

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship ("Joy to the World" from Joy to the World single and "Extra, Extra [It's Christmas Time]" from Extra, Extra It's Christmas Time single)
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

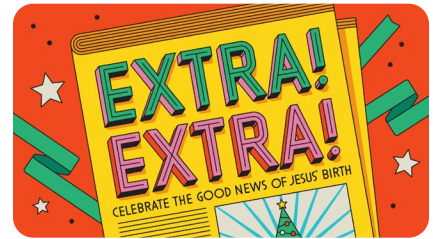
Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Bible Story Review: Breaking News: Jesus is Born! (K-1st grade), Shepherds' Surprise (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)
2. Application Activity: The Greatest Gift Box (K-1st grade), Pass the Gift (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)
3. Memory Verse Activity: Echo the Good News (K-1st grade), Good News Gazette (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)
4. Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20 (NIRV)

Bottom Line

Jesus is the greatest gift.

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**



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video: Countdown

Optional Video: Theme Intro

Optional Video: Theme Loop

① Opener

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*. It's almost Christmas day! Merry (*almost*) Christmas!

"This month is super-special because we're discovering how Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us!

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God loves you so much He sent you Jesus!

"Celebrating God's great love makes this a time of joy, love, and togetherness, and I'm so excited to share this wonderful season with all of you.

"One of the traditions people have at Christmastime is that we give each other gifts! Speaking of gifts, have you ever tried really hard to unwrap a present? Some are wrapped so tightly it's like a skill challenge just to unwrap it! That's what our game today is all about. It's called the 'Gift Unwrapping Challenge.' We've got layers and layers of paper and tape, just waiting for you to dive in.

"But before we get to the game, let's remember our Bottom Line for today: *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is the greatest gift. Keep that in mind as we dive into our challenge! Now, I want to hear everyone say it with me on the count of three. Ready? One, two, three: Jesus is the greatest gift!

"Okay, everyone, let's get into our Small Groups. (*Pause as the kids get into their Small Groups.*)

"Each group has five gifts wrapped up super-tight. (*Give each Small Group five gifts.*)

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

"Your challenge is to unwrap the gifts one at a time as fast as you can. When I say 'go,' you'll start unwrapping! First, you'll do the first box, and the second, and so on! And remember, while you're unwrapping, think about how each layer of paper is like the many ways God shows His love for us.

"And don't worry if you're not the first to finish. The real joy is in playing the game and being together. Just like the real joy of Christmas isn't the presents we get, but the love we share and the celebration of Jesus' birth. So let's keep that spirit of joy and love in our hearts as we play.

"Alright, now that everyone is ready, let's get set, go!

→ **Comment on the action as the kids unwrap. Celebrate the group that finishes first, but encourage all groups to unwrap all of the gifts.**

"That was amazing, you guys! You are such awesome gift unwrappers. This week, we're going to look at the true story from the Bible about the greatest gift ever given—Jesus. But before we do that, let's worship the God who gave us that great gift!"

② Worship

→ **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! Christmas Day is almost here! Hooray! Christmas is such a special time because it's when we celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. God gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! Our first song is 'Joy to the World.' Jesus is joy for the whole world—Jesus is good news for everyone!

"Let's stand up and get ready to sing 'Joy to the World!'"

AUDIO: "Joy to the World" / from Joy to the World single

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great singing and dancing, everyone!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Note: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session without connecting it to what has come before, two sections in the script below are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer." *(Or if you are joining us at some point throughout the year, you can opt out of the God's Big Story part and just join us as we journey through the rest of the story of Scripture!)* We're going to go through the Bible as we teach throughout the year, but whether or not you share God's Big Story each week is up to you!

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

WORSHIP LEADER: "Before we sing our last song, let's learn our Memory Verse together with some simple motions. This is part of the message the angel declared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born! The angel's visit to the shepherds is recorded in the Bible in Luke chapter 2. It's Luke 2:11!

"It goes like this:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11 NIV).

"Let me teach you some motions that might help you remember the verse. You guys repeat the motions after me:

"Today in the town of David" – Point straight down with both hands like you're marking right now.

"a Savior" – Spread your arms wide like you're about to hug.

"has been born" – Rock your arms like you're holding a baby.

"to you." – Point to a friend or the group.

"He is the Messiah," – Pretend like you're putting on a crown with your hands.

"the Lord." – Point both hands up to the sky.

"Luke 2:11" – Open the palms of your hands together like you're opening a Bible.

"Let's all try that together!

→ **Repeat the Memory Verse with the motions several times.**

"Great job! This Christmas season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It is great, great news! This next song is talking about how we can share that great news with everyone!

