "Beep! Beep!"

LEADER: "It doesn't matter if you walked, rode a horse, or drove a car—I am just SO happy to see you! Last week, we celebrated Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday, but we can celebrate Jesus every day. So, sing this song with me!

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

→ **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world so much (*cross arms over chest*) that he gave his only Son," (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Can you do that with me?"

→ **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

→ Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (**spin around**) ... sit down (**sit down**) ... shake the wiggles out (**wiggle hands**) ... so we can hear (**cup hands behind ears**) what the story's all about!"

② Bible Story

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm **[your name]**, and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

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

SLIDE: Story Image W4 01

"Today's Bible story is found in the book of Matthew, and it begins with wise men.

SLIDE: Story Image W4 01

"The wise men believed God's words, and they knew that God was giving us someone very special. They knew God was giving us Jesus!

SLIDE: Story Image W4 02

"God put a special star in the sky. Can you twinkle your fingers like a shiny star in the sky?

→ Hold your hand high above your head and wiggle your fingers.

"Let's sing 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' together.

(Singing)

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,

"We will follow you so far!

"God put you in the sky so bright,

"Lead us to Jesus with your light.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,

"We will follow you so far!

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"Oh, thank you for singing with me. You can put your hands down now.

"When God put the special star in the sky, the wise men KNEW they should follow it. They knew that if the star went this way ...

→ **Hold your hand above your head like a star again.**
Move your hand far over to one side.

"Well, then they needed to go this way.

→ **Lean your whole body to the same side.**

"And, if the star went that way ...

→ **Move your hand far over to the other side.**

"Then they needed to go that way!

→ **Lean your whole body to the other side. Then straighten up.**

"So, the wise men followed the star a long, long way ... until it stopped over a house.

"The Bible teaches us that:

The wise men were thrilled and excited to see the star. (*Matthew 2:10 CEV*)

SLIDE: Story Image W4 03

"The wise men went in the house, and they found a child ... and His mother, Mary. The child was Jesus! God's special star led the wise men to Jesus!

"When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped Jesus.

SLIDE: Story Image W4 04

"Then they gave Jesus very special gifts because they knew Jesus is special. They knew that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.

10 MINUTES

Worship

10 MINUTES

Bible Study Prayer

"The wise men followed a star to Jesus, and when they saw Him, they worshiped Him. And now we can worship Jesus too! Because God loves us so much **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: **[Bottom Line]** "God gave us Jesus!"

LEADER: "Yes, **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

Transition → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

③ Prayer

LEADER: "Dear God, you are amazing! You gave the wise men a special star to follow so they could find Jesus and celebrate Him. Help us to celebrate Jesus too. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Transition → "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!" Lead small group to the first activity.

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Getting Ready: Worship

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What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"
- ☐ "It's a Holy Night"

Optional Videos

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"
Dance Moves Music Video
- ☐ "It's a Holy Night"
Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

1. Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
2. Visit Store.ThinkOrange.com for Music Scope and Cycle purchases.
→ store.thinkorange.com/collections/music-first-look-scope-cycle-2025-2026
3. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

Suggestions

1. A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks.
2. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

APlay

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