



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

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

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Emotion Motions!
Chilly Choo Choo
Angel Launch

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Silent Night"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Memory Verse with Motions
Message on the Move
Deliver the Message
A Special Message!
Jesus Is the Present
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; instruments or music player; and this month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your monthly files; Optional Dance Moves Video for "Silent Night," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

LEADER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad to see you! It's almost Christmas! Christmas is when we celebrate that God gave us Jesus. And God gave us Jesus to show us how much God loves us! When I ask, '**How do we know God loves us?**', you say, '**God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?**'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus!**"

LEADER: "That's right! God gave us Jesus on that first Christmas. Let's sing this together.

Lead children in singing "Silent Night," this month's worship song.

"I love worshipping with you, friends! Tell me, **how do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

LEADER: "That's right! **God gave us Jesus!** The Bible teaches us that 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) loved the world (cross arms over chest) so much (pull hands away from each other) that he gave his only Son,' (rock arms like a baby) John 3:16. (Open hands like a book.) Let's learn the verse together! Watch me do the motions, then you can do it with me!

"God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) loved the world (cross arms over chest) so much (pull hands away from each other) that he gave his only Son,' (rock arms like a baby) John 3:16. (Open hands like a book.)

Repeat the verse and the motions with the children.

"Great job! I'm SO glad God gave us Jesus. That's what Christmas is all about! **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"



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10 MINUTES

LEADER: "Yes, **God gave us Jesus!** God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus.

"Thanks for worshipping with me today, friends. Remember, God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!**
[Transition] And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"The true story of Christmas begins with a young girl named Mary.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"God had an important message for Mary. How do you think God gave Mary the important message? Did God give Mary the important message by sending a letter? (*Pause for response.*) No!

"Did God call Mary on the phone? (*Pause for response, then laugh.*) No, God gave Mary an important message by sending an angel! The angel gave Mary a VERY important message.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

"Mary was surprised and a little afraid when she saw the angel. But the angel said, 'Do not be afraid, Mary! God says you are going to have a baby and you will call Him Jesus.'

"WOW! That IS a very important message!

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

"Mary was going to have a baby! And not just any baby. Mary was going to have Jesus! (*Pause.*) Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son!

"Hooray for Jesus! God loves us SO much that God gave us His Son, Jesus. That is A LOT of love! So when I ask, '**How do we know God loves us?**', I want you to say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' Let's try that! **How do we know God loves us?**'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus!**"

LEADER: "Again! **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus!**"



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10 MINUTES

LEADER: "Yay! **God gave us Jesus!** **[Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

LEADER: "Dear God, Thank You that we can read the true story of Christmas in the Bible. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

[Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Lead small group to first activity.



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GETTING READY

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

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your monthly files

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Silent Night," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut apart.
- Place "Memory Verse Card" in Bible at John 3:16.
- Download all songs available on OrangeKidsMusic.com and have them ready to use.

2. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Optional cardstock

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W1 01
- Story Image W1 02
- Story Image W1 03

WHAT YOU DO:

- Option: Copy the Optional Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY: First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

MONTHLY WIDGET*: CHRISTMAS TRAIN PUZZLE

This month, we offer a unique item that helps kids and families apply what they're learning at home. Available at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

*WIDG-ET [WIJ-IT] -noun

1. Something unspecific whose name is either forgotten or not known.
2. A device that is very useful for a particular job
Origin: 1925-30; perhaps an alternative form of gadget

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_ChristmasTrain