

ELEM Flight Plan December 21st



Lesson	Our Praise
Bible Passage	Luke 2:1-7, Isaiah 64:4, Colossians 1:15-16a
Story Point	Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.
Key Passage	“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible...” Col 1:15-16a
Big Picture Q & A	<p>How is Jesus the perfect Messiah?</p> <p>Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.</p>



Our Praise December 21st, 2025

Story Point: Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.
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ADVENT STORY

In the Bible, we tell the story of a birth that changed everything. The birth of Jesus Christ came into the world to save us. He was born in a manger, a simple place, but his love for us was infinite. He came to Earth to save us from sin and to bring us back to God. His love is the greatest love, and it is the love that we need most. He is the perfect Messiah, and we know that because of the love that He has for us. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible... Col 1:15-16a



Family Discussion Starters

1. What town was Jesus born in? (Luke 2:4)
2. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? (Luke 2:5-6)
3. Who was Jesus' first visitors? (Luke 2:8, 16)
4. Why is Jesus' birth so incredible?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible.
Colossians 1:15-16a

leader bible study

Joy to the World! Jesus has come! The King of the Universe has come down from heaven to be laid in a manger, the humblest of baby beds. A visible form of our invisible heavenly Father- the One who said He would save us all and answered the pleas of the prophets and people.

We know this story so well, it is sometimes difficult not to let the awe and majesty of this night fade. Let us take the time to rekindle the magnificence of what this day means and all that was accomplished with the birth of this little baby.

God created our world to be perfect, but in the garden, sin entered the world so His perfect plan was broken. Our loving Father still wanted connection with His creation, so He made a covenant and gave His people the law to know Him and follow Him. The people tried and failed. The law became a list of tasks to accomplish, not a heart posture to draw them closer. God warned His people through the prophets time and again to return to Him, but they kept choosing to put other gods and other things first. There were painful consequences... exile, dispersion, conquest- the people were scattered. But, in His abounding love and mercy, He gave them hope with a promise: a Savior would come and rescue His people, connecting them back to Him. For hundreds of years, there was no word, until finally, an angel appeared to a young woman who knew the scriptures. She trusted God's plan to use her as the mother of the Messiah. When it was time, the first ones to find out about the Savior were some lowly shepherds nearby. They joyfully shared all that the angels told them with everyone they met and went back glorifying God for this good news!

This little baby fulfills all of the promises of a better way, a new covenant that would cover the cost of sin for us, and a true and personal connection to our God in heaven. The maker of heaven and earth come down to be with us, His creation, to save us from ourselves. Jesus is more than we can really know, understand, or imagine. Joy to the World! The Lord has come!

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____

December Focus: Advent



Nov 30th: Isaiah's Plea *Isaiah 64:3-4, 8*

Story point: The prophets shared the hope that God had a plan to save His people.



Dec 7th: Mary's Praise *Luke 1:26-38; 46-47*

Story Point: Mary answered God with praise and a peaceful heart.



Dec 14th: Angels' and Shepherds' Praise *Luke 2:8-20;*

Story Point: The shepherds praised God after the angels Brought them the joyful news of Jesus.



Dec 21st: Our Praise - Jesus' Birth *Luke 2:1-7, Col 1:15-23*

Story Point: Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.



Dec 28th: The Wisemen *Matt 2: 1-21*

Story Point: The Wisemen came to worship Jesus.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to discuss a time they made and kept a promise.

When we want someone to trust us, we might say that we promise to do something. Although we cannot perfectly keep every promise we might make, God can. He promised to send a Savior, and that's exactly what He did. Today we will learn about when Jesus was born.

Big Picture Question

When you listen to our Bible story today, I want you to keep an important question in mind: **How is Jesus the perfect Messiah?** Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Key passage

Our key passage comes from the Bible and tells us about Jesus.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible..." Colossians 1:15-16a

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Remember the Bible is made up of lots of different stories, but all the stories fit together to tell the bigger story of how God saves sinners through His Son, Jesus. This week we will hear how Jesus was born, just as God promised!

Show the Bible Story Video or briefly summarize today's story. Each class will go more in depth during their Bible Story Time.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Isaiah 64:4, Colossians 1:15-16a**. Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story. Wrap up with the insights below.

