



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful, Joyful
Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are your plans for Christmas?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can have joy because
God has a plan for you.

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 ("Christmas This Year" from *Jingle Jam Wrapped Up*, "Joy to the World (Glory to the King)" from *Joy to the World (Glory to the King)* single, and "Angels We Have Heard On High" from *Jingle Jam*)
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 that your group would connect with the idea of joy despite what is going on in their lives that is really difficult. Lift up in prayer specific kids in your group that you know are having a hard time finding joy in this season. Pray that each one would see how God has a plan for each one of them—a good plan!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful, Joyful

Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, markers, (optional) Suggested Christmas treat: candy canes

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 is joy?
 - What brings you joy at Christmas?
 - What makes a Christmas joyful?
 - Are you having a joyful Christmas season so far?

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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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Wide craft sticks, small jingle bells, timer or stopwatch

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Set** out a few bowls of small jingle bells and hand everyone a craft stick.
- **Ask** them to gather around a bowl—a couple kids per bowl—and put the craft stick in their mouth.
- **Tell** them that when you start the timer, they will have one minute to balance as many jingle bells on the craft stick as possible, while the craft stick remains in their mouth.
- If time allows, **repeat** the game another time or have the top three or four compete for the championship.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Last week we talked about an Old Testament promise from God that He would send a Savior. And today, the story picks up in the New Testament of the Bible, hundreds of years later. **[Transition] I can't wait to hear what's next. Let's go to Large Group to see what's next.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Tissue paper, carrot, black buttons (or something to be snowman eyes), hat, gift box, wrapping paper, tape and scissors, paper, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Divide** your group into two teams.
- **Assign** one team the task of “building a snowman” and the other team “wrapping a present.”
- Each group will prepare a how-to presentation for their assigned task and write down a list of instructions.
- When the instructions are finished, each team will try to complete the other team’s task, using only their instructions.
- **Hand** out the paper and pens.
- Give teams a few minutes to write out a plan.
- As they work, **remind** kids to think about exactly how to complete the task; they won’t be able to add any details or give any verbal instructions while the other team uses the written instructions.
- **Allow** them to touch and hold the supplies as they figure out what they think will work, but instruct kids not to “use” the supplies, as they’ll be needed by the other team.
- When everyone is finished, let teams trade instructions.
- **Set** out the supplies (white tissue paper, carrot, black buttons, and hat for the snowman; gift box, wrapping paper, tape, and scissors for the gift wrapping) and **challenge** kids to follow the instructions exactly as they’re written.
- At the end, **ask:**
 - Who was able to accomplish the task with the instructions exactly as they were written out?
 - Were there any crucial steps left out?
 - Was the plan important? Why or why not?

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, selected building supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Each week for the remainder of the month, you will read the Bible story together as a group and then build the scene based on only what you hear in the Bible.
- **Instruct** kids not to add details they've heard from movies or books. This project should only reflect the story as it's told in the Book of Luke.
- Today the main characters and details are the angel (Gabriel) talking to Mary, and then Mary going to visit cousin Elizabeth (also pregnant), inside Elizabeth's home for three months.
- **Open** the Bibles and take turns reading from the passage: Luke 1:26-56
- Briefly **discuss** the main points and people in the story and then let kids start building.
- **Guide** them to make sure everyone gets to participate and contribute.
- If you have a larger group, you may want to consider letting kids split into two groups and build two scenes.
- Ideally, you will leave this scene set up from week to week so kids can see the progress of the story throughout the rest of the month. If that's not possible, break it down gently so that it can be set back up and re-used next week.



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 are your family's plans for Christmas?
- Do you like having set plans, loose plans, or no plans? (Ask kids to elaborate on their responses.)
- How was Jesus a part of God's plan all along?
- What does it mean to you to know that God sent Jesus for you? How does it make you feel?

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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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy Memory Verse Cards" Activity Page, hole punch, ornament hooks, Bibles, markers, butcher paper Christmas tree from week 1

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Lay** all the verse cards out in front of your group.
- **Pass** out Bibles and **ask** for volunteers to look up and read the verses.
- **Ask: What's the reason for JOY according to this verse?**
 - Guide kids to work together to condense their answer to one word or phrase
 - Let one person write it on the card. (They can decorate the card, too, if they would like.)
- Then **hand** the card to another person to punch a hole, **add** the hook, and **hang** the card on the paper Christmas tree on the wall from last week.

Note: Below are the potential answer to the question, but there really is no right or wrong answer. The goal is to let kids work together as a group to think critically about what the verse means to them.

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Luke 2:10-11

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Our Savior

Psalms 33:21

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? We can trust Him (Overflowing with hope, NIV)

Romans 15:13

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? We're filled with hope

Matthew 1:21

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Jesus saved us (Jesus saved us from our sins, NIV)

John 3:16

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Eternal life

1 Samuel 2:1

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Strength (Deliverance, NIV)



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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer JOY Die" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- **Tell** your group that you're going to end your "JOY"-filled day by praying together with the J-O-Y acronym.
- **Show** them the die and **explain** that everyone will get a chance to roll, and they'll pray aloud (a one sentence prayer) based on what letter they land on.
Note: If anyone is uncomfortable praying aloud, encourage them to be brave and do it anyway, but don't force kids to pray aloud.
 - J- Jesus- thank God for Jesus, our Savior
 - O- others- pray for someone else in need or thank God for someone special in your life
 - Y- yourself- thank God for His plan for your life or something specific you want to praise Him for
- **Give** everyone a chance to roll and pray, then **close** by praying aloud over the whole group:

Dear God, thank You so much for the joy we have in You this Christmas season and always! Thank You for sending Jesus for us—we needed a Savior, and You gave us Jesus! I thank You for each kid sitting here today—they are all special to me and even more so to You. Thank You for how You made them each special and beautiful and smart and funny! We praise You for the plan You have for us and that we can trust You no matter what. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!



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: candy canes

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:

- A couple bowls of small jingle bells
- Wide craft sticks; one for each kid
- Timer or stopwatch

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tissue paper
- Carrot
- Black buttons (or something to be snowman eyes)
- Hat
- Gift box
- Wrapping paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Paper
- Pens

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:

- Bibles
- Building supplies: cardboard, poster board, scissors, tape, glue butcher paper, newspaper, tissue paper, wrapping paper and paper towel tubes, craft sticks, fabric strips, pieces of material or blankets, old clothes, yarn, cotton balls

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 Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-plan and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Joy Memory Verse Cards" Activity Page and cut out; one set for each Small Group
- Hole punch
- Ornament hooks
- Bibles



WEEK
TWO
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

- Markers
- Butcher paper Christmas tree from week 1

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:

- Print the "Prayer JOY Die, cut apart and fold; one for each Small Group

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**.