



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God loved us so much that
He gave us a Savior.

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 ("Medley" from *Have a Fancy Yancy Christmas*
and "Away in A Manger" from *Little Praise Party: Happy
Day Everyday*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: The Unexpected
Bible Story Review: Ornament Art
Memory Verse Activity: Verse Tower
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Even though this year was a very difficult year, we can have hope because God loves us enough to send His Son to sacrifice for us. Thank and praise God for the gift of His precious Son. Ask God to help you find joy and hope this Christmas season, no matter the circumstances surrounding it. Pray that each of your kids would have a joyful, carefree, and fun Christmas Day.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Characters and Animals" Activity Page, offering container, painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- As the kids arrive, greet them by name and wish them a Merry Christmas!
- If a kid has an offering, show them where to put it in the offering container.
- Tape a card of a Christmas character or animal to each kid's back. Don't let the kid know which character or animal you use.
- Instruct the kids to walk around to other members of the group and ask "yes" or "no" questions to guess the Christmas character or animal on their back.
- Continue playing until everyone's character or animal has been guessed.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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He gave us a Savior.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Boxes, sheets of wrapping paper, bows, tape, and bandanas

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask the kids to pair up.
- Use a bandana to tie the right hand of one kid to the left hand of the second kid.
- Give each pair of kids a box, a sheet of wrapping paper, a bow, and tape.
- Tell the kids they'll be wrapping the box by using the hands that aren't tied together.
- Let the group know that the pair with the best wrapped box, wins.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! You did a great job wrapping your gift boxes using just one hand!
[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out about the best gift ever."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



*** 1. THE UNEXPECTED**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Two cups, water, a piece of cotton twine or string, red food coloring, tray, paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

NOTE: We strongly recommend that you watch this experiment at <https://bit.ly/3liiS8I> and practice it a few times

before you do it in front of the kids.

- Fill one cup half full of water.
- Soak the twine or string in the cup of water until it is soaked through.
- Remove the wet twine from the water.
- Add a drop of red food coloring to the cup with water.
- On the inside bottom of the empty cup, tape one end of the wet twine.
- Place the empty cup with the twine taped to it on the tray.
- Put the non-taped end of the twine in the colored water.
- Lift the cup with colored water above the empty cup but not directly over it.
- Hold it far enough away from the other cup so that the twine stays taut.
- Be careful not to pull the twine out of either cup.
- Slowly pour the water out of the top cup onto the twine and into the other cup
- Be sure to keep the twine taut the entire time you pour the colored water.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was amazing! A thin string transferred the water from one cup to the other without a major spill! What happened in this experiment was unexpected!"

"In the same way, in the most unexpected place at the most unexpected time, God poured out His love towards us. He sent His very own Son as a baby to rescue the whole world.

"You may have heard the Christmas story a hundred times by now, but that doesn't make it any less amazing because it was the most incredible thing that ever happened. Jesus is the ultimate example of God's love for us, and that's why we celebrate Christmas! **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**" [Make It Personal] (Share with the kids how you know Jesus loves you and how He became your Savior.)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

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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



2. ORNAMENT ART
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stained Glass Ornament" Activity Page, watercolor paints, paintbrushes or cotton swabs, cups, water, hole punch, string or yarn, paper towels, (optional) markers

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU DO:

- Punch a hole at the top of each ornament.
- Hand each kid a "Stained Glass Ornament," watercolor paint, a cup with water, a paintbrush, and a piece of string.
- Show the kids how to use the string to create a loop at the top of the ornament.
- Once every kid's ornament has a loop to hang from, instruct the kids to paint their ornament to make it look like a stained glass window ornament.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! Your ornaments look beautiful! Who do you see in the ornament? What was their part in the Christmas story? What's your favorite part of the Christmas story?"

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

"At Christmas, we celebrate that God showed you how much He loves you by sending Jesus to rescue you. If you look closely at the ornament, you will find a heart. That's to remind you that Jesus is the ultimate example of God's love for you. God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to save you. Take this ornament home and hang it on your tree or place it in your room to remind you that **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

"On Christmas day when you open gifts, remember to take time to think about how much God loves you. Celebrate the greatest gift you have ever been given—Jesus."