The birth of Jesus is the good news and He was more than an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to Earth from heaven. He is the King of Kings, born without a crown or a palace. He is the promised Savior Isaiah asked for, come into the world to deliver us from sin, death, and separation from God. Time and time again, God told His people that the Messiah was coming, and we know God is faithful, and despite people's sins, He is a promise-keeper.

Jesus is the answer to that promise! He is God, come down to earth, to reveal our Holy, invisible Heavenly Father to us. Jesus was with him in the beginning (John 1:3) and created all things. He created everything- the things we can see and the things we can't. Christmas is not about celebrating just a baby being born, it is so much **more!** More than we can really understand or think about- Jesus left heaven, left God's side, to be God for us in person, so we can be saved.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: JESUS WAS BORN TO BE GOD'S PROMISED SAVIOR.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor announced that everyone needed to be registered. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus.

That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel said, "I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David." Then the angel said, "You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids use the table of contents and large numbers in the text to find **Luke 2:1-7**. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **What town was Jesus born in?** (*Bethlehem; Luke 2:4*)
2. **Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?** (*because of a decree from Cesar Augustus for a census to be taken; Luke 2:1-3*)
3. **Who were the first people to hear the news about Jesus' birth?** (*The shepherds; Luke. 2:8, 16*)
4. **Why is Jesus' birth so incredible?** *because Jesus' birth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, and the promise of salvation that would come.*
5. **Jesus was born as a baby, how is He more than a baby?** *He is the image of the invisible God so he is God. Before we existed Jesus did, and He created all of us. Everything was created by Him in heaven and on Earth.*
6. **What are some visible things God created?** (*people, animals, plants, etc*)
7. **What are some invisible things God created?** (*wind, thoughts, heat, sound, etc*)

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Promise Keeper

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

The Visible and the Invisible Pottery

1. In Isaiah 64:8, we talked about how God is like a Potter- holding us and molding us like clay. We created this pot to remind us that we are the work of His hands! Now we're going to decorate it and make it unique just like we are.
"For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible." We are also going to decorate our pots in a visible and an invisible way.
2. Starting with the visible, we are going to use markers and paint pens to create designs and color our pots. We want to see our visible creations easily!
3. While we wait a few minutes for our pots to dry, we are going to do a quick "Would You Rather" brain break to get kids moving.
4. After the "Would You Rather," return to the dry pots. Now we will focus on the invisible. Everyone will get a q-tip and glow-in-the-dark paint. Using the q-tip: paint a pattern, dots, and lines on the pot.
5. While we wait for the paint to dry, play a round or two of Boundary-ball.
6. After the glow-in-the-dark paint is dry, turn out the lights and close the curtains, making the room as dark as possible. Have the children gather around, using the black lights to charge their pots. After the pots are glowing, observe the invisible!
7. Wow! Joy to the World! Jesus- the Messiah- the one who was there when things were made and created, both the visible and invisible, came to earth to save US!



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Would You Rather

Have the kids gather in the middle of the room. Designate each side of the room (A or B) to match the first or second part of the question. Have the kids move to the side of the room that matches their answer. Let's get moving!

Would you rather...

1. Spend the entire day drinking hot chocolate or eating freshly baked cookies?
2. Make snow angels or have a snowball fight with your family?
3. Sing Christmas carols or dance at a Christmas party?
4. Be a polar bear or a penguin?
5. Look at Christmas lights or watch Christmas movies?
6. Go ice skating or sledding?
7. Live in a gingerbread house or live in a snow globe?
8. Have icicles for hair or a carrot for your nose?
9. Have everything you touch turn into snow or everything you touch turn into frosting?
10. Have snow that smells like candy canes or Christmas ornaments that glow-in-the-dark.
11. Build a tiny snowman or a giant gingerbread man?
12. Eat mashed potatoes with chocolate sauce or turkey with candy cane gravy?



15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Boundary-ball

1. Mark a tape line on the floor at one end of the room. Give each kid a foam ball or tennis ball. Mark the balls with kids' initials or names on the ball with an Expo Marker, to help them keep track of the ball.
2. Each kid will stand about 10 feet away and throw the ball underhanded (roll, toss, or bounce) toward the tape line. Explain that kids should aim for the ball to stop close to the line without going over.
3. Identify the winner. If time allows, allow kids to collect their balls and play again.
4. It's almost Christmas! Pretend that this line is Christmas Day, but we're not there yet. Try and get your ball as close to Christmas as you can without going past it!



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

