

WEEK

ONE

Small Group 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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

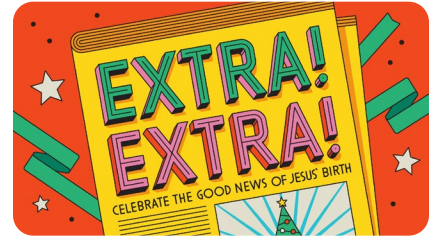
1. Application Activity: Drawing a Plan
2. Memory Verse Activity: Verse in Motion
3. Application Activity: Share the Good News!
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. joinamazing.com/everychild

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Prepared "Newsfeed" posterboard
- ☐ "News Headline Cards" Activity Pages

Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, place the cards and posterboard on a table and let the kids look at them from a seated position.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus, our Messiah! Ask God to fill the room with excitement as you get ready to share the good news about Jesus. Pray that every child would hear, believe, and celebrate that Jesus came for them, no matter who they are or where they're from. Invite the Holy Spirit to help kids understand that Jesus is the best news ever!

1. Before the kids arrive, hide the "News Headline Cards" around the room.
→ **NOTE:** Tape them on the walls or scatter them around the floor.
2. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
3. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
4. Explain the game:
→ "Today we're going on a News Hunt! Do you know what a headline is? It's like the title of a book or a story. It's meant to give you a clue to what the news or story is about. These news headlines are clues that will help us discover the BEST news ever. When you find one, bring it to me so we can add it to our 'newsfeed' board. These news headlines will help us figure out what today's Bible Story is all about!"
5. Explain that headlines are like little titles for a BIG story.
6. Let kids search the room to find headline cards.
7. When they find one, help them tape it to the "Newsfeed" posterboard.
8. Once all the headlines are found, read them aloud together and wonder together about what today's good news might be about.

Continued on the next page. →

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Prepared "Newsfeed" posterboard
- ☐ "News Headline Cards" Activity Pages

Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, place the cards and posterboard on a table and let the kids look at them from a seated position.

② What You Say

"Whoa! You all found so many news headlines! These headlines all point to something BIG. It's actually the most exciting news, ever! A long time ago, God promised He would send someone very special ... the world needed rescue, and this person would bring hope, joy, and love to the whole world. These news headlines give us clues about who that someone is. **[Transition]** I can't wait for us to hear more in our true Bible Story today. Let's head to Large Group so we can hear the full story about the greatest news ever ... news that's for EVERYONE!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Drawing a Plan

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Copy paper
- ☐ Pencils or washable markers

Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV

Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide grips and/or adaptive tools.



① What You Do

1. Direct the kids to pair up.
2. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil or marker.
3. Instruct one kid from each pair to stand facing the wall.
4. Direct that kid to place their piece of paper on the wall as a flat surface to draw on.
5. Instruct the other kid to stand behind their partner and place their piece of paper on their partner's back.
6. Direct the kid with their paper on their partner's back to slowly draw a large Christmas shape. (You can help direct the child's drawing with shapes if they need help—like a star, a Christmas tree, a gift box, a candy cane, a gingerbread man, etc.)
7. Instruct their partner to guess what shape they're drawing.
8. Once the kid facing the wall thinks they know the shape they felt on their back, direct them to draw the shape on their piece of paper on the wall.
9. Once the kid facing the wall has drawn the shape, instruct the kids to switch places and flip their papers over.
10. Instruct the kid who was facing the wall to choose a new Christmas shape to draw on their partner's back, and that partner attempts to imitate the shape on their paper.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 1/4

Drawing a Plan

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Copy paper
- ☐ Pencils or washable markers

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Grips or adaptive markers

Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV

Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide grips and/or adaptive tools.



② What You Say

"You couldn't see what was being drawn on your back, but you could feel it and try to follow the plan. God's people couldn't see exactly how His rescue plan would happen either, but they could trust that He had one. And His plan was not just for one group of people, it was for the whole world. God's promise to send Jesus was good news for everyone.

"What were some of the Christmas shapes you drew? (**Allow kids to answer.**) Just like you had to think about your friend when you were drawing so they could follow along, God's plan has always been for everyone to know and follow Him. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told Isaiah and Micah about a Savior who would come and give everyone a chance to be close friends with God again. And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, every detail came true.

"Because of Jesus, everyone, no matter where they live, what they look like, or how old they are, can be a close friend of God. God loves everyone so much that He worked for years and years and years on His rescue plan. And then He sent Jesus, who would rescue us all. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone, and that's great news we can share with the people around you. Every time you see a Christmas decoration or something Christmas, that's a great starting point that can help you talk to people about Jesus. Every light, every Christmas tree, every decoration, every Christmas cookie is celebrating Jesus! The whole world is having a party because God loves them! **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone!"

Make It Personal → Tell your group about an age-appropriate time you got to tell someone good news and how it made you feel, then connect it to how amazing it is to share the good news of Jesus.

GROUPS 2/4

Verse in Motion

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips

Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.



① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each pair of kids a Bible marked at Luke 2:11.
3. Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
- ⑤ When they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
 - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
 - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: "This is the One God promised! He's the Rescuer, the forever King, the one we've all been waiting for to make us right with God again!"

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 2/4

Verse in Motion

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Extra "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.



6. Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
7. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Page to teach the motions to the kids. (The NIV and NIV are very similar.)
 - "Today in the town of David" (point to the ground)
 - "a Savior has been born to you." (pretend to rock a baby)
 - "He is the Messiah" (point one hand up)
 - "the Lord." (point both hands up)
 - "Luke 2:11" (open hands like holding an open Bible)

Talk Together

1. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
2. Repeat the verse with the motions for several rounds.
3. Ask:
 - "Who is the Savior this verse is talking about?"
 - "What does it mean that Jesus is good news for everyone?"

② What You Say

"Great job learning our Memory Verse! This verse is so important because it tells us the GOOD NEWS the angel shared with the shepherds. The angel didn't say, 'A Savior has been born for just some people.' He said, 'a Savior has been born to YOU.' That means Jesus came for every single person—moms, dads, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, and YOU.

"Who do you think this verse is talking about? (*Pause for kids to answer: Jesus.*) That's right, Jesus! He's the Savior, the Rescuer, the forever King.

"Why is this such good news? (*Pause for responses.*) Because Jesus didn't just come for important people or special people. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone! He came to break that curse of sin so everyone could be close friends with God!"

GROUPS 3/4

Share the Good News!*



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Newspaper" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

If a child doesn't feel ready to name a specific person, they can draw a group of people and continue to think about it.

Consider pairing kids together if writing or drawing is a challenge. One can share the idea while the other does the drawing/writing.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a "Newspaper" Activity Page card.
2. Read the headline on each card together. ([Bottom Line] Jesus is Good News for everyone!)
3. Set out the coloring supplies.
4. Ask kids to think of someone they could tell about Jesus this week.
5. Let them draw or write that person's name or a picture in the blank space.
6. Encourage them to take the card home as a reminder!

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate example of a time you shared the good news of Jesus with someone!

② What You Say

"Wow, this headline says: Jesus is good news for everyone! That means He came for all people, no matter where they live, what they've done, what they look like, or how old they are. Jesus came for you, your family, your friends ... EVERYONE! God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to rescue us from the curse of sin and make a way for everyone to be close friends with God again.

"This week, pray for the one person you wrote or drew about today. Think about how you can share the Good News that Jesus loves them with them this week.

[Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone. This season, there are Christmas decorations everywhere, and a lot of ways you can start a conversation about the Good News of Jesus. He is the real reason for the season. Every light, every tree, every Christmas party is celebrating Him! You can use the Christmas things that are all around you this season to help you start a conversation about Jesus!"



GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need:

No supplies needed

Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

Jesus is good news for everyone.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

MADE TO
Reflect

① What You Do

- Before you pray, ask the kids to name something someone has promised them before.
→ Examples: "We'll go to the park," "I'll bake cookies," "We'll have a playdate."
- As they share, respond briefly to a few, then say:
→ "Sometimes people keep promises right away, and sometimes we have to wait. But God always keeps His promises, even if it takes a long time. We learned today that God promised a Savior hundreds of years before Jesus was born, and every part of His promise came true. He worked for years and years and years to make His great rescue plan happen because He loves everyone!"
- Invite the kids to think of one thing they want to thank God for and one thing they want to ask Him for.
- Give the kids a moment to pray silently on their own.
- Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus, just like You said You would, to be our Savior so we could be close to You. We know that You have a plan, and that You hear every prayer we pray. Please help us to trust You while we wait for Your answers, just like Your people trusted You while they waited for Jesus. As we see anything Christmas this year, help us remember that we are celebrating what You did for us. The world is having a party because You love us! Jesus is good news for everyone! We love You too, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today's Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is good news for everyone.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

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.
- * If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

Home

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

Social

Opening Activity (2-3)

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ "Newsfeed" Posterboard, one for each Small Group (see below)
- ☐ Print "News Headline Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

Groups

1. Drawing a Plan (K-1)

- ☐ Copy paper, one piece of paper for every kid
- ☐ Pencils or washable markers, one for every kid

2. Verse in Motion (K-1)

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11, one for every two kids
- ☐ Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages on paper, two copies for each Small Group

3. Share the Good News!* (2-3)

- ☐ Print "Newspaper" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

4. Pray and Dismiss

No supplies needed

WEEK

TWO

Small Group 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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

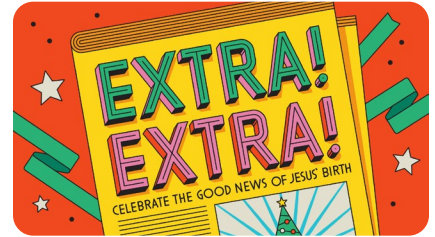
1. Bible Story Review: Promise Relay (K-1)
2. Application Activity: God's Plan (2-3)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verse Ornaments (K-1)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (2-3)

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11**



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. joinamazing.com/everychild

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Three prepared Christmas-themed gift bags with paper slips in them
- ☐ Optional: Christmas stickers for participation

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11**

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for His perfect plan and for choosing Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary to be part of His big story. Ask God to help every kid learn to see that God is good and He loves us so much that He worked for years and years and years on His plan to send Jesus because He wants to be close to us. Ask God to help kids see His great love even more clearly this Christmas.

1. Greet each kid by name with a high five, fist bump, or smile!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Show the kids the gift bags filled with tissue paper.
4. Say: "There are 'plans' hidden inside!"
5. Choose a kid to pick a slip of paper from a bag, read it aloud, and follow the plan (for example: hop three times).
6. Continue until all of the kids have had a turn.
7. Encourage everyone to cheer when a plan is followed!
8. If time allows, mix up the slips in the gift bags and play again.
9. Optional: Hand out a Christmas sticker to each kid as a "You followed the plan!" reward.

