

Joy Story (Imaginarium)

Week 1 (DEC 7 2025)

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the savior God promised.

BIBLE

An Angel Appears to Mary: Luke 1:26–38; Jeremiah 33:14–16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Some of our favorite gifts are things that were promised to us—a new baseball glove, a computer, or a special trip with our family. This week, we'll hear about how the angel Gabriel told Mary the joyful news that she will carry God's own son. When he was born, people realized just how special this gift would be—Jesus is the savior God promised.

Felix Bucks Store (15 MIN)

Felix bucks store will be open every week (15 min before the experience begins 9:15am, 10:55am, 12:55pm).

Kids can shop as they arrive. Simply write their names and the date on a paper so you know who has already shopped that day. Same rules apply they can buy 2 small items or 1 large item each week.

Still start countdown right at the start of the experience (9:30am, 11:10am, 1:10pm). Store is closed with 1 min left on countdown so you can begin the experience right as the countdown ends.

CHECK-IN/PLAYTIME (5 MIN)

Check- In Opens 15 min before the Experience begins and closes 15 min after it begins

Kids will play until the main experience begins and then you will start lesson (check in will still be open for 15 more minutes station one of your helpers at the door for the remainder of check in)

Start countdown as soon as the main experience starts (9:30am, 11:10am, 1:10pm)

Whoever is doing check-in should stay there and welcome all kids. An Adult (18years or older) must drop kids off and check for name-tag with phone number on it.

Large Group Time

Welcome (5 MIN)

Introduce yourself and the other teachers

Welcome any first time kids (Have them come up front, introduce them, give them their 5 Felix Bucks and explain what Felix bucks are)

Pass out Felix Bucks (those attending more than one experience can receive Felix Bucks for all experiences they attend)

- Bible (1 Felix Buck)
- Notebook (1 Felix Buck)
- Paper from previous week (5 Felix Bucks)

Welcome to our new series, *Joy Story*! I'm so excited because it's Christmastime, and Christmas brings us so much joy.

Christmas carols, colorful cookies, time with friends and family, all the gifts ... I just can't wait!

But Christmas is still a few weeks away, so we'll have to wait, and while we wait, let's have some fun.

It's never too early for some Christmas joy, because the true joy of Christmas comes from Jesus!

Rules (5 MIN)

Go over Rules quickly but thoroughly:

1. No Talking without Permission
2. Be Kind!
 - Use Kind words (no curse words)
 - Keep your hands and feet to yourself (no fighting/shoving)
3. No Running
 - No leaving the classroom without a leader
4. No personal Toys or Electronics
5. HAVE FUN!

You can give Felix bucks to those who know the rules (ex. what is rule #1? whoever can tell you gets a Felix Buck then quickly move to next rule)

Generosity Time (5 MIN)

Briefly explain what a tithe and offering is. That a tithe is giving back to God what is His and then he blesses the rest. An offering is anything more than our tithe. Everytime we sacrifice and give it opens the door for God to bless us even more.

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 1:46-47 (NIV) (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have the scripture written on gifts bags one word on each bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have 14 volunteers come up and hold the peices of paper out of order; then ask one volunteer to come up and put them in the correct order with the help of the class.
- **"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

Worship (8 MIN)

- - Play one worship songs from Pro Presenter
 - **1st Experience:** [Jesus is the Reason for the Season \(motions\)](#) by Kid Kardia
 - **2nd Experience:** [I Will Build \(Motions\)](#) by JumpStart 3 (Kid Kardia)
 - Lead Teacher go on stage and have 2 volunteers on either side of you (remind the volunteers what they are doing on the stage. Leading their friends in worship not playing)
 - Don't be afraid to teach the kids about worship for a minute if you feel it is needed or explain the meaning of some of the words in the songs
 - Make sure you pray out of worship. (pray for upcoming week, families, the kids, whatever Holy Spirit is leads you to pray)
 - Don't forget to do Salvation Prayer.
 - make sure helper grabs green salvation bag from the back of Imaginrium, where the shirts are for those who said "yes".
 - Place bag by the door and give to kid(s) who said "yes" to Jesus as they leave. Also, let parent know the decision they made.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Guess What's Wrapped (10 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Wrap 5 oddly shaped objects

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, find three to five oddly shaped objects and wrap them in advance using gift wrap, newspaper, garbage bags, or whatever else you have on hand. Place them in different parts of the room, and let kids travel to each object. Allow them to touch it, but they cannot lift it or remove any part of the wrapping. After about a minute at each object, have everyone regroup and tell you their guesses. For smaller spaces, you can show the group one object at a time and have them ask you ten "yes or no" questions from their seats. Then you can let them know if they were right or not.*
- In order to guess what was wrapped, you had to examine each item carefully.

