



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.

Who Lives in the Stable?

Building Tracks

Where Was Jesus Born?

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 Train

Christmas Story Bag

Draw the Story

Is This the Right Place?

Scripture Wrapped Manger

Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.

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" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your monthly files; Optional Dance Moves Videos for "Silent Night," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

LEADER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]. Can you guess what time it is? I'll give you a BIG hint. We'll sing and dance and say, 'Thank You, God!' That's right, it's time for worship! It's my favorite thing to do! Can you tell me what we're celebrating all month long?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Christmas!"

LEADER: "That's right! At Christmas, we celebrate the best gift ever—Jesus, God's Son. We know that God loves us because God gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?**"

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

LEADER: "Yes, **God gave us Jesus.** So stand up and sing!"

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

LEADER: "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 say our memory verse together with the motions.

Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.

"Great job, friends! We know God loves us so much because God sent 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!"



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional Sound effects (provided), Story Images and cardstock*

LEADER: "Hello, friends! Merry almost Christmas! 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 W2 01)

"God sent an angel (*point to angel*) to tell Mary a very important message. The angel told Mary that she would have a baby and the baby would be named. . . (*cup hand to ear to encourage children to respond*) Yes! Jesus!

"Not long after that, Mary and Joseph had to travel to a town called Bethlehem. What kind of animal do you think Mary rode to Bethlehem? (*Listen for responses.*) Those are some great guesses! Mary may have ridden . . .

(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)

"A donkey.

Make the ASL sign for "donkey." Hold thumb next to forehead and flap fingers up and down twice.

"Can you do the sign for donkey (*make the ASL sign for donkey*) and say, 'Hee-haw'?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: (*Make the ASL sign for donkey.*) "Hee-haw! Hee-haw!"

LEADER: "Good job! Now when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay. And fast! Baby Jesus was about to be born!

"Now tell me, is Jesus being born a little bit special or a BIG WHOLE LOT of special? (*Listen for response.*) YES! Jesus being born is a BIG WHOLE LOT of special, because Jesus is God's Son! So where did Joseph and Mary stay? (*Pause.*)

"Did they stay somewhere fancy, like a giant castle? (*Pause.*) Or somewhere not so fancy, like a stable where animals live? (*Pause.*) Yes, Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable where animals live.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)

(Option: Play Chicken Sound effect [provided])

NOTE: If you choose not to play the sound effect, you can adjust the next section of the script, and invite the children to make the different animal sounds with you.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

"What was that? What animal makes that sound? (Pause.) A chicken! That's right!

Play "Sheep" sound effect.

(Option: Play Sheep Sound effect [provided])

"I hear another animal! What animal makes that sound? (Pause.) Yes, that's a sheep!

Play "Cow" sound effect.

(Option: Play Cow Sound effect [provided])

"What animal makes that sound? (Pause.) Yes, that's a cow!

Play "Baby" sound effect.

(Option: Play Baby Sound effect [provided])

"Wait. That's not an animal. What makes THAT sound? (Pause.) Aww, it's a baby!

"Baby Jesus was born!

(Option: Display Story Image W2 04)

"Mary wrapped Jesus in cloths and placed Him in a manger full of straw. Jesus, God's Son, had been born! **God gave us Jesus!**

"And that's how we know God loves us! **God gave us Jesus!** So when I ask you, '**How do we know God loves us?**', I want you to say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' Let's try it! **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!"

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 for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus. Jesus is very special, because Jesus is Your Son! 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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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" from Week One placed in Bible at John 3:16

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:

- Download all songs available on OrangeKidsMusic.com and have them ready to use.

2. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Optional cardstock

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS: (PROVIDED):

- Chicken
- Sheep
- Cow
- Baby

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W2 01
- Story Image W2 02
- Story Image W2 03
- Story Image W2 04

WHAT YOU DO:

- Option: Download the sound effects to a smartphone and have them ready to play.
- 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.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

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