② What You Say

"Amazing job, everyone! Those were some silly plans, but you all followed them so well! You didn't know what was inside the bag until you pulled it out, but you trusted the plan and followed it.

"In today's true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a young woman named Mary. God sent an angel to tell her about HIS big plan. It wasn't a silly plan—it was the most important plan ever! God's plan was to send Jesus to rescue the world. Mary trusted God's plan, even though it felt surprising. We can trust God's plan too, because God is good and **[Bottom Line]** God always had a plan to send Jesus. **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group to hear more about it!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Promise Relay



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Promise Relay Puzzles" in three zip-top baggies

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary

Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11



Inclusive Pro Tips

Omit the "race" portion and encourage all children to work at their own pace and celebrate every accomplishment.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into three groups.
2. Give each group a zip-top baggie with puzzle pieces.
3. Invite the kids to race to put their puzzle together.
4. Once all puzzles are complete, talk about how each picture shows part of God's plan (Zechariah, John, Mary, Jesus).
5. Remind kids: Just like a puzzle, you may not understand how the pieces go together, but God is always working toward something beautiful!

② What You Say

"Wow, you did such a great job putting your puzzles together! At first, all the pieces were separate and didn't make much sense. But when you kept working, you could see the whole picture, and it was beautiful. That's kind of like God's plan."

"God is good and He is always, always working for something that's good. For hundreds and hundreds of years, even though people didn't understand their parts in God's great rescue plan, God was working on His plan to send Jesus."

"In our Bible Story today, we read about some of the people who were in God's great rescue plan! First, God sent the angel Gabriel to Zechariah to tell him about baby John, who would prepare the way. Then God sent Gabriel to Mary, a young woman from a small town, with the biggest news of all: She would have a baby, and that baby would be Jesus, God's Son! Mary didn't have all the answers, and she might have felt a little scared. But she trusted God. She knew that He was good, and so His plan would be good. She said yes, even when she didn't know how everything would work out because she trusted God."

"There will be times in your life when you go through something hard or scary too. But you can do what Mary did—you can trust God because He is good. Over years and years and years, God was working on His good plan to rescue you. He was working on a beautiful picture! He was working to send Jesus! **[Bottom Line]** God always had a plan to send Jesus. What He was working on was good, good, good, and He is always working toward goodness, toward something beautiful, in your life too!"

GROUPS 2/4

God's Plan



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Brown or gray construction paper
- ☐ Prepared gift bag

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to "walk the path" in creative ways: crawling, rolling a ball across, or moving a toy figure step by step.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, place the pieces of construction paper across your group area in a winding "path" and place the gift bag at the end of the "path."
2. One at a time, let the kids take turns hopping, walking, or tiptoeing across the path to get to the gift bag.
3. NOTE: Adjust the difficulty of the path and challenge the kids not to touch the floor!
4. Once all of the kids have reached the gift bag, gather the kids and explain that God's plan for Jesus was like a path ... every step mattered, but it led to a great gift, the gift of Jesus!
5. Encourage a kid to remove the tissue paper, and distribute the candy/small toys.
6. [Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you had to remind yourself that God is good and was working toward goodness in your life when something felt confusing or hard. Share a brief story with the group!)

② What You Say

"Great job following the paths, friends! God had a perfect plan to send Jesus, and He made sure every step happened at just the right time. When Gabriel told Mary she would be Jesus' mother, that was part of the plan! And when Mary said yes, she trusted God's plan even though she didn't know all the details. Mary was able to trust God's plan because she trusted God! Even though she didn't know exactly how the plan would turn out, she knew that God was good and therefore His plan would be good too.

"There are going to be a lot of times in your life when you don't know where you're headed. But you can do what Mary did—you can trust God because He is good. Over years and years and years, God was working on His good plan to rescue you. [Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus. What He was working on was good, good, good, and He is always working toward goodness in your life too!"

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Ornaments*

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Prepared ornaments from “Verse Ornaments” Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons, markers, stickers
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Pre-cut yarn or string

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11



Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide adaptive tools.

MADE TO
↓
Create

① What You Do

1. Give each child a prepared paper ornament from the “Verse Ornaments” Activity Page.
2. Give each kid a Bible.
3. Help them find Luke 2:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

*Finding verses with 1st graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name.
- ③ When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter.
- ⑤ When they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

4. Set out the crayons, markers, and stickers.
5. Encourage the kids to use a marker to trace over the part of the verse you wrote.
6. Say, “This isn’t the entire verse that the angel announced to the shepherds, but it’s a very important part. God sent Jesus to rescue you so you could be His friend forever!”
7. Invite the kids to decorate their ornaments with crayons, markers, and stickers.
8. Once the kids have finished decorating their ornaments, punch a hole at the top and thread the piece of yarn through it so the kids can hang it on their Christmas tree at home.
9. Repeat the entire verse from the Bible several times together while they decorate.
10. Gather the group together to discuss when everyone is finished.

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Ornaments*

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Prepared ornaments from "Verse Ornaments" Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons, markers, stickers
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Pre-cut yarn or string

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11



Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide adaptive tools.

② What You Say

"Your ornaments look amazing! And part of our Memory Verse from Luke 2:11 is written on it. Let's look at our Bibles and read our Memory Verse together again: 'Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord' (**Luke 2:11 NIV**).

