

# Mama Mia! 4-K, Dec 2

**Bible Story:** Mama Mia! (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:11-38*

**Bottom Line:** God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

**Life App:** Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## 1. Early Arriver Idea

**What You Need:** an offering container

### What You Do:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container. Ask the kids to describe the most beautiful Christmas tree they’ve ever seen. How tall was it? Did it have lights? What color were the lights? What kind of ornaments did it have? Which ornament was their favorite? What made the tree their favorite tree EVER? Next, ask them to imagine the best Christmas tree *they* would decorate. Guide them to describe their trees.

## 2. Look!

**What You Need:** large, funky costume glasses

### What You Do:

Wear the funky glasses as you greet the kids. Gather the kids around you and lead them in a game of “I Spy,” “spying” for items that the kids can find by carefully observing each other (brown hair, pink fingernail polish, blue eyes, black tennis shoes, round earrings, striped socks, etc.). After two or three rounds, let the kids take turns spying for things *they* see on each other. *(Keep the glasses yourself; tell them that they will have a chance to wear them during prayer.)*

### What You Say:

“I wore my funky glasses today to help me look for things during our game. I also wore them because they remind me that **it’s always important to be ready to see what God wants me to see.**”

## Play Video

\* 1. Needs Relay (*review the Bible story / application activity / great for boys / a classroom-wide activity*)

**What You Need:** “Needs Cards” (Activity Page), funky glasses, container of props

### What You Do:

Help each Small Group to line up at one end of your playing area. Set a box of items opposite each team and as far away as possible. Guide the first child in each group to put on a pair of funky glasses. Hold a “Needs Card” for him to see. At your signal, lead the child to run to the box, choose an object that can help meet the need he saw, pull out the object, run it back to his team, and give the glasses to the next child in line. The relay continues until each need has been “met.” *(NOTE: If playing the game within your Small*

*Group, guide all the kids to line up as one team; or, divide the group into two teams— simply separate the needs cards and corresponding items accordingly.)*

At the end of the game, debrief the needs and how the objects chosen could help meet those needs.

**What You Say:**

*(As you hold up the wrapped present)* “Long ago, God saw our greatest need. Our greatest need was for someone to rescue us from our sin. God saw our need and loved us *so much* that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Jesus was the best gift EVER!

“Caring enough for someone so that you see their need and do something about it is what compassion is all about. Just like God saw our need and sent Jesus, **[Apply] we can show compassion when we see other people’s needs and do something about them. We already looked at some ways you can see people’s needs and help them. What are some other ways could you help someone who has a need?** *(I can hug my friend when she’s sad; I can make a card for my mom when she’s had a hard week; I can listen to my teacher when the other kids aren’t paying attention; I can sit by the new kid at lunch.)* **[Personalize] (Share a time when you saw the need of someone else and you did something to help. Share what you thought and felt, and how the other person responded.) [Apply] So this week, practice looking to see the needs of others. When you see a need, ask God to show you how you can help meet that need, either by yourself or with an adult’s help. Remember: [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?”**

**2. Needs Web (application activity)**

**What You Need:** “Needs Web” (Activity Page); crayons or water-based markers

**What You Do:**

Give each child an Activity Page. Guide the kids to look at the pictures and identify the needs they see as well as the ways those needs could be met. Set out the crayons or markers and direct the kids to draw a line from a picture of a person with a need to one way their need could be met. (For example, they might draw a line from the “sick elderly person” to the “card.”) Lead the kids to continue, drawing lines from each person to all the ways their need could be met. They can even switch colors for each person. Since there’s more than one answer for each need, the end result will be a beautiful web of lines! Finally, guide the kids to identify and circle the One who met every need!

**What You Say:**

“Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else’s need. Long ago, God saw our greatest need and sent us His Son, Jesus. **[Apply] When God sent Jesus, He treated us with God-sized compassion. We should treat others with compassion, too. What are some ways you can show compassion by doing something about someone else’s need?** *(I can give food to someone who is hungry; I can share my toys; I can give clothes to people who need them; I can be a friend to someone who is lonely; I can tell others about Jesus; etc.)* **[Apply] This week, look for the needs of others. When you see a need, ask God to show you how you can help meet that need, either by yourself or with an adult’s help. Remember: [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?”**

### 3. Earth Angel (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles; old-fashioned clothespins, basket-style coffee filters, fine-tipped markers; ribbon and glue (*optional*)

#### **What You Do:**

Guide the kids to look up the verse using the tips below.

