

## Joy Story (Purple/Orange)

Week 4 (Dec 28 2025)

### ***BIG IDEA***

Jesus is God's greatest gift.

### ***BIBLE***

Jesus Is Born: Luke 2:1–20

## ***ABOUT THIS WEEK***

Some of the best gifts can appear in unexpected packages, which was undoubtedly the case for Jesus. This week, we'll hear the joyful news that Jesus was born and see how the shepherds came to celebrate. While details around his birth aren't exactly what you would expect, the way people from all over came to worship makes it clear that Jesus is God's greatest gift.

### 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 Time!***

### Welcome (5 MIN)

Good Morning! I Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas! We are still telling our "JOY STORY" and I am so glad you are here today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

These are my helpers \_\_\_\_\_ (introduce your other teachers)

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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)

#### ACTIVITY | Find The Gift (5 MIN)

**PRE SUNDAY PREP:** Have 5 christmas boxes with lids in each room; Have one toy that can fit in the boxes in each room

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, prepare [five Christmas boxes](#) with lids and assorted toys that might fit inside any boxes. Have everyone close their eyes or turn around. Place one toy in one of the five boxes. Invite kids to guess which box contains the toy. Repeat using a different toy and choose one of the kids to hide the toy this time.*
- Christmas is here! Most people look forward to Christmas because that means we get to open gifts. But in today's Bible story, we'll learn about the greatest gift of all.

**PRE SUNDAY PREP:** Have bows (enough for one per kid) and double sided tape in each room

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a "Freeze Tag" type game where the kid who is "it" tags the other kids with [large bows](#) (pro tip: stick double-sided tape on top of the stickers so you can reuse the bows afterward!). Keep going until most of the kids have bows on and are "frozen" and sitting on the ground. Repeat with different kids being "it." If you have mostly older preschoolers, you can teach them to "unfreeze" a friend by taking off their bow.
- You were wrapped with a bow, just like a gift! And to your parents, grandparents, people close to you, and everyone here, it's true ... you are a gift. Ever since you were born.
- In today's Bible story, Mary and Joseph receive a baby as a gift, too. This baby is the greatest gift there ever was.

## Story Time

BIG IDEA | Jesus is God's greatest gift. (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.
- What's the Big Idea of today's Joy Story?
  - **Jesus** (["Jesus" in ASL](#))
  - **is God's** (Point up.)
  - **greatest** (Spread out arms wide.)
  - **gift** (Hold out palms together like you're holding something. )

VIDEO | Joy Story, Episode 4 (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)

Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus! We look forward to getting presents at Christmas, but help us remember Jesus is your greatest gift.

## 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
- **Where did Mary and Joseph travel to before Jesus was born?** *Bethlehem.*
- **When Jesus was born, where did Mary place him?** *In a manger.*
- **Who heard about Jesus being born from angels?** *Shepherds nearby.*
- **Who is God's greatest gift to us?** *Jesus! Jesus is God's greatest gift!*
- **Who can you share the greatest gift with?**

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 | Manger Relay (10 MIN)

**PRE SUNDAY PREP: ORANGE:** Have crinkle paper separated into two bags, 2 shoe boxes, and 2 pairs of jumbo tweezers; **PURPLE:** Have crinkle paper in a bag, have 1 shoe box, and 1 baby doll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **ORANGE:** Prepare yellow or brown crinkle paper or basket filler and separate them into two grocery bags or buckets. Divide groups into teams and provide a pair of [jumbo tweezers](#) for each team. Set two shoeboxes at the opposite end of the room. Have one player from each team grab as much of the "hay" (paper) with the tweezers and take it over to the shoebox. Then, they can return and pass the tweezers to the next player. Keep going until both "mangers" (shoeboxes) are full. Remind kids to walk throughout this relay so they don't accidentally poke themselves or someone else with the tweezers.
- **PURPLE:** Toddlers have not fully developed the motor skills for using tweezers yet but you can allow them to pick up the paper with their fingers. Provide a baby doll they can take turns holding and placing in the newly-prepared "manger."
- Thanks for helping me get these mangers nice and fluffy. Even so, this is probably not the best place for a baby to sleep, right?
- But Jesus was born and placed in a manger. It shows us not all good gifts come in pretty wrapping paper. Even though Jesus wasn't born in a palace and didn't have a comfortable crib, it doesn't change that **Jesus is God's greatest gift!**

## Play Time

#### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page (if needed)

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