"This verse is what Christmas is all about. Jesus is the reason for the season! The whole world is throwing a party—even if they don't believe in Jesus. But every light, every decoration, every celebration is because God kept His promise to send Jesus.

"For a long time, God's people were waiting for a Rescuer. And then one night, in the little town of Bethlehem, the angel shared the good news: Jesus was born! God had sent His Rescuer!

"When you hang your ornament at home, I want you to remember this verse. Every time you see it on the tree, say these words in your heart: 'A Savior has been born to me. He is the Lord.' Because this verse isn't just for people long ago, it's for you. God sent Jesus for you.

"So, this week, when you see Christmas decorations, lights, or ornaments, remember our Memory Verse. Remember that **[Bottom Line]** God always had a plan to send Jesus, and He did, because He loves you so much."



GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Toy microphone

Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11



Inclusive Pro Tips

If they prefer, allow kids to whisper their answer to you, and you can "report" it for them.

Allow kids to pass if they're not ready to share. Circle back at the end in case they change their mind.



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Explain that today they get to imagine they're being interviewed for the "Good News Network."
3. Hold your hand like a pretend microphone (or optionally, use a toy one) in front of each kid and ask:
 - "If you could thank God for one thing today, what would it be?"
 - "What's one thing you're glad God planned in your life?"
4. After every kid answers, say a short prayer thanking God for what they shared.
5. Close the activity by praying for the group as a whole, thanking God for always having a plan to send Jesus.

② What You Say

"God, thank You that You love us so much that You worked for years and years to send Jesus to rescue us so we could be close friends with You again. Thank You that You always had a plan to send Jesus. Help us to share that good news all throughout this Christmas season and beyond—that You love everyone so much that You sent Jesus. We love You, God! We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their Memory Verse postcards. Challenge the kids to recite Luke 2:11 to their grown-ups!

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

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.
- * If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #3.

Home

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

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Medium-sized Christmas-themed gift bags, three for each Small Group
- ☐ Tissue paper (to fill the bags)
- ☐ Slips of paper, nine for each Small Group
- ☐ Optional: Christmas stickers for participation, one for each kid

Before group time:

1. Create 9 slips of paper with silly "plans" on them (simple instructions), such as: (Feel free to create your own!)
 - ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11, one for each kid
 - ☐ Print "Verse Ornaments" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one ornament for every kid
 - ☐ Crayons, markers, stickers; enough for each kid to decorate a paper ornament
 - ☐ Hole punch, one for each Small Group
 - ☐ Pre-cut yarn or string (long enough to create a loop for an ornament), one piece for every kid

Groups

1. Promise Relay

- ☐ Print "Promise Relay Puzzles" on cardstock and cut apart, three puzzles for each Small Group
 - Laminate the puzzle pieces if you'd like.
- ☐ Zip-top baggies (to hold puzzle pieces), three for each Small Group

2. God's Plan

- ☐ Brown or gray pieces of construction paper, 20-25 for each Small Group
- ☐ Individually-wrapped Christmas candies or small toys, one for every kid
- ☐ Christmas-themed gift bag that's large enough to hold the candies/ toys
- ☐ Tissue paper

3. Verse Ornaments

- Hop three times.
- Pretend to be swimming.
- Say your name twice in a silly voice.
- Give a friend a high five, and a different friend a fist bump.
- Spin around three times and shout, "Hooray!"
- Pretend to be a bird.
- Do a silly dance move for five seconds.
- Do five jumping jacks.
- Pretend to give a gift to each kid in group.

4. Pray and Dismiss

Toy microphone, one for each Small Group

WEEK

THREE

Small Group 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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

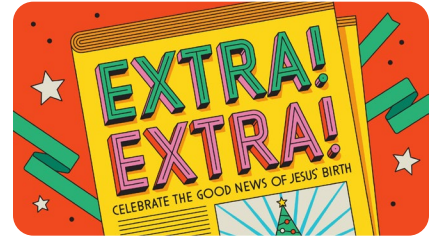
1. Bible Story Review: Shepherds' Surprise (2-3)
2. Application Activity: Pass the Gift (2-3)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Good News Gazette (2-3)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20

Bottom Line

Jesus is the greatest gift.

Memory Verse

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 NIV**



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. joinamazing.com/everychild

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Timer



① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall the first time you heard about Jesus' birth. Thank God for giving Jesus, the greatest gift you could ever receive! Ask God to help each kid know how much He loves them, and that His love is a free gift they don't have to earn! Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you point to Jesus in every moment, and that new kids would leave small group celebrating that God loves them so much, He sent Jesus so they could be close to Him!

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, and ask them about their Christmas plans!
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Explain the game:
4. Choose a kid to think of one Christmas-themed object.
5. If the kid is stumped, here are some suggestions.
 - wreath
 - angel
 - manger
 - tree
 - lights
6. Direct the rest of the group to ask "yes" or "no" questions to guess the object.
7. Feel free to play an example round or be ready to suggest questions as hints.
8. Use a timer for 2-3 minutes, or set a limit of 20 questions.
9. Continue playing until each kid has had a chance to think of an object.

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips

Encourage kids to give thumbs-up and thumbs-down instead of verbally saying yes or no.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Timer

**Inclusive Pro Tips**

Encourage kids to give thumbs-up and thumbs-down instead of verbally saying yes or no.

