



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**High Hopes**  
Jesus Is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have hope because  
God keeps His promises.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Today in the town of David a  
Savior has been born to you.  
He is the Messiah, the Lord.  
Luke 2:11, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship ("Jingle Bells" from *Jingle Jam* and "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King)* single)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Action Review  
Application Activity: Promise Jump  
Memory Verse Activity: Fill-In Bookmarks  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
GodTime devotional for kids  
Studio252.tv



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES**

**MADE TO PLAY**

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Start by thanking God for being a God who keeps His promises. Think of a couple of promises you're especially grateful for and praise God for those specific promises. Especially at the end of such a difficult year, thank God for the ways you've seen Him work and felt His presence.*

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**High Hopes**

Jesus Is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6

**1. EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, Christmas stocking, small Christmas-related items, ribbon to close the stocking, timer, index cards, and pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome the kids by name as they arrive and say, "Merry Christmas!"
- Show kids who have brought offerings where to put them in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Pass out index cards and pencils to each kid.
- Share that you will pass a stocking around the circle that's filled with Christmas-y things.
- The object of the game is for the kids to feel the stocking and to try to guess as many items as they can before the timer goes off.
- Set the timer for 30 seconds and give the stocking to the first kid.
- Instruct the kids to write their guesses on their index card when their time is up.
- When everyone has had a chance to make some guesses, open the stocking and show the kids what the items are.

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**We can have hope because  
God keeps His promises.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

**Today in the town of David a  
Savior has been born to you.  
He is the Messiah, the Lord.**  
Luke 2:11, NIV

**MONTHLY LIFE APP**

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,  
God's greatest gift**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I can trust God no matter what.**



**PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



**2. OPENING ACTIVITY**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain to the kids that you will start a story, and they help you make it up and tell it.
- You will share one sentence to start the story about a promise.
- The kids will take turns adding sentences to the story.
- The goal is to turn the story into something that ends positively and happily.
- Share the first sentence of a story. Here are some examples:
  - Kiesha’s mom promised she would get Kiesha a doll she wanted this Christmas, but she unexpectedly lost her job.
  - Mark’s favorite uncle promised that he’d visit this Christmas season, but it’s two days before Christmas and Mark’s uncle is sick.
  - Danielle’s grandma promised that she would make gingerbread houses with Danielle, but all of the stores are out of graham crackers.
- Play as many rounds of the game as time allows.

**TODAY’S BIBLE STORY**

**High Hopes**

Jesus Is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Great job turning the story around until the promise was fulfilled! Did you know that God always fulfills—or keeps—His promises, too? **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to hear about a very important promise God made a long time ago that came true.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE**

**We can have hope because God keeps His promises.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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**MONTHLY LIFE APP**

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO PLAY**

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



**1. ACTION REVIEW**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Review Questions" Activity Page, "Action" Activity Page, gift bag

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Invite one kid to stand in the center of the circle.
- Have the kid in the center of the circle pull an action card out of the gift bag and read it out loud.
- Explain to the kids that you will ask the kid a question about today's story.
  - If the kid answers the question correctly, everyone in the group has to do the action that the kid pulled out of the bag.
  - If the answer is incorrect, the kid has to do the action alone.
- Continue playing until every kid has had a chance to answer a question.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**High Hopes**

Jesus Is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Do you think it's difficult to trust a person who breaks their promises over and over again? Why? The Israelites broke their promise to love and obey God over and over again. But God still kept His promise to never leave them. He sent good kings and prophets to help them and show them that He was still with them.

"Today you heard how God promised over and over that He would send a Savior to rescue us from our sins. He made lots of different promises about Jesus coming to rescue us years before Jesus was even born. God promised His people that He would send Jesus, and He did! That's because God ALWAYS keeps His promises. Because God has kept His promises in the past, we know that He will keep His promises to us now and in the future. **We can have hope because God keeps His promises.** Now, that's something to celebrate at Christmas!"

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**We can have hope because God keeps His promises.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.**  
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**MONTHLY LIFE APP**

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I can trust God no matter what.**



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



\*2. PROMISE JUMP [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Small craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids around you. Show the kids two craft sticks. Promise the kids that you will place the sticks two feet apart and jump over both sticks with just one jump. Ask the group if they think you can keep your promise. Jump over the sticks to demonstrate that you kept your promise. Move the sticks farther apart, and make the same promise. (Make sure you can jump the distance you moved the sticks so you can keep your promise.) Again, ask the kids if they think you can keep your promise. Jump over the sticks successfully. Next, move the sticks so far apart that it's obvious you can't jump over them in one jump. This time, don't promise to jump over the sticks. Ask the kids how they'd feel if you promised to jump over the sticks with one jump. Attempt to jump over the sticks. Give each kid two sticks. Instruct them to figure out how far apart they can place their sticks to fulfill a promise to jump over them with one jump. Ask the kids to demonstrate their jumps.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

High Hopes Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Good job figuring out how far you could jump to keep your promise. When my sticks were close together, was it easy for you to trust that I would keep my promise? How would you have felt if I had promised to jump over the sticks when they were very far apart? Even if I had made a promise that I could jump over the sticks that were far apart, would you have trusted me to keep my promise?"