***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *John* at the top of the page as you say “John” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 16, or 1-6; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

***Finding verses with 1<sup>st</sup> graders:*** 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.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that John starts with the letters J-O. When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 3. Read the verse aloud as kids point to the words. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Unpack the phrase “God so loved the world,” emphasizing that God loved us SO MUCH that He sent His OWN Son to be born on earth, to live among us, and to later die on the cross for our sins.

Give every child a clothespin. Invite the kids to draw faces on the “heads”—they can even draw hair! Next, give each child a coffee filter. Guide the kids to write the verse on the filter. You could write the verse largely on a sheet of paper for them to copy, or leave multiple Bibles open to the highlighted passage. Kids who finish early can decorate their coffee filters with the markers. Finally, help the kids scrunch their coffee filters in the middle and insert them into the clothespins. Voila! Angels! *Optional: Cut and glue strips of ribbon to the backs of the angels so they can hang as ornaments.*

#### **What You Say:**

“When God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, Mary heard a very special message. She heard that God had seen our greatest need and that He was sending Someone to rescue us. That Someone was Jesus! So this week, let your angels remind you that **[Apply] God loves you. He cares SO MUCH for you that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue you. Remember, [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?**”

### **Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** costume glasses

#### **What You Do:**

Guide the kids to sit in a circle. Hold up the funky glasses as you say the dialogue below. (Be careful not to put the glasses on, as doing so could distract the kids while you talk and pray!) When you finish praying, invite a child to put on the glasses. Prompt her to turn to her neighbor and say, **[Impress] “God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?”** and then give the glasses to her neighbor. Guide the kids to pass the glasses around the circle until each child has a turn to wear them and say the Bottom

Line. (Note: If you have additional time, kids could each think of a need they see and then come up with one way to help meet it. "I see \_\_\_\_\_ and I can \_\_\_\_\_ to help.")

**What You Say:**

**[Apply]** "These funky glasses are silly, but they're a great reminder that we can look around and see the needs of others. Not only can we see the needs of others, but we can do something about them, too. If someone is hungry, we can give him food. If someone is cold, we can give her a coat. If someone is lonely, we can be their friend. That's what compassion is all about. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus, Your one and only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him will live forever with You. Help us remember how huge and exciting and WONDERFUL that really is! Dear God, since You saw our greatest need, help us see the needs of the people around us. Help us not only to see their needs, but also to do something about them. Amen."

# Mama Mia! 1-2 Gr, Dec 2

**Bible Story:** Mama Mia! (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-33*

**Bottom Line:** God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

**Life App:** Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## 1. Early Arriver Idea

**What You Need:** an offering container

### What You Do:

Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container. Ask them what their your favorite Christmas movie, story, or character is. Make a list of their responses (either in your head or on paper) and then play an impromptu game of charades using that list!

## 2. Who Sees Your Needs?

**What You Need:** large sheet of butcher paper, markers

### What You Do:

Introduce the idea that we all have needs like food, water, shelter, and clothes. Write down these needs and brainstorm others on a large piece of butcher paper. Then play a game of “telephone.” Each child comes up with a sentence of how someone in their life sees their needs. (e.g.: My dad gives me milk with dinner. My teacher takes us outside to the playground.) Sitting in a circle, one person whispers the sentence into the ear of the person to the right. The sentence goes around the circle with each person *only saying it once* then quietly passing on. When the last person hears the sentence, he or she says it aloud.

### What You Say:

**Today we’ll hear a story about what God did about our greatest need of all!”**

## Play Video

**\* 1. Bravo! (great for boys / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** “Bravo!” (Activity Page)

### What You Do:

Have students line up shoulder to shoulder. You begin as the first “Director” of this review game. Draw a card from the questions pile and read the question aloud. Then choose one child to answer the question. But before the child can answer the question, he or she must complete one of the “Director’s” suggestions. After the suggestion is completed to the “Director’s” approval, that child may answer the question. If it is answered correctly, the “Director” shouts “Bravo!” and the child who answered becomes the next “Director,” asking a question, choosing a group member, and making a suggestion. If the question is answered incorrectly, the “Director” shouts “Take Two!”

and another child is chosen to answer the question and given a new suggestion to complete.