② What You Say

"Wow, you all asked some great questions and figured out those Christmas objects! That was so fun.

You know, in our game, we had to ask lots of questions to try and guess what the object was. We had to do some guessing! But when Jesus was born, God clearly communicated exactly what was happening to some shepherds. The shepherds didn't have to do any guessing! God sent an angel to declare the good news! The angel told them clearly: 'A Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord,' (*Luke 2:11 NIV*).

"And here's the best part, Jesus isn't just for important people or people with lots of money or power. He came for everyone—even ordinary shepherds out in the fields. And He came for you and me too. We can celebrate Christmas, because **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift! **[Transition]** Let's go to Large Group so we can hear about this great gift God gave us because He loves us so much!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Shepherds' Surprise*

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ No supplies needed
- ☐ Optional: blanket to "sit on the field" together

MADE TO
Imagine

① What You Do

1. Gather kids in a circle and say: "Today, we're going to review the Christmas story from Luke 2. I'll tell it, and you get to help by making faces or motions as we go. Let's see how well you listen and join in!"

Talk Together

Recap the Bible Story

1. "The shepherds were out watching sheep at night. Everyone, yawn really big and rub your eyes like you're super-tired."
2. "Then ... WHOA! An angel appeared, and God's light shone around the shepherds. The shepherds were so scared! Their peaceful night was just interrupted. Show me your best scared face! The angel said, 'Do not be afraid! I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people,' (Luke 2:10 NIV).
3. Ask: "Who was the good news about?" (Jesus)
4. "The angel said: 'Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord,' (Luke 2:11 NIV, emphasis added). Everybody point to yourself and say, 'The Savior is for me!'"
5. "Then a HUGE choir of angels showed up, praising God. Let's all say what they said together: 'Glory be given to God in the highest heaven!' (Luke 2:14 NIV). Say it louder! One more time!"
6. "The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. Everyone, stand up and run in place for five seconds. Stop! You made it!"
7. "The shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus lying in a manger. Put your hands together and rock them like you're holding a tiny baby."
8. "The shepherds were SO excited that on their way home, they told everyone what they saw! Cup your hands around your mouth and shout together: 'Jesus is born!'"
9. "Say it one more time: 'Jesus is born!'"

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 1/4

Shepherds' Surprise*

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ No supplies needed
- ☐ Optional: blanket to "sit on the field" together

MADE TO
Imagine

② What You Say

"Awesome job! I love this story! The shepherds started out tired, and when the angel came, they were scared. But when they saw Jesus, they were filled with joy! They didn't keep the news quiet to themselves; they shared the good news with everyone they saw. And that's what we can do too!

"Christmas isn't just about presents under the tree—it's about the greatest gift: Jesus! God loves us so much that He worked for years and years throughout history to bring Jesus. Jesus came, lived a perfect life, and paid for sin so anyone who chooses can be God's close friend forever. God was giving us the greatest gift—the chance to be close with Him! We can celebrate the great gift of Jesus by living with joy, sharing His love, and remembering that He came for ALL of us.

"So let me ask you:

- Who was the good news about? (Jesus)
- Who did the angel tell first? (the shepherds)
- What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? (They told everyone!)

[Bottom Line] "Jesus is the greatest gift, and God gave us this great gift because He loves us so much!"

GROUPS 2/4

Pass the Gift

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Small box wrapped like a Christmas present
- ☐ Music player (Optional: You can also sing "Jingle Bells.")



Inclusive Pro Tips

Teach kids the ASL way to say, "Jesus loves me" and have them use that as a response when the "gift" comes to them.

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Explain that you're going to play a game like "hot potato," but with a gift.
3. Start some music or sing, and instruct the kids to pass the wrapped gift around the circle.
4. When the music stops, encourage the kid holding the gift to share one reason Jesus is the greatest gift to them.
 - If they can't think of something, maybe ask them to share in general what or who is the greatest gift in their life, and help them connect how that person or thing is a gift from Jesus.
 - Younger kids may need a prompt like: "Because Jesus loves me," "Because Jesus forgives me," "Because Jesus came for everyone," or "Because Jesus helps me."
5. Continue until every kid has shared.

② What You Say

"Wow, you shared some amazing reasons why **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift!

"The shepherds heard the good news from the angel, and then more angels came and celebrated. And after the shepherds saw Jesus, they were filled with joy. They couldn't stop talking about what they had seen. And we can feel that same joy today, because God loves us so much He gave us Jesus!

"The toys, games, and clothes we get at Christmas are fun, but they don't last forever. But Jesus is a gift that lasts forever. Jesus gives us love that never ends, joy that never runs out, forgiveness that we could never earn, and a friendship that lasts forever.

"That's why we say: **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift. Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and He is the very best gift God could ever give."

