



## 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**

Bible Story Review: Craft Stick Nativity—Part 2  
Application Activity: God Loved \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Hopscotch  
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

**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.  
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**MONTHLY LIFE APP**

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

**BASIC TRUTH**

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

**1. EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, paper plates, and pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a paper plate and a pencil.
- Instruct kids to place the paper plate on their head and draw a picture of something they want for Christmas this year.
- Give kids two minutes to draw.
- As they finish, let the kids show their drawings to the rest of the group to see if they can guess what it is.
- Repeat until everyone has a turn to share their drawings.



**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:** Jingle bells, gift bags, and a stapler

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Prep gift bags (four for each team) as noted in the "Getting Ready" Section.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Place the four bags for each team (based on color or pattern) on one side of your small group area and line up the two teams on the other side.
- When you say, "Go," the first player from each team must run to the opposite side, grab one bag, return it to his team, and tag the next player.
- For each round, to make things interesting, call out a new way to travel: walk on all fours, crabwalk, walk backwards, etc.
- Players will continue in this way until they collect all four bags for their team.
- Then, teams will huddle up, shake the bags, and line them up in order from the bag with the least number of jingle bells to the greatest.
- When teams think they've got their bags in the correct order, all team members must sit down and raise their hands.
- One team at a time, allow any kids who did not run in the relay to open the bags and pull out the jingle bells to see if their team placed them in the right order.

**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**

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Savior has been born to you.  
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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:**

"Have you ever opened a present to find jingle bells inside? Probably not! I know you look forward to giving and receiving gifts this year. **[Transition] But no matter what may be under your tree this year, today we'll hear about the amazing gift that God gave the WHOLE world to show just how much He loves us. Let's go.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**

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



**\* 1. CRAFT STICK NATIVITY—PART 2**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Parent Note” Activity Page; “Joseph,” “Baby Jesus,” and “Mary” Activity Pages OR scraps of felt/fabric/construction paper and fine point markers; six-inch craft sticks; ice cream paddle spoons (sample spoons); white glue, scissors, markers, zip-top bags, and the Bible or

*The Jesus Storybook Bible*

**TODAY’S BIBLE STORY**

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

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a craft stick for Joseph and an ice cream paddle spoon for baby Jesus.
- Provide an additional jumbo craft stick for any kids who were not at church last week to make a Mary as well.
- If providing the Activity Pages, give each kid a character cut out to color then glue to their sticks.
- If providing scraps of fabric/felt/construction paper, assist the kids in wrapping or gluing a small scrap to each craft stick to create Joseph and baby Jesus (and Mary if needed).
  - Draw a line around the face so kids know where to add the head covering and robe for Joseph.
  - They can wrap the fabric or construction paper around the ice cream paddle for baby Jesus like a blanket.
- Encourage kids to draw in the facial features with a fine point marker, including giving Joseph a beard.
- Once the kids finish decorating their characters, read the Christmas story from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or Luke 2:1-7 as the kids use their characters to act-out the story.
- Give each kid a zip-top bag and a copy of the “Parent Note.”
- Instruct them to place their characters inside.
- Write their names on the front of the bags and set aside for pick up.

**TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE**

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“I just love the Christmas story. God promised to send a Savior, and He did. He had a plan to make things right. God showed us just how much He loves us by choosing to send Jesus! I want you to take these craft stick puppets home and retell the Christmas story with your family. Ask an adult to open the Bible to Luke 2, just like we did today. It will remind you in the middle of the Christmas craziness that all of this is really about a baby, born long ago, sent from God for you and me. As you act-out the story, remember **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

**[Make it Personal] (Talk about the Christmas story with your few. Share with them about the first time you understood the significance of this gift.)**

**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



**2. GOD LOVED \_\_\_\_\_**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Gift bag or box, and treats

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Select the kid with the closest birthday to today to sit in the center of the circle.
- Pass the gift bag around the circle as you say the Bottom Line, including the name of the kid in the center of the group like this: God loved [kid's name] so much that He gave [kid's name] a Savior.
- The kid holding the gift bag at the end switches places with the kid in the center.
- Repeat, giving each kid an opportunity to sit in the center as the kids say their name in the Bottom Line.
- Pass out the treats for the kids to enjoy.

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"When you open gifts on Christmas morning, does someone look at the gift tags and pass out each person's gift before you start opening? Do you ever do that thing where you count up how many gifts you have to open to see who has the most? Sometimes, we forget that ALL of us, every single person, has already been given the best gift ever. And it's not a shirt that's itchy or a toy you will break or outgrow. God chose to send Jesus, His only Son, to us. We celebrate Christmas and give gifts as a reminder of the GREATEST gift of all. **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior**, and that Savior is JESUS!"