**What You Say:**

“I hope [Host’s name] is having as much fun being the director of The Big Give as you guys had being the Directors of that game! Either way, this story seemed to stick—you guys really know your stuff! All month, we are talking about the piece of God’s story that we celebrate during Christmas and how God showed all of us compassion by sending His Son, Jesus. But before He sent His Son, God first had to realize and see our greatest need. **[Apply] That’s the first step to compassion: looking around, taking notice, seeing others’ needs! [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?**”

**2. Do You See What I See? (application activity / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** “Do You See What I See” (Activity Page)

**What You Do:**

Pair up the students in your group. Hand each pair a script to read aloud or act out for the Small Group. Give the group five minutes to look over their scripts, decide who will play which role, and come up with a plan. Ask for a volunteer pair to go first. Act as the director, calling “Action!” before each script. After each script, discuss as a group what need(s) they saw and what they could do about that need.

**What You Say:**

“Sometimes other people’s needs are right in front of our faces and we don’t even know it! **[Personalize] (Tell about a time when you saw and met someone’s need. This could be anything from volunteer work to opening a door for someone whose hands were full.)** Just like God saw our need for a Savior and cared enough to do something about it, **[Apply] let’s all open our eyes to see the needs around us—and care enough to do something about them! [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?**”

**3. Drama Verse (memory verse activity)**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

**Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the table of contents. Point out the Gospel books. Explain that the Gospels are at the beginning of the New Testament and tell about Jesus’ time on earth. This month, our memory verse comes from the last Gospel—the Book of John. Find the Book of John in the table of contents and turn to the page indicated. It is John chapter 3 (let kids watch as you turn to the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter), verse 16 (and scan down to the 16<sup>th</sup> verse).

Read the verse out loud. Ask the kids to repeat the verse aloud. Ask what they think the verse means by “eternal life.” Guide the conversation appropriately.

Then, instruct students to stand and repeat the memory verse after you in these genres of voices:

Scene 1: Opera

Scene 2: WWF Wrestling  
Scene 3: Baby talk  
Scene 4: Cheerleading  
Scene 5: Cowboy or western

**What You Say:**

“Great job! Who knew there could be so much talent in one Small Group? This verse tells us that God loves us all so much that He chose to do something BIG about our greatest need. **[Apply] And that’s exactly what He wants you and me to do for others. He wants us to love others enough—to care about their needs enough—to do something about them! [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?**”

**Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** no supplies necessary

**What You Do:**

Pair students with same partners as in “Do You See What I See?” skit activity (or choose new ones). Tell everyone to think of one person they know in the church, at school, their family, or their community who has a need. Then, give partners three to four minutes to share that need (make sure to emphasize the importance of not sharing names with their partner—they can come up with a nickname but no actual names), **[Apply] brainstorm ways to do something about those needs, and pray for those people out loud together with their partner.** Come back together as a group and allow students to share if they would like.

**What You Say:**

“Sometimes, it can be hard to know what to do about someone else’s need. We may see a need like a kid without water or food or a neighbor with no car, but not really know how we can help. That’s when talking with others and prayer comes in! When you see a need that you think is too big for you to do something about, turn to a parent or friend and together, ask for God’s help in showing compassion. Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You so much for seeing our greatest need and sending Your Son, Jesus. Help us to show compassion too by seeing the needs around us. And when we see those needs, help us to know the best way to help or who to ask to partner up. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

# Mama Mia! 3-4<sup>th</sup> Gr., Dec 2

**Bible Story:** Mama Mia! (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-33*

**Bottom Line:** God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

**Life App:** Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## 1. Early Arriver Idea

**What You Need:** an offering container

### What You Do:

Ask the kids about their favorite part of Christmas. Ask if they’ve put up any decorations at their house yet and let them tell you about it. What parts of decorating do they need help with? Is there anything in particular that they can’t do alone?

## 2. Happy News

**What You Need:** news article

### What You Do:

Read the article out loud. Then ask your group to answer the following questions:

- 1) Who had a need in the story?
- 2) Who saw the need and responded?
- 3) What did they do?
- 4) Did it do any good? How? Why?

### What You Say:

“That’s such a cool story—someone noticing a need and doing something about it.

**Today we’re going to hear about another need—the biggest need ever! Let’s see what this is all about!”**

## Play Video

**1. The Gift Race (a classroom-wide activity / application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** prepared gift bags or boxes

### What You Do:

Each group will receive a set of 10 gift bags. They will race the other teams to open all the gifts and retrieve the questions. Then they need to match up the gift tags with the correct answer to each review question. The first group to finish—with correct matches—wins.