GROUPS 3/4

Good News Gazette

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked to Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Good News Gazette" Activity Page with the verse (Luke 2:11)
- ☐ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

MADE TO
↓
Create

① What You Do

1. Give every two kids a Bible.
2. Invite them to look up Luke 2:11 using the Bible Navigation Tips.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

3. Give each child a copy of the "Good News Gazette" Activity Page.
4. Set out the crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
5. Read the Memory Verse together from the Bible (Luke 2:11).
6. Explain that today, they get to be "reporters" writing the greatest news story of all time: the announcement of Jesus' birth!
7. Guide the kids to fill in the missing words of the verse on their page, using their opened Bibles as a reference.
8. Encourage the kids to decorate their page.
9. When they finish, let them hold up their "front page" and read the verse aloud together as the headline news.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/4

Good News Gazette

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked to Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Good News Gazette" Activity Page with the verse (Luke 2:11)
- ☐ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

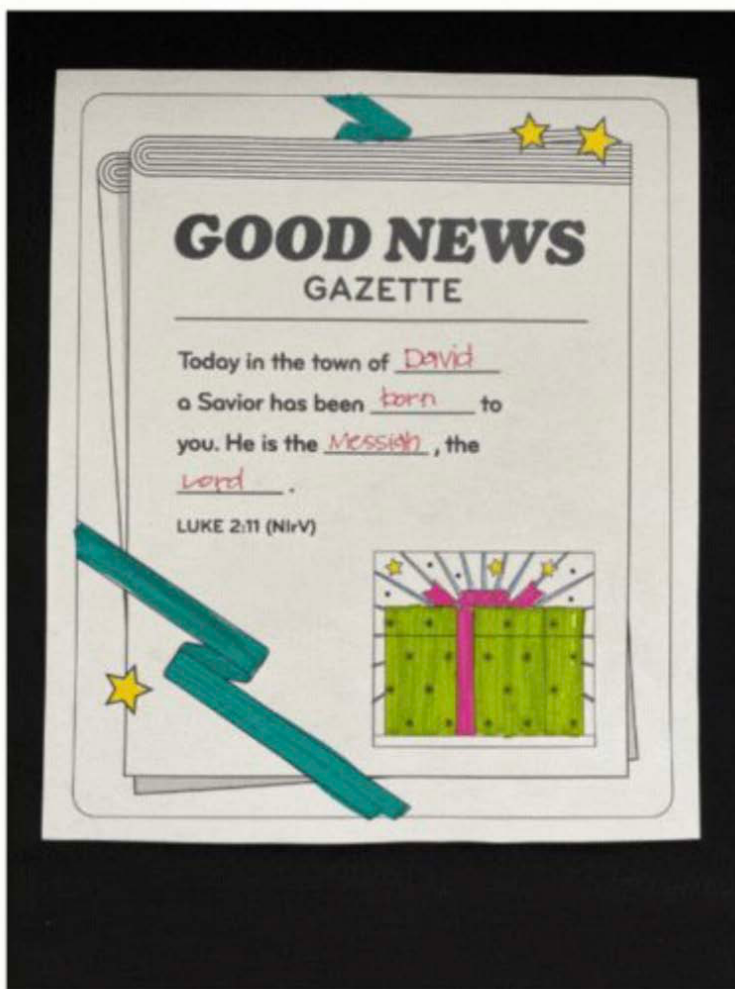
MADE TO
↓
Create

② What You Say

"Wow, look at these front pages! You all are amazing reporters. And what better news could there be than this? 'Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord,' (Luke 2:11 NIV).

"This isn't just old news, it's GOOD NEWS for today, for you and me. Jesus was born to show us God's love, to rescue us, and to give us the chance for all of us to be close friends with God. Just like a newspaper headline tells everyone what's important, this verse is a headline we can remember and share: **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift.

"Whenever you see Christmas lights, presents, or even a star on a tree, you can remember the best headline ever: **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift. That's why we celebrate so much at Christmas!"



GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Presents" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Give each kid a present cutout from the "Presents" Activity Page and a pencil.
3. Say: "Jesus is the greatest gift! Today, turn the card over, and draw or write down a prayer thanking Jesus for being the greatest gift."
4. Invite the kids to draw or write a prayer to God on the back of the card.
5. Ask: "Does it change anything for you knowing that Jesus will always be the greatest gift for you?"
6. Pray together, thanking Jesus for being the greatest gift.
7. Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear Jesus, You are so amazing. You really are the greatest gift—better than anything we have received or will receive. We know that even when Christmas is over, You will still be the greatest gift to us, every single day. Thank You for coming to earth to save us. Help us not to forget how much You love us. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, remind them to always remember that **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift! Encourage the kids to tell their grown-ups how important it is to know what Christmas is about—Jesus!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow kids to draw symbols or pictures to show their prayer instead of writing words.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

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.
- * If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

Home

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

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Timer

Groups

1. Shepherds' Surprise*

No supplies needed

Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Blanket to "sit on the field" together, one for each Small Group

2. Pass the Gift

- ☐ Small box, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Music player (Optional: You can also sing "Jingle Bells")

Before group time:

- ☐ Wrap the small box with the Christmas-themed wrapping paper.

3. Good News Gazette

- ☐ Bibles marked to Luke 2:11, one for every two kids
- ☐ Print "Good News Gazette" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils; enough for each Small Group to share

4. Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ Print "Presents" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Pencils

WEEK

FOUR

Small Group 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. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
(sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

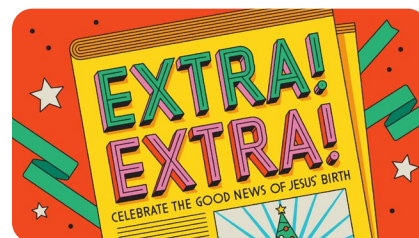
1. Bible Story Review: Follow the Clues
2. Application Activity: Celebrate All Year Long
3. Memory Verse Activity: Move Around Verse
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIrV



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. joinamazing.com/everychild

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ "Large Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Optional: The kid who is leading can hold up their arms like a star if the star cutout is not available.

