

Joy Story (Imaginarium)

Week 2 (Dec 14 2025)

BIG IDEA

God sent Jesus at the perfect time.

BIBLE

Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John: Luke 1:5–25, 57–66;
Malachi 3:1–4

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Waiting over 400 years for a gift to arrive seems impossible, but that's how long God's people waited for a savior. This week, we'll hear the joyful news that Zechariah and Elizabeth will have a son who will prepare the way for Jesus. Even though God's people had been waiting a long time for a savior, God sent Jesus at the perfect time, and John would help get everything ready for him.

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 back to *Joy Story!* Christmas is coming, and it's a time for joy. It's not just because of all the decorations and songs and presents, though.

We have joy because of Jesus, who came to save the world. Isn't that incredible news? What's more amazing is that God's plan to send Jesus when the world needed a savior even included sending a messenger ahead of time, too! God had it all figured out so that Jesus could come to earth at the perfect time.

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)

- **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?

QUESTION | What needs to have perfect timing? (5 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Discuss the idea of perfect timing with the group. Ask the following questions.*
- Let's name some things that require perfect timing. For example:
 - When you bake something in the oven, you have to leave it there for the perfect time or your dessert will be burnt.
 - When you play music, all the notes need to be struck exactly how they're written or it won't be the same song.
 - When you're jumping rope, you have to jump at just the right time, or your feet will get stuck.
- **What else needs to have perfect timing?**
- In today's Bible story, we'll find out how for God's promised savior to be born, God would make way for another special baby to be born at just the perfect time!

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

VIDEO | Joy Story, Episode 2 (8 MIN)

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

ACTIVITY | Action Toys (10 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have a box with some toys inside

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, play reverse charades with a few playthings that you might have in your ministry space or could bring from home, such as a slinky, stuffed animal, fidget toy, hacky sack, playdough, puppet, or yo-yo. Place them inside a box and have one kid come up to the front. Show the rest of the group what item is in the box, and have them act it out without making any noise. The person in the front has to guess what the object is correctly. Play as long as time and interest allow with different guessers.
- How we share comes naturally to us. It was hard to share when we couldn't do what we usually do. It was probably pretty frustrating trying to get the message across.
- In today's Bible story, we'll hear about someone who could not speak for months until the perfect time God had planned.

ACTIVITY | Performance Practice (20 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?

Small Group Time

DISCUSSION (if needed)

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **The angel Gabriel says that God heard Zechariah's prayer. What were Zechariah and Elizabeth praying for?** They wanted a baby but were both very old.
 - **How did Zechariah react to the angel's news that he and his wife would have a baby?** He had difficulty believing it and would not be able to speak until the baby was born.

- **When was Zechariah able to speak again?** *When everyone wanted to give the baby a different name, he wrote, "His name is John."*
- **Read Malachi 3:1. Why did God plan to send a messenger before the savior?** *To prepare the way for him.*

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **How do you feel when you don't get what you want when you want it?**
- **Why is waiting for what you want so difficult?**
- **What can you do to remind yourself to wait more patiently because God's timing is perfect?**