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



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Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

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3. VERSE TOWER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse" Activity Page, Jenga® blocks, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Make a masking tape starting line for each group.
- On the other side of the room mark where you'd like the kids to build their Jenga® towers. Make one tape line for each group.
- Guide each team to stand behind their starting line.
- Place twenty prepared blocks in random order on the floor next to each team's starting line.
- At your signal, the first kid from each team will decide which block to grab, carry it across the room, and place it on the floor.
- The word should face the front so it's visible.
- Relay style, the rest of the team will take turns grabbing a block, running to the end of the room, and stacking their block on top of the previous teammate's block to build a tower.
- Inform the group that the goal is to build a tower so you can read the verse—top to bottom! *(Let the kids figure out what this means on their own. They have to start with the last word first, followed by the second-to-last word, and so on.)*
- If a kid delivers the wrong block, the next kid in line has to bring it back and place it with their team's blocks at the starting line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys have really come a long way toward learning the verse this month! It can be really easy to lose sight of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Our Christmas might look different this year because of what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of you may not get what you wished for or have a chance to celebrate Christmas the way you have in the past. Even if your Christmas is different this year, there is one truth that won't ever change. And that's the truth that our Bible verse reminds us of. **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.** That's the most amazing gift of all. And it's worth celebrating at Christmas!"



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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: "Stained Glass Ornament" from
"Ornament Art" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure that the kids have the ornaments they made in the earlier activity.
- Ask the kids to hold their ornaments.
- Guide them to silently think about how God loves them.
- End with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for sending Jesus as a gift of His love.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Thank You, God, for giving us the greatest gift. You loved us so much that you sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer—to save us from our sins so that we could be part of Your family forever. Thank You for giving us such an amazing reason to celebrate at Christmas. In the midst of our busy day on Christmas, remind us to take a moment to thank You for all You have given us. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God loved us so much that
He gave us a Savior.**

"Remember this Christmas that **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**"

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

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them the "heart" on their ornament and share what God did at Christmas to show us that He loved us.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK

THREE

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

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 Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Christmas Characters and Animals" Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group.
- Offering container
- Painter's tape

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small or medium boxes; one for every two kids
- A pre-cut piece of Christmas wrapping paper big enough to wrap the boxes; one for every two kids
- Christmas bows; one for every two kids
- Clear tape; one for every two kids
- Bandanas; one for every two kids

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 #1.*

* 1. THE UNEXPECTED

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clear cups, eight ounces or larger; two for each small group
- Water, enough to fill one of the cups halfway
- Tray
- Cotton twine or string two feet long; one for each small group
NOTE: The twine or string needs to be cotton and thicker than a thread. Polyester strings will not work. The best recommended twine is natural cooking twine or OXO Good Grips Natural Cotton Twine. If you plan on using string it should be 100% cotton.
- Red food dye; one drop for each small group
- Clear tape
- Paper towels
NOTE: We strongly recommend that you watch this experiment at <https://bit.ly/3lilS8l> and practice it a few times before you do it in front of the kids.

* 2. ORNAMENT ART

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Stained Glass Ornament" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one ornament for each kid
- Watercolor paints; one set for every two or three kids
- (Optional) if you do not have watercolors you can use markers
- Paintbrushes or cotton swabs; one for each kid
- Cups of water; one for each kid
- Hole punch
- String or yarn cut into four-inch pieces; one for each kid
- Paper towels (just in case!)



WEEK
THREE
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

3. VERSE TOWER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Memory Verse Cards" Activity page on cardstock and cut apart; two sets for each small group.
- Masking tape
- Jenga® blocks, two for each word in this month's memory verse (number dependent on the version you use)
- Print the "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; two sets for each small group.
 - Tape one of the "Memory Verse Cards" to each block so it is visible when the blocks are stacked on top of each other.
 - Keep the two sets of memory verse blocks separate.

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:

- Ornament from the "Ornament Art" Activity

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**.