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Have a Small Group Leader be the leader in order to assure the movements are accessible for all kids.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for them! Think about how you celebrate and honor Jesus every day. Ask God to help kids know that celebrating Jesus isn't just something we do at Christmas, we can celebrate Him every day because we live in His great love and in His great rescue every day! Pray that the Holy Spirit would help the kids see how they can honor and follow Jesus all year long. Ask God to give you creative ways to help kids remember who Jesus is and why He's worth celebrating!

1. Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
2. Ask the kids how their Christmas was! Give them a chance to share something they enjoyed.
3. Gather the group together in an open space.
4. Share that we're going to play a game that's similar to "Follow the Leader," but this game is "Follow the Star!"
5. Explain how to play:
 - You will choose one kid to hold the star cutout (or hold up their arms like a star) and be the "leader."
 - The rest of the group are "Wise Men" who must follow the star wherever it goes.
 - The leader moves around the room (walking, skipping, tiptoeing, zigzagging). Everyone is to copy and follow.
6. After about 30–60 seconds, switch leaders so everyone gets a chance to guide the group.
7. End the game with everyone "arriving" at the house where Jesus was. (Choose one spot in the room to be the "house" where Jesus was.)

Continued on the next page. →

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

**What You Need**

- ☐ "Large Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Optional: The kid who is leading can hold up their arms like a star if the star cutout is not available.

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV

**Inclusive Pro Tips**

Have a Small Group Leader be the leader in order to assure the movements are accessible for all kids.

② What You Say

"Great job following the star! The Wise Men traveled a long way, and even though they didn't know exactly what was going to happen, they kept following until they found Jesus.

"And when they finally saw Jesus, they celebrated! They knew He was a King worth worshiping. And you know what? We can celebrate Jesus too, not just at Christmas, but all year long. We can celebrate Jesus every day because we live in His great love and in His great rescue every day! [Transition] Let's go to Large Group to learn more about that!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/4

Follow the Clues

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Envelopes with cards from the "Clue Cards" Activity Page inside

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIrV



① What You Do

1. Before Small Group time, place the numbered envelopes around the room in places the kids can see.
2. Gather the kids together and explain that they're going to "follow the clues" to help retell today's Bible Story.
3. Invite the kids to walk with you around the room, finding each clue one at a time.
4. The envelopes are numbered, so search for the clues in order.
5. When the kids find a clue, pause, open the envelope, and talk through what part of the story the card inside represents. (What the picture on the card represents is listed below.)
 - **Star:** The Wise Men saw a special star in the sky and decided to follow it.
 - **Camel:** The Wise Men traveled a very long way, across deserts, following the star, for a long, long time.
 - **Crown:** After their long journey, they went to Jerusalem and met King Herod, who wasn't happy about a new king being born.
 - **House:** The Wise Men left Jerusalem, and the star led them to the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying.
 - **Gifts:** The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor Jesus.
 - **Dream:** God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went home a different way.
6. After all clues are collected, gather the kids in a circle to talk about the story together. Hold up each card as you talk about it, and use the prompts below.

Clue Prompts

1. **Star**
 - "Here's a star. The Wise Men saw a special star in the sky. They knew it meant that something very important had happened. They believed a new King had been born, so they chose to follow the star."
2. **Camel**
 - "This camel reminds us of the long journey. The Wise Men traveled a very long way, across deserts and hills. It wasn't easy and it took a long time, but they kept going because they believed God had sent a King."
3. **Crown**
 - "This crown reminds us of King Herod. The Wise Men went to Jerusalem first and asked King Herod where they could find the new King. Herod wasn't happy about this news. He didn't like the thought of another king."

GROUPS 1/4

Follow the Clues

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Envelopes with cards from the "Clue Cards" Activity Page inside

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIrV



4. House

→ "This house shows where the star finally led the Wise Men. The Wise Men found Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus living in a house. This is where they finally saw Him."

5. Gifts

→ "Here are the gifts. When the Wise Men saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh—very special gifts for a King."

6. Dream

→ "This picture of a dream reminds us of what happened next. God warned the Wise Men in a dream not to go back to King Herod. They listened and went home a different way. God was protecting His plan."

② What You Say

"Great job following all the clues! Each one told us part of the story of the Wise Men. They didn't have all the answers, but they trusted God, they knew He was up to something good, and they followed the star. And when they found Jesus, they celebrated Him with worship and gifts."

"The Wise Men gave Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gifts that showed He was a King. But the best gift they gave Him wasn't something they carried on their camels. The best gift was their worship and their choice to honor Jesus as King."

"We don't need to bring Jesus gold, or frankincense, or myrrh. The best way we can celebrate Jesus is by giving Him our love, our lives, our obedience, our kindness to others, and our worship. Just like the Wise Men traveled far and gave their very best, we can choose to give Jesus our very best too."

"And here's something amazing: we don't just celebrate Jesus one day at Christmas. We can celebrate Him all year long! You can start by worshipping and praising Him, by being His close friend, and by following His ways. You can always celebrate Jesus!"

