



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you hoping for?

### 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 ("12 Days of Christmas" from *Jingle Jam Wrapped Up*, "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King)* single, and "Who You Say I Am" from *Who You Say I Am* single)  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### 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, pray for your time together in group today. Pray for patience to lead well at the beginning of an exciting month, asking God for eyes to see which of your kids most needs to understand the hope that God gives us in this season through the birth of His Son.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### High Hopes

Jesus is Promised  
Isaiah 9:6

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, paper, markers, (optional) suggested Christmas snack: hot chocolate

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- All month long, we'll be having Christmas Chats!
- Hand out the optional Christmas snack and provide paper and markers for anyone who wants to draw while the group is chatting.
- Today's Christmas Chat: What traditions do you hope your family will be able to do this month?

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SOCIAL

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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



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## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic circular ornaments, gift boxes and gift bags, and tape for a starting and finish line

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Make** a starting line on one side of the room using tape and ask everyone to stand behind the line and to spread out as much as they can.
- **Give** each kid a plastic ornament and ask them to place it on the line.
- **Use** tape to mark a finish line on the opposite side of the room.
- **Ask** everyone to choose a gift box or a gift bag as their fan.
- **Explain** that they will have to fan their ornament down to the finish line.
- When you say, "Go," kids should start fanning their ornaments as fast as they can down to the finish line. The first person to cross the finish line wins!

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"I'm really excited about this month—I mean, it's Christmas! And Christmas might look different this year than it has in the past, or maybe it'll mostly feel like Christmas always does, **[Transition]** but no matter what, we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior all month long! Let's go check it out!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared bag full of Christmas objects and a gift box with a lid

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Without the kids seeing, **place** one of the Christmas items from the bag into the box.
- **Pick** one person to come up and peek in the box to see the object.
- That kid then has to describe the object to the group while they all try to guess what it is.
- The first kid to guess correctly gets to come up and describe the next item.
- **Repeat** until all the items have been described.
- **Ask:** When someone describes something BUT you can't see it, can you know for sure what it's going to be?

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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. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Seven pieces of plexiglass or plastic or laminating sheets (around 8x10 size), dry erase or wet erase markers, Bibles, cards from "Bible Story Notecards" Activity Page

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#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Divide** the group into pairs and **give** each pair a notecard, a marker, and a piece of clear plastic/plexiglass/laminating sheet.
- If you have more notecards than pairs, **ask** for some pairs to volunteer to take two notecards.
- **Ask** someone to look up Isaiah 9:6 and read it aloud to the group
- **Explain** that each group needs to illustrate some kind of representation of their part of the verse (the words on their notecard).
- They can interpret the verse literally or draw something abstract to represent the concepts in their verse phrase.
- When everyone is finished, **let** each pair explain their drawings.
- Then **collect** all seven drawings and stack them on top of each other.
- **Hold** up the stack so everyone can see the drawings layered together.
- **Say:** Everything you see here is what was promised in the person of Jesus. AND all the promises came true!
- **Ask:**
  - After hearing this verse, what do you think the people in the Old Testament expected Jesus to be like?



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

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



### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- What's your favorite thing to do during the Christmas

season?

- What brings you joy and fun at Christmastime?
- What are you hoping for right now? (Not just in terms of what are you hoping to receive for Christmas, but is something you're hoping will happen or how do you hope Christmas will turn out this year?)
- Why is hope important? How can we stay hopeful this time of year, especially with everything going on in our world right now?

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25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CREATE

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



### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** White butcher paper, green paint, large paint brushes, black paint or markers, Bibles, scissors, tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Pass** out the Bibles and **ask** everyone to look up this month's memory verse, Luke 2:11.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:* Our verse is from Luke. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the third of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verses 11 in chapter 2.

- **Ask:** What is the main point of the verse? Why is it important? How does this verse show us that God kept His promises from Isaiah 9:6?
- **Show** everyone the art supplies and explain that they need to work together to paint a big Christmas tree, cut it out, and hang it on the wall.
- Today's memory verse should to be painted or drawn into the tree.
  - They can do this over top of the green or incorporate it into the tree itself.
  - But when you look at the tree, you should be able to read the full verse.
- **Explain** that they will spend the month decorating this tree with God's promises.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic circular ornaments (from Opening Activity), black permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- As a group, **review** the words from Isaiah 9:6 that describe God’s promised Savior:
  - Wonderful Counselor
  - Mighty God
  - Everlasting Father
  - Prince of Peace
- **Ask** everyone to pick up an ornament and a sharpie and write one of the descriptions on their ornament.
- **Place** all the ornaments in the center of the group and mix them up.
- **Spend** a few minutes praying together as a group by praising God for keeping His promises.
  - One kid at a time picks up an ornament and thanks God for what they see on the ornament.
  - For example, thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be our Wonderful Counselor; thank You for the hope we have in our Mighty God; we praise You for sending us the Prince of Peace; thank You God for keeping Your promises, thank You God for the hope we have through the Everlasting Father, etc.
- **Finish** by closing the group in prayer.
- **Let** kids each take an ornament home with them as a reminder that we worship a God who keeps His promises and we can have hope in that this Christmas season.

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## 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. JUST FOR FUN

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper
- Markers
- (Optional) Christmas snack: hot chocolate

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic circular ornaments; one for each kid
- Gift boxes and gift bags; one for each kid
- Masking tape

### 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. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**[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 full of Christmas objects (ornament, candy cane, stocking, nativity figurine, Christmas cookie cutter, Christmas book, jingle bell, gingerbread man, Christmas décor, Christmas ribbon, small strand of lights, etc.); one bag for each Small Group
  - *NOTE:* Make sure you cannot see through the bag.
- Gift box with a lid; one for each small group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pieces of plexiglass or plastic or laminating sheets (around 8x10 size): one for every two kids
- Seven different colors of dry erase or wet erase markers
- Bibles
- Print the "Bible Story Notecards" Activity Page and cut apart; one for every small group

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

**[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:

- White butcher paper
- Green paint
- Large paint brushes
- Black paint and/or black markers
- Bibles
- Scissors
- Tape



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

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

### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic circular ornaments (from Opening Activity)
- Black permanent markers

#### 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**.