

Dec. 13th 2020

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 (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)



1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**
 - 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?
6. Coloring pages and toys for play time.
7. **Transition to Large Group:**

Lead your group to the Story Experience area.



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

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 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?



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

1. Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

2. **Today’s Bottom Line:** We can have hope because God keeps His promises.
3. **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 (NIRV)

4. Choose one or two review activities:

3. Discussion Questions

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

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

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?

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Get prayer requests and pray for the class!

5. Check Out & Parent Pick-up

Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up.

1. **Talk** about doing the God Time Cards and send one home with each child.

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line:**

Encourage families to do the God Time Card together and read the Parent Cue.

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.