"So let's remember: Jesus is worth celebrating, every single day, not just on Christmas morning. We can celebrate Jesus every day because He loves us every day! We can **[Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus all year long.**"

GROUPS 2/4

Celebrate Jesus All Year Long*

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Celebrate Jesus All Year Long" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils, markers, or crayons

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Encourage kids to draw pictures or provide stickers to place on the calendar.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a page from the "Celebrate Jesus All Year Long" Activity Page.
2. Set out the pencils, markers, or crayons.
3. Say: "Today we're going to create our very own calendar! But instead of writing in sports games or school events, we're going to think of ways we can **[Bottom Line]** celebrate Jesus all year long."
4. Point out the twelve boxes labeled January–December.
5. Explain that in each box, they will write or draw how they can celebrate Jesus that month.
6. Example: "Sing about Him in January," "Make a Valentine telling Him I love Him in February," "Be kind to someone on my swim team in June," "Serve in September," "Thank Him every day for a blessing in November," "Give toys in a toy drive in December."
7. Walk around as the kids work and give suggestions if kids get stuck.
8. Afterward, invite kids to share one of their favorite things they wrote down with the group.
9. Remind the kids to take the calendar home and put it somewhere they'll see it often, so they remember to celebrate Jesus all year long.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 2/4

Celebrate Jesus All Year Long*

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Celebrate Jesus All Year Long" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils, markers, or crayons

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Encourage kids to draw pictures or provide stickers to place on the calendar.

② What You Say

"Christmas is one of the biggest times we celebrate Jesus. But the good news is, we don't have to stop celebrating when Christmas is over! Jesus is the greatest gift ever, and because we live in His great rescue and big love every day, we can celebrate Him every single day of the year.

"Think about your calendar. Each headline you wrote is like a promise to yourself: I can celebrate Jesus in January by singing about Him. I can celebrate Jesus in September by serving others. I can celebrate Jesus in November by thanking Him for the blessings He has given me.

"The Wise Men didn't come to see Jesus that Christmas night. In fact, Jesus was around two years old when they visited Him. They celebrated Jesus long after He was born. We can do that too! In fact, we can celebrate Jesus any day of the year!

"So when you look at your calendar at home, remember: you can celebrate Jesus every month, every week, every day. He is the greatest gift, and that's something worth celebrating ALL year long! Remember, you can [Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus all year long!"

GROUPS 3/4

Move Around Verse



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide directions for repeating the verse with the needs of all of the kids in your group in mind, so all kids in your group can participate.

① What You Do

1. Open the marked Bible to Luke 2:11 and show the kids where the verse is.
2. Say: "This is our Memory Verse for this month. It comes from the book of Luke, in the New Testament."
3. Read the verse aloud slowly:
 - This is the NIV: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)
 - This is the NIV: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)
4. Invite the kids to repeat the verse after you, phrase by phrase. Do this 2–3 times until they're familiar with it.
5. Once they've got the hang of it, invite them to stand up and say the Memory Verse in different directions:
 - Turn to the left and say the Memory Verse
 - Turn to the right and say the Memory Verse
 - Spin and say the Memory Verse
 - Walk in place and say the Memory Verse

② What You Say

"That was so fun! This verse is so important because it's part of the good news the angel told the shepherds on the very first Christmas night! It tells us what God wanted the people to know about Jesus' birth!

"It tells us that Jesus was born, not just for Mary and Joseph, not just for the shepherds or the Wise Men, but for YOU. Jesus is the Savior, the Rescuer God promised long ago. God loves you so much that He worked for years and years and years to bring the Rescuer He promised—Jesus!

"The Wise Men celebrated Jesus with gifts, but the best gift we can give Jesus is our hearts and our lives. We don't just celebrate Him at Christmas; we [Bottom Line] celebrate Him all year long when we love Him and live like Him.

"So every time you hear this verse, remember: God made sure His promise came true. Jesus really is the greatest gift!"

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer index cards and coloring supplies for kids who may prefer to draw or write their prayers to God instead of praying silently! This gives visual and kinesthetic learners a hands-on way to reflect and connect with God.



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Say: "The Wise Men brought special gifts to Jesus—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They gave Him their very best because they knew He was the King. We don't have gold or treasures to bring today, but we can imagine what we might give Jesus if He were sitting right here with us."
3. Invite kids to close their eyes for a few quiet moments.
4. Prompt them: "Imagine you are bringing a gift to Jesus. What would you bring Him? Maybe you'd give Him a smile, a hug, or a song. You don't have to say it out loud. Just think about the gift you'd want to give Him."
5. After a short pause, close with prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for the Wise Men who showed us how to celebrate Jesus with their gifts. We may not have treasures like gold or frankincense, but we can give You our hearts, our love, and our lives. Help us to celebrate Jesus not just at Christmas, but all year long, because we know You love us all year long. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus, the greatest gift. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive, encourage kids to share with their grown-ups what kind of "gift" they imagined giving to Jesus today. Remind families that celebrating Jesus all year long is one of the best gifts we can give Him.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

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.
- * If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

Home

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

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Print "Large Star" on 11 × 17-inch paper and cut out, one for each Small Group

Groups

1. Follow the Clues

- ☐ Print the "Clue Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Envelopes, six for each Small Group

Before group time:

1. Number the envelopes 1-6.
2. Put each clue in the correct envelope accordingly.
 - 1. Star
 - 2. Camel
 - 3. Crown
 - 4. House
 - 5. Gifts
 - 6. Dream

2. Celebrate Jesus All Year Long*

- ☐ Print "Celebrate Jesus All Year Long" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Pencils, markers, or crayons; enough for each Small Group to share

3. Move Around Verse

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11, one for each Small Group

4. Pray and Dismiss

No supplies needed