- **What were some clues that led to your guesses of what was underneath all of the wrapping?**
- God gave a bunch of "clues" throughout Scripture about a savior that would come to rescue everyone. But while you only had to wait a few minutes for the secret to be revealed, God's people waited hundreds of years for the savior to arrive!

QUESTION | What are you looking forward to the most this Christmas? (5 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the following questions. You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers —and have fun with this!*
- There are so many wonderful things about Christmastime. But Christmas isn't for another few weeks, and waiting for the day to arrive can be challenging! It helps to find joy in the waiting —the building up of the anticipation.
- **What are you looking forward to the most this Christmas?**
- We know what we are waiting for—to celebrate Jesus' birth! Long ago, God's people didn't know what to expect or how long the wait would be.
- In today's Bible story, we'll find that God's people were waiting for a really long time for the very first Christmas day to come because that would mean God's promised savior would be here!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Joy Story, Episode (8 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*
- *Or download the months videos [here](#).*

BIG IDEA | Jesus is the savior God promised. (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Create as many gift tags as there are Big Idea words (one word on each tag) and put in a small gift bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create as many gift tags as there are Big Idea words (six for this week). A simple way to do this is to cut wrapping paper into little rectangles, fold them over, and write the word on the inside. Attach each tag to a different toy and place them inside a large gift box. Invite kids to come up, pull out a toy, and read the word aloud (or show it to a leader to read for them). After all the toys have been brought out, arrange the toys in order and have everyone say the Big Idea together. You could also do this without the toys and have kids draw out one gift tag at a time from the box.*
- Let's say the Big Idea together joyfully! **Jesus is the savior God promised!**

STORY | A Story About Promises (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Load the following clip on proresenter

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a personal story about a time you or someone you know made a promise that wasn't kept. You may also choose to show [this clip](#) from "Toy Story 2" to discuss further how it feels when a promise or relationship is broken.*
- It's easy to make a promise but it's often easier to break one. We say things we might mean in the moment but forget to follow through to the end. When a promise to us is broken, we can feel hurt, betrayed, and alone.
- When God's people didn't hear from God for roughly 400 years, they probably thought God had forgotten about them. They might have given up hope that the savior would come as promised.
- But the truth was that God had not forgotten. Just as the people were waiting, God was waiting for the right moment. And when that moment came, God delivered on the promise.
- **Jesus is the savior God promised!**

Performance Practice (10 MIN)

INSTRUCTIONS: Have the kids practice the songs and motions at least 4 times; Work on smiling and doing the motions BIG.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Time For Toys (if needed)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have enough fidgets for everyone to have one during this activity; Have christmas music ready to play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For each week's Reflection time, provide a box of [assorted fidget toys](#) that kids can manipulate as they think and share. Encourage kids to choose a different one each week to give everyone a chance at all of the different types. Play a Christmas song of your choice, and give kids time to play and chat freely with their neighbors (because they will want to talk about the toy they got) before you invite them to focus on today's reflection questions. Collect the toys to use again next week.*
- In today's Joy Story, we heard about how God's people had waited for a savior for hundreds of years, and God finally fulfilled that promise when the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to baby Jesus.
 - **Did anyone ever make you a promise you weren't sure they would keep?**
 - **Have you ever made a promise that you kept? Have you ever made a promise that you didn't keep?**
 - **Why is it important for promises to be kept?**
 - **How can you show that you trust God's promises?**

- The Bible is filled with promises God made to us. God promises to be with us, watch over us, forgive us, and love us. We know we can trust these promises because God kept the ultimate promise by sending us a savior—and **Jesus is the savior God promised!**

Small Group Time

DISCUSSION (if needed)

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **What message did the angel Gabriel deliver from God to Mary?** *She has found favor with God and will give birth to a son called Jesus.*
- **What example did the angel give Mary to show that God keeps promises?** *Her relative Elizabeth would be having a baby in her old age because God said it would happen.*
- **How did Mary respond to this message?** *She said, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."*
- **Read Jeremiah 33:15–16. Who is the promised savior—the "righteous branch"—these verses are talking about?** *Jesus.*

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **How do you know God keeps promises?**
- **What are some other examples from the Bible of promises God has made and kept?** *(Feel free to read some Bible passages together that you've bookmarked in advance or search for [a list](#) online.)*
- **What does it mean to you that Jesus is the savior God promised?**