### Questions and Answers

- 1) What is the play about the Christmas story called? (*The Big Give*)

- 2) Which prophet told us that God would one day send someone to rescue the entire world? (*Isaiah*)
- 3) How long had it been since the Israelites had heard from God? (*400 years*)
- 4) What's the name of the angel that God sent to Zechariah? (*Gabriel*)
- 5) Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth had a baby like the angel said they would. What was his name? (*John*)
- 6) What was John's job? (*To prepare the way for the Lord*)
- 7) Who was Elizabeth's cousin? (*Mary*)
- 8) Who did Gabriel speak to the second time? (*Mary*)
- 9) Who was Mary pledged to marry? (*Joseph*)
- 10) Who did Gabriel say Mary's Son would be? (*Jesus, Son of the Most High*)

**What You Say:**

“Just like with all of these gifts, God gave us the greatest gift when He saw our need for a Savior and gave us Jesus. How cool is that? **[Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see? [Apply] (Pause for a few people to answer this aloud.) It takes time and effort to focus on someone else's needs instead of our own, but when we do, we're loving others like God loved us.**”

**\* 2. Worldwide Needs (application activity / great for boys)**

**What You Need:** labeled butcher papers, markers

**What You Do:**

If the butcher paper sheets aren't on your walls, spread them around your space. Then assign two or three kids to a paper. (If you have an empty paper, that's fine.) Instruct kids to write down as many needs as they can for the place on their paper. After a minute, instruct everyone to switch to the next paper. If they think of a need that someone has already written on the paper, tell them to put a star or check mark next to it as if they are “agreeing.” Continue until all groups have written on all papers.

**What You Say:**

“You all came up with some really great needs, and some of them seem so big. Do you ever feel overwhelmed when you start thinking about all the needs in our lives? Noticing the needs isn't enough. We also have to do something about it! **[Apply] Tell me a need you see and then an idea of how we could show compassion and meet that need.** (Allow several people to answer.)

**[Apply] “Those are great ideas! And you know, even though we can't meet every need and fix everything, we can ALWAYS pray. God hears us when we pray! We need not just to notice, but also do something about problems we see. But this isn't a one-time thing—we've got to make compassion a part of who we are, so that we can be more like God. Let's keep reminding ourselves that [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?”**

**3. Needs Met (memory verse activity)**

**What You Need:** “Needs Met” (Activity Page), colored pencils, Bibles

**What You Do:**

Explain that when God sent Jesus, He gave us the ultimate example of compassion—He cared enough about us to send His own Son to meet our need for a Savior. As a group, look up this month’s verse and then read it out loud together.

Next, hand out the activity pages and the colored pencils and allow kids to fill in the answers to the questions with drawings or explanations, according to the verse.

### **What You Say:**

“Seeing this all spelled out—seeing exactly how God met our need and what a sacrifice He made to do it, what does it make you think? How does it make you feel? (*Summarize and repeat back kids’ responses.*) It feels pretty awesome to be loved that much by a big, perfect, amazing God, doesn’t it? **[Personalize] (Tell your group how John 3:16 makes you feel. How do you show you’re grateful?) [Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see? [Apply] When you take time to notice the needs of others, and then follow God’s example of compassion by actually doing something to meet those needs, then you’re living like Jesus.**”

### *Optional 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Discussion Questions*

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What is your greatest need? What’s the difference between a want and a need? Can a want ever become a need and vice versa? Give an example.
- Why is it easier to see our own needs (wants) rather than other people’s needs? What gets in the way?
- What can you do or change to make sure you take time to notice other people?

## **Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** sunglasses

**What You Do:**

Pass around the sunglasses and allow everyone to try them on for a few seconds. Discuss what happens when you wear sunglasses inside where it isn’t sunny. Does it make it harder to see clearly? Explain that like the sunglasses, there are things that get in our way and cloud our view from seeing others’ needs. It can be selfishness, things on our to-do list, even our favorite things and activities—anything!

**What You Say:**

**[Apply] “Because God treated us with so much compassion, we need to treat others with compassion, too.** Compassion is something God does in us to change the world around us, so I’m going to pray over each of you and ask God to remove your sunglasses and open your eyes to the needs around you. **[Impress] God saw our greatest needs. Whose needs do you see?** I’m also going to ask that He will fill you with compassion to respond to those needs and love others like He loves you!

“Dear God, thank You for giving us this opportunity to learn about compassion and the great compassion You had for us. Thank You for Your Son. Lord, please open these kids’ eyes to the needs of those around them and fill them with the courage and heart that it takes to respond with compassion and love others like You love us. I pray for [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] and ... (*continue until you have named all kids*). In Jesus’ name, AMEN!”