



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
LUKE 1:26-33, 38; 2:1-21

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.

All Aboard 
Train Car Decorating
Box of Lights

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.

Party Verse
Birthday Cupcakes 
Gifts of Choice
Drive Your Train
Decorative Topper
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
LUKE 1:26-33, 38; 2:1-21

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; and 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: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. Raise your hand if you're SO excited it's almost Christmas. Me, too! I'm so excited to celebrate Jesus' birthday! God gave us Jesus to show how much God loves us!
How do you know God loves you?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "God gave us Jesus."

LEADER: "You've got it! Stand up on your feet and sing this out with me.

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

"God loves us so much that He 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 that together.

Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.

"God loves you and God loves me SO much that God gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "God gave us Jesus."

LEADER: "Yes! **God gave us Jesus.** Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[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
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

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 girl named Mary. God gave Mary an important message by sending an angel!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

"The angel gave Mary a VERY important message. 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! 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!

"Not long after that, Joseph and Mary . . .

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

". . . had to travel to a town called Bethlehem. Did Mary and Joseph stay in a big fancy castle, or did they stay in a stable where animals live? *(Pause.)* Yes, Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable where animals live.

"Because there were no rooms anywhere else. And that's where Baby Jesus was born!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

"On the same day Jesus was born, there were shepherds out in a field taking care of their sheep. While the shepherds were watching their sheep, God sent an angel to tell them that Jesus had been born.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

"At first, the shepherds were afraid, but the angel told them, 'Don't be afraid! God's Son, Jesus, has been born!' Then the shepherds got excited. What did the shepherds do? *(Pause.)*

Run in place really fast.

"Yes! Stand up and run in place with me.

Lead children to run in place really fast.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

"Great job! You can sit down. The shepherds ran as fast as they could to find Baby Jesus!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 05)

"When the shepherds got to the stable, they saw Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus, just like the angel said they would.

"And that is why we celebrate Christmas! Christmas is when **God gave us Jesus**. It's Jesus' birthday! Happy birthday, Jesus! (Pause.) Hey! Let's all sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus! Stand up, and let's sing!"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday, dear Jesus. Happy birthday to you!"

LEADER: "Happy birthday, Jesus! Yay, Jesus! Woo-hoo! God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!** And Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

"Thanks for singing with me. You can sit back down.

"Now that you know Christmas is all about when **God gave us Jesus**, if anyone ever asks, '**How do we know God loves us?**', all you have to say is '**God gave us Jesus!**' **How do we know God loves us?**'"

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

LEADER: "One more time for Jesus' birthday! **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, we want to say, 'Happy birthday' to Jesus today! Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son to be our friend forever. 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
FOUR
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:

- Optional cardstock

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W4 01
- Story Image W4 02
- Story Image W4 03
- Story Image W4 04
- Story Image W4 05

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.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

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