AUDIO: "Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*)" / track from Extra, Extra (*It's Christmas Time*) Single

"Great job, everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

③ Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, friends! It’s almost Christmas! That’s so exciting! This season, there are Christmas trees and candy canes and there’s so much joy—all to celebrate what happened on that very first Christmas, when God gave us Jesus—**[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift!”

“And that’s what we’re going to learn about today! But before we get to the Christmas story, let me tell you about something amazing we’re doing this year! We’re learning about the key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!”

“Why? Well, one of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so we can know Him! So as we read key stories from the Bible this year, hopefully we’ll learn about Him!”

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “We’re going to go through God’s Big Story in the Bible together so we can get to know God! **(Gesture to slide.)**”

SLIDE: God’s Big Story

“Let me catch you up on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!”

“You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn’t be close to Him anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.”

“But God didn’t want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!”

“God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God’s people. Over time, God’s people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. God’s people cried out to God—‘Help us!’ they said—and God heard them! God freed His people

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (**and one queen**) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' God told His prophets to share. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries—His plan to rescue all of us.

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!

SETTING UP THE STORY

- **Set a large table in the middle of the stage. On this large table should be the Storyteller's Bible, and the three cardboard boxes that will serve as the background for the story. From the audience's perspective, put the Nazareth box on the left, then the Bethlehem box in the middle, then the Shepherd's Field box to the right.**
- **The box of candy props should be on the floor, but accessible to Storyteller.**
- **Storyteller can place the printed script on the table for reference if needed.**

STORYTELLER: "Merry Christmas, everyone! This week is so super-special because we are going to tell the story of God sending Jesus! **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift!

"And I thought what better way to tell this sweet story, this story about God blessing us with goodness, than with some candy!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- **Reach in the prop box for the Hershey's Milk Chocolate candy bar and hold it up.**

"This Hershey's Milk Chocolate bar will represent Mary. You'll understand why in a minute. Let's get started here with Mary while we remember where we've been so far.

- **Prop "Mary" up against the cardboard box representing Nazareth. (Make sure to make eye contact with the kids from time to time, and feel free to have ongoing discussion about positioning the candy bars just right—"stay right up here, Mrs. Candy Bar"—your conversation will make things more entertaining!)**

"God always had a plan to send Jesus. Ever since the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve ushered in the curse of sin that kept everyone from being close to God, God started His plan to rescue us. He wants us to be His close friends!

"So God got to work on His great rescue plan. And He worked for years and years and years—all of the Old Testament in the Bible is filled with stories of God working on His great rescue plan. Then, when the time was right, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary to tell her some incredible news—she was going to have a baby!

- **Hold up the "Mary" candy bar while you say these next words.**

"God sent an angel to HER and SHE trusted God and said she wanted God's plan for her life.

"God sent an angel to HER and SHE trusted God. Get it? HER-SHE? Okay, I'll move on. Back to the story.

"And this baby God was sending was going to be a very special baby! God wasn't just going to rescue us; He was sending a Rescuer—His very own Son!

THE CENSUS

STORYTELLER: "At this time, God's people were living under Roman rule. The Roman leader, Caesar Augustus, commanded that everyone should be counted so they could pay taxes. That meant everyone had to go to their hometown to be listed.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"In Nazareth, there was a man who was engaged to marry Mary. He was a carpenter named Joseph.

→ **Reach in the prop box for the Mr. Goodbar candy bar and hold it up.**

"Now the Bible says that Joseph was a righteous man. He was good. So he's Mr. Goodbar! Get it, Mr. GOOD-bar?

→ **Prop the "Joseph" candy bar up next to the "Mary" candy bar on the Nazareth backdrop.**

"Both Joseph and Mary had been born into the family line of King David. So they would have to make the about week-long journey to Bethlehem, the town of David, in order to be counted. This was more than a little inconvenient, as Mary was going to have a baby!

→ **Walk the "Joseph" and "Mary" candy bars from the Nazareth background to the Bethlehem background and prop them up against the Bethlehem background.**

THE JOURNEY

STORYTELLER: "Depending on the route they took, the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem could have been up to 90 miles—which would have taken nearly a whole WEEK for Joseph and Mary to travel on foot, or by donkey.

"When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, they found that lots of other people had come to be counted as well. There was no guest room where Joseph and Mary could stay. They finally found a place where animals came in on cold nights.

THE BIRTH

STORYTELLER: "While Mary and Joseph were there in Bethlehem, the Bible tells us this:

→ **Open the Bible to Luke 2:6-7 (NirV) and read.**

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy.

→ **Reach in the prop box for the wrapped mini Reese's peanut butter cup and hold it up.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Aww, look! Mary had a little boy—Jesus! He is the Reese's, I mean the REASON, for the season! This candy cup with the wrapper also looks like a crown. Even though Jesus was a baby, He is the King of kings!