"It really makes sense to only promise things that you know you can do. And yet, there are times when you and other people you know, might not keep their promises. The good news is that when God makes a promise, He always keeps it. God always does what He says He will do."

"God promised His people over and over that He would send a Savior to rescue them. At Christmas, God sent Jesus. He kept His promise like He always does."

"When you remember that God kept His promise to send Jesus at Christmas, it can help you have hope in any situation. Since God always keeps His promises, that means that He will always keep His promises to you. What has He promised you? He has promised that He will always be with you. He has



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP

**2-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (\*2. PROMISE JUMP, CONTINUED)

promised that He is always working for good, even when things are hard. Because God always keeps His promises, you can have hope that God will keep those promises, too.

“Maybe your family was impacted by COVID-19. That might mean that your Christmas will look different this year. You might not get all the gifts you want, or you might not be able to celebrate Christmas with your family and friends like you have in the past. No matter what happens, it’s important to remember that **we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**”

**[Make it Personal]** (Share with your kids a time when you saw God keep His promise to you when times were hard. What did He do, and were you surprised at how He did it? How did it bring you hope for the future?)



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



3. FILL-IN BOOKMARKS [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bookmark" Activity Page, Bibles, pencils, markers, hole punch, yarn, decorating supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up this month's memory verse (Luke 2:11) using the navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

High Hopes

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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 Luke in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 11 in chapter 2.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

- Find the verse and read it out loud as a group.
Pass out the bookmarks and pencils, one bookmark and one pencil for each kid.
Explain to the kids that this month's memory verse is supposed to be written on their bookmarks, but there are words missing.
Tell them that the missing words are written under each blank line, but the letters are scrambled.
Instruct the kids to unscramble the letters to figure out the missing words.
Punch a hole at the top of the bookmarks.
Pass out a piece of yarn to each kid and demonstrate how to loop it through the hole and tie a knot.
Set out the markers and decorating supplies.
Invite kids to decorate their bookmarks.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse is a great reminder that God promised to send the Messiah which means 'Savior.' Many years before Jesus was born, God promised that the Savior He would send would be a relative of King David. This verse is what the angel said when He told the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The angel was telling the shepherds that God had sent a Savior who was a relative of King David. God kept His promise because God always keeps His promises.

"Place your bookmark in a special place—in your Bible or a special book that you're reading—anywhere to remind you that God is a promise keeper and He is always working behind the scenes to keep His promises. Remember, no matter what happens, we can have hope because God keeps His promises."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



**4. PRAY AND DISMISS**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Craft sticks from "Promise Jump" Activity and pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make sure kids have their craft sticks from the earlier

activity.

- Encourage the kids to take a few minutes to think about two things they're worried about.
- Invite them to write each of their worries on a stick.
- Ask the kids to hold their sticks as you close in group prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that You are a promise keeper. Remind us that we can always trust You to keep Your promise to listen and help us deal with our concerns, worries, and disappointments. Please help us with these specific worries and stresses that we hold in our hands. **We can have hope because God keeps His promises.** Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their "Promise Bookmarks" and share how the verse is a reminder that God always keeps His promises.

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

**(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

*In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a general summary of Social Distancing Recommendations. Please refer to this document so you can plan your Small Group experience with health and safety in mind.*

#### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Christmas stocking large enough to fit ten to twelve small items; one stocking for each small group
- Christmas related items small enough to fit in the stocking, ten or twelve for each small group (*some suggestions are a jingle bell, Christmas bow for wrapping, candy cane, gift box, ornament, toy snowman, etc.*)
- Christmas ribbon two feet long; one for each small group
- Timer
- Index cards; one for each kid
- Pencils; one for each kid
  - Prepare the Christmas stocking ahead of time by placing all the items in it and tying the ribbon around the top of the stocking so the items are not visible.

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

#### 1. ACTION REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Review Questions" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Print the "Action" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Gift bag

#### \*2. PROMISE JUMP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small craft sticks; two for each kid and leader

#### 3. FILL-IN BOOKMARKS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Create:* an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Bookmark" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one bookmark for each kid
- Cut yarn into eight-inch pieces; one for each kid
- Pencils
- Markers
- Hole punch
- Bibles
- Decorating supplies like stamps, stickers, etc.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Craft sticks from "Promise Jump" Activity
- Pens

#### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.