

Joy Story (P/O)

Week 1 (DEC 7 2025)

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Savior God promised.

BIBLE

An Angel Appears To Mary: Luke 1:26–38

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.

CHECK-IN/PLAYTIME (15 MIN)

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

Kids will play until check-in closes

Start countdown 5 minutes before check-in closes (9:40am, 11:20am, 1:20pm)

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.

Welcome (5 MIN)

Good Morning! Welcome back to "Unsung Heroes" I am so glad you are here today. My name is _____

These are my helpers _____ (introduce your other teachers)

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.

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Rules (5 MIN)

1. Be Kind (make heart with hands)
2. Use Listening Ears (Cup ear with hand)
3. Use walking feet (walk in place)
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself (hold up hands then point to feet)
5. Help Clean up (pretend like your using a broom)
6. HAVE FUN!

WORSHIP (8 MIN)

- INSTRUCTIONS: Play Videos loaded on the Sunday playlist on Youtube
 - **1st Experience:** [God Gave Me Jesus \(motions\)](#) by KidSpring
 - **2nd Experience:** [Joy to the World \(Motions\)](#) by Hi Heaven
 - (other Locations: Click the song title to access youtube video's)

Welcome Time!

ACTIVITY | Jumping For Joy (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - **ORANGE:** *For this activity, provide gift sacks like [these](#) to use for a sack relay race between two teams.*
 - **PURPLE:** *Toddlers may not be able to manage a sack race, but they would enjoy adding and removing toys and stuffed animals from the giant gift sacks.*
- I'm so excited because it's almost Christmas time, and Christmas brings us so much joy! Christmas carols, colorful cookies, time with friends and family, all the gifts ... I 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 to be jumping for joy for Christmas. Let's have a jumping for joy relay race!

ACTIVITY | Wreath Relay Race (10 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: 6 cardboard wreaths in orange room wrapped in contact paper; Have enough pom poms in each room to cover the entire wreaths 3 times; Have 3 cardboard wreaths and paper ornaments cut out about 20 per experience

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, obtain [cardboard wreaths](#) or make your own by cutting out the middle part of paper plates. Then, wrap the circular frame in contact paper or double-sided tape. Split the kids into teams and give them a large bowl of colorful pom-poms. Line the kids up and have them race to stick pom-poms on their wreaths one at a time. Keep going until each team's wreath is completely covered, or set a three-minute timer. You can also do this more as a collaborative project than a game, giving groups of two or three wreaths to work on together.
- When we see decorations like these and toys wrapped up and sitting under Christmas trees, we know that Christmas is on its way!
- **But do you remember why we really celebrate Christmas?**
- It's because God promised a savior a long time ago. This savior would connect people back to God. Today's Bible story is all about the time God sent an angel to give this news to a very special young woman.

Story Time

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

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Prepare five wrapped boxes in advance, each containing a different toy with a Big Idea tag attached (use one of the [Big Idea graphics](#) provided or write your own). Label each box with a number corresponding to the week. If you have a [recordable plush](#) available, you could record yourself saying the Big Idea in advance, reset it each week, and gift wrap it in the box again.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This week, invite a couple of kids to unwrap box #1. Once unwrapped, say the Big Idea aloud for the kids (or squeeze the tummy if using a recording) and have kids follow along with the motions below.
- What's the Big Idea of today's Joy Story?
 - **Jesus is** ("[Jesus](#)" in ASL)
 - **the Savior** ("[Savior](#)" in ASL)
 - **God** (Point up.)
 - **promised** (Link pinky fingers together.)

VIDEO | Joy Story, Episode 1 (8 MIN)

INSTRUCTIONS: Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

- Other campuses: you can use the video linked above or download the videos for this month [here](#)

Bathroom (10 MIN)

- Line Kids up (Lead Teacher in front/assistant in back)
- Exit room to left and walk kids to the kids bathroom
- Allow 4 girls at a time or 4 boys (boys and girls should never go in at the same time)
- Lead teacher stands at the door with foot in door so they can hear if there are any problems
- Assistant helps keeps the kids waiting entertained, quiet and in their spots against the wall
- Make sure to ask if they washed their hands when done
- Once all kids are done and out of the restroom, lead teacher checks to make sure it looks ok, toilets have been flushed and nothing has been placed in toilets.
- Then walk back to class
- We never assist with anything other than buttoning pants and lead teacher should be in view of assistant at all time.
- If a child needs assistance other than buttoning pants the parent/guardian must be contacted

Prayer (5 MIN)

- - Maybe select a different child each week to pray over the snack
 - Give them pointers on praying like how to start..."Dear Jesus" thanking Him for something, praying for anything we might need and then thanking Him for the food.
 - Dear God, thank you for always being with us no matter what we go through. Even when things might seem sad or scary, we are not alone. Amen

Sharing Time

SNACK | Goldfish (10 min)

- Have kids sit at table and pass out Goldfish and water

ONLY ONE SERVING OF GOLDFISH PER CHILD

YOU MAY GIVE AS MUCH WATER AS YOU WANT KEEPING IN MIND RESTROOM BREAK

ACTIVITY | Circle Time (during snack)

- **PRE SUNDAY PREP: Print the Bible Story Images [here](#). (they are labeled by episode EX. epslimage1)**
 - **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use Bible Story Cards to have kids help you retell the Bible story and answer the following questions
- **Who gave God's message to Mary?** *An angel named Gabriel.*
- **God promised Mary that she would have a ...?** *Baby.*
- **What did God promise the people a long, long time ago?** *A savior.*

- **Who is the savior?** *Jesus!*
- Let's say our Big Idea together: **Jesus is the savior God promised.**

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (and the Scripture reference) to the tune of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- **"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

ACTIVITY | Performance Practice (10 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Run through the songs and motions at least 4 times. Have kids focus on smiling and doing the motions BIG.*

Play Time

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page (at home)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*