- **Put the "Jesus" mini Reese's peanut butter cup between the "Joseph" and "Mary" candy bars.**

"Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth to keep Him warm and cozy. There was no crib or cradle, so she placed Him in a manger—a feeding trough for animals. God's Son, the best gift ever, came into the world in the most unexpected way!

- **Reach in the prop box for the two full-size candy canes and hold them up.**

SHEPHERDS SEE

STORYTELLER: "A little way away, there were some shepherds out in the fields watching over some sheep, I mean Skittles!

"And shepherds often used shepherd's crooks to guide the sheep. These candy canes look like shepherd's crooks!

- **Prop the two "shepherd" candy canes against the Shepherd's Field background as best you can. Sprinkle the Skittles randomly around the Shepherd's Field.**

"The shepherds were just taking care of their sheep when, suddenly, an angel appeared!"

- **Reach in the prop box for one of the full-size Almond Joy candy bars and hold it up. Have it "hover" over the candy cane shepherds, the Skittles sheep, and the Shepherd's Field as you speak the next lines.**

"The angel had good news of great joy! Get it, an Almond Joy? Ha ha!

"Anyway, the angel's big news was so important. The Savior, our Rescuer, was born—Jesus!

"This is what the angel announced to the shepherds:

- **Open the Bible to Luke 2:10-12 (NirV) and read.**

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

"This is the part of the story where I'm going to need a helper! If you would like to help me, raise your hand.

- **Choose a volunteer from the kids with their hands raised and instruct the volunteer to join you on stage.**

"And all of a sudden, more angels joined the first one! Okay *[kid's name]*, we've got to get some more joyful angels! You get more Almond Joy candy bars, I mean angels, from that box. I think there are three more! I'll take one, and you take the other two.

"Let's hover them over the candy cane shepherds, and I'll tell you what happened next.

"The angels praised God. They said:

- **Open the Bible to Luke 2:14 (NIRV) and read.**

"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

- **Move the Almond Joy candy bars over the candy cane shepherds like they're having a praise party for a few seconds.**

"Then the angels left and went back to heaven. *[Kid's name]*, let's put our Almond Joys, I mean angels, back in the box.

- **Put all four of the Almond Joy candy bars back in the prop box.**

"Thank you for your help, *[kid's name]*! You can return to your seat. Everyone give *[kid's name]* a round of applause. (*Join in the applause.*)

STORYTELLER: "I'll continue my sweet story.

"The shepherds were so excited that they ran to see baby Jesus. Move the two candy cane shepherds over from the Shepherd's Field background to the Bethlehem background like they are running.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"The shepherds found Jesus just like the angel had told them—He was lying in a manger. They were so excited to see Jesus!"

→ **Act like the two candy cane shepherds are jumping with excitement.**

"As the shepherds went back to the fields, they told everyone about the amazing thing that had happened!"

→ **Move the two shepherd candy canes back to the Shepherd's field background. Try to move them as if they are excited, and say the following. Then once they arrive at Shepherd's Field, try to prop them up, but feel free to lay them down if that won't work.**

SHEPHERDS: "Hooray! The Savior has been born! An angel told us, and we saw Him for ourselves! He is here!"

"The shepherds were the first to spread the good news. God's promise had come true with Jesus. It was the absolute sweetest news!"

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "No one understood it then, but this tiny baby would grow up to teach, heal, and show people what God is like. And then Jesus would choose to lay down His life and die on a cross—for you and me, and for the whole world. He would break that curse of sin so we could be close to God again.

"Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever! Jesus is our Rescuer!"

"And that's why we celebrate Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the season. At Christmas, we celebrate that God gave us the greatest gift.

"That reminds me of our Bottom Line for this week!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Jesus is the greatest gift. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

STORYTELLER and HOST and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus is the greatest gift."

"God loves you so much that He sent you Jesus! Merry Christmas, everyone!"

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story, 'The Birth of Jesus.' (*Gesture to slide.*) Today we talked about when Jesus was born!"

"This week, we talked about such an important part of God's great rescue! Ever since the Garden of Eden, when the whole world needed rescue from the curse of sin, God promised He was going to rescue us so we could be close to Him again. In all of the stories in the Bible we read up to this point (*gesture to your timeline*), God was working, working, working on this great rescue plan. And He loves us so much, He never gave up, even when people in His story turned away from Him. He kept on working toward our rescue, no matter what. And to the shock of both heaven and earth—Jesus, God's very own Son, was going to be our Rescuer! God is coming to rescue us! No one expected God's Big Story to take this turn, but God knew it all along. And then one night, that gift of Jesus arrived. And that little baby would grow up to be the One who would rescue us all. That little Baby in the manger is our Savior. Merry Christmas! God gave you Jesus!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

→ **If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.**

"This week, we talked about when God gave us Jesus, our Rescuer!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: *(Optional: "As we go, I'd like to give everyone a candy cane to remember this sweet story of Jesus. But before we give those out, let me wrap up our story.")*

"One of the traditions of Christmas (***besides eating lots of yummy treats!***) is that we give gifts to each other.