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



**3. MEMORY VERSE HOPSCOTCH**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, colored construction paper, and markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Write out the words of today’s verse as indicated below—one phrase per piece of construction paper.
- “Today / in the town / of David / a Savior / has been born / to you. / He is / the Messiah, / the Lord,” / Luke 2:11.
- Create a hopscotch board on the floor by laying out ten verse phrases on the floor.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2:11. Call on a volunteer to read the memory verse to the group.
- Talk about the next phrase of the verse. *He is the Messiah.*
- ASK:
  - Do you know what “Messiah” means? *Messiah means “anointed one.” Special oil was poured over those who God chose for a special job (usually kings or prophets who spoke for God). Jesus came as the King of ALL Kings with the most important job of all—the promised Savior who God sent to save everyone.*
- Encourage the kids to hop, one at a time, along the hopscotch path as everyone repeats the verse.
- After you’ve reviewed the verse two or three rounds, allow the fourth kid to jump through the board then flip one page over to hide the words.
- Repeat the verse again, including the hidden words. Allow each kid who hops through the path to flip another page over.
- Continue in the same way until all pages are flipped and the group can say the verse from memory.

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Whew! Raise your hand if you’re tired. That was a lot of hopping! Jesus came as our Savior, our Messiah or anointed, one to do something only He could do! Why did God send Jesus? Because He LOVES us. Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, the greatest gift EVER. This year, as you gather around the tree to open gifts, remember the BEST gift has already been given to you! **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**”



**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:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather the kids in a circle and teach them the five-finger prayer using the dialogue below.
- Kids will use their fingers to pray for each group of people as they repeat the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Have you ever heard of the five-finger prayer? Each finger represents a different group of people to pray for. I want you to point to each finger as I explain how to pray.

"Your thumb is for the people closest to you, like your family and friends.

"Your index or pointer finger is for people who instruct you or teach you, like your teachers, coaches, and leaders here at church.

"Your middle finger is the tallest. It's for the people who lead us, like government leaders.

"Your ring finger is the weakest finger. It's is for those who are sick or most in need.

"And finally, your little finger or pinky, is for you. So, let's pray together and point to our fingers as we go. I will say a sentence prayer for each group, then I want you to say, **'God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.'**

*(thumb)* "For our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, caregivers, brothers, and sisters, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

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

**SGL:** *(index finger)* "For our teachers, coaches, doctors, therapists, nurses, and first responders, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

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

**SGL:** *(middle finger)* "For our leaders in government and business, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

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

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

#### **(4. PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)**

**SGL:** (*ring finger*) "For those who are sick, hurting, or in need, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

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

**SGL:** (*little finger*) "For each of us, we ask that You help us remember this Christmas that . . ."

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

**SGL:** "Thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Jesus for everyone. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage them to show off their Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus puppets in the bags along with the Parent Note. Encourage them to retell the Christmas story at home as we celebrate that **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**





## 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:**

- Offering container
- Paper plates; one for each kid
- Pencils

#### 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:**

- Eight gift bags, four red and four green or two different Christmas patterns
- Jingle bells; at least 40 for each small group
- Stapler
  - Place the following number of jingle bells in gift bags: one bag of each color/pattern with one jingle bell; one bag of each color with three jingle bells; one bag of each color with six jingle bells; and one bag of each color with ten jingle bells. Make sure each color/pattern has bags with one jingle bell, three jingle bells, six jingle bells, and ten jingle bells. Staple the tops closed.

### 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. CRAFT STICK NATIVITY—PART 2 [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart; one note for each kid.
- Print the "Joseph" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one for each kid.
- Print the "Baby Jesus" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one for each kid.
- Print the "Mary" on cardstock and cut out; one for each kid without a puppet from Week 2.
- Six-inch jumbo craft sticks; one or two for each kid
- Ice cream paddles (sample spoons); one for each kid
- Scissors
- Markers
- White Glue
- Zip-top bags; one for each kid
- Bible or *The Jesus Storybook Bible*
- (Optional) scraps of fabric/felt/construction paper and fine point markers

*NOTE: You can either offer scraps of fabric, felt, or construction paper for kids to use to create the clothing OR copy the Activity Pages and cut out for kids to color and glue to the front of each craft stick or sample spoon.*

#### 2. GOD LOVED \_\_\_\_\_ [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Gift bag or gift box; one for each group
- Christmas treats like candy or small toys; one for each kid
  - Place the treats inside the gift bag/box.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

## GETTING READY

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

### 3. MEMORY VERSE HOPSCOTCH

[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:**

- Bible marked at Luke 2:11
- Colored construction paper; ten pieces for each small group
- Markers
  - Write phrases of the memory verse on separate pieces of construction paper, divided as follows. "Today / in the town / of David / a Savior / has been born / to you. / He is / the Messiah, / the Lord," / Luke 2:11.

### 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:**

- No supplies needed

### 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**.