"Well, at Christmas, God gave you the greatest, greatest gift that there ever could be. He gave you Jesus.

"Jesus would grow up, give His life, break that horrible curse of sin we were all under, and make a way for you to be God's friend forever.

"Jesus would make a way so you could be close friends with the God who is kind, loving, compassionate, and fun. God made a world where amazing things like yummy candy bars are possible! Not to mention big hugs, good friends, and puppies! This world was God's idea! He is the best.

"God was giving you a way to be His friend forever. He was giving you a way to be friends forever with the most incredible Being.

"And don't forget about the forever part! As God's friend, you will live with Him in a perfect world forever!

"The best gift you will ever, ever get is the one we celebrate at Christmastime! So as you do all of the fun Christmas things this next week, remember the reason why you're doing it is because you're celebrating that God loves you so much, He gave you Jesus. **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is the greatest gift!

"Let's talk to the God who gave us such an amazing gift!

Continue on next page →

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for sending us the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember this Christmas, and every Christmas, that You gave us the greatest gift because You love us so much. Merry Christmas, Jesus. We love You so much too."

→ **Dismiss kids to their small groups.**

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ Gift boxes, five for each Small Group
- ☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper, several rolls (The more colorful, the better to make the challenge festive and fun!)
- ☐ Tape, several various kinds of clear tape

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
2. Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
3. Wrap the gift boxes in multiple layers of paper before the kids arrive. Use assorted kinds of tape to make the game more challenging. Wrap five boxes for each Small Group.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with APlay! JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters — more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Joy to the World" from Joy to the World single
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" from Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time) single

Optional Videos

Available for Purchase

- ☐ "Joy to the World" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store. ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "Extra, Extra (It's Christmas Time)" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store. ThinkOrange.com)

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

What You Do:

1. Download all songs and have them ready to use. Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform.

For example:

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000

2. Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com).

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

Listed on the right. (*What You Do is on the next page.*)

What You Need:

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Large table
- ☐ Candy props, including:
 - One full-size Hershey's Milk Chocolate candy bar for Mary (because the angel appeared to HER and SHE trusted God)
 - One full-size Mr. Goodbar candy bar for Joseph (because Joseph was righteous)
 - One mini, wrapped Reese's Peanut Butter Cup for baby Jesus (Jesus is the Reese's for the season.)
 - Four full-size Almond Joy candy bars for angels (because they delivered good news of great JOY)
 - Two full-size candy canes for the shepherds (because shepherd's crooks look like candy canes)
 - One full size package of Skittles for the sheep
- ☐ Three blank cardboard boxes that will sit on the table and serve as the backgrounds for the three "scenes"—Nazareth, Bethlehem, and the Shepherd's Field (See "What You Do")
- ☐ Pieces of black construction paper
- ☐ Pieces of green construction paper
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Cardboard box to hold the candy props
- ☐ *Optional: Mini candy canes, one for each kid*
- ☐ *Optional: Volunteers to hand out mini candy canes at the door before the kids head to Small Group*

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Optional Video

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide

Optional for God's Big Story

- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- ☐ God's Big Story Slide
- ☐ Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- ☐ We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed Timeline Images in order, week by week. We'll provide a Timeline Image for each week of the curriculum. There are two versions of each Timeline Image—a slide and a print version. A digital [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

Listed on the previous page.

What You Do:

1. Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
2. Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
3. To create the three background "scenes" on the cardboard boxes:
 - **Nazareth background:**
 - Cut out three rectangles to serve as houses from the black construction paper.
 - Tape them to the outside of one of the blank cardboard boxes, leaving a little blank space between them, to represent houses.
 - **Bethlehem background:**
 - Cut out two rectangles to serve as houses from the black construction paper.
 - Tape them to the outside of one of the blank cardboard boxes, leaving a little blank space between them, to represent houses.
 - **Shepherd's field background:**
 - Cut out rolling green hills that are as long as your third box on the green construction paper.
 - Tape them so they go along the bottom of one of the blank cardboard boxes. (This will be for the field where the shepherds are watching the sheep.)
4. Put all of your candy in the cardboard box.
5. *Optional: If you choose to hand out mini candy canes to each kid as they go to Small Group, the volunteers who are handing them out can explain that an upside-down candy cane looks like a "J" for Jesus—the great gift that God gave us!*

PLANNING

Getting Ready

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and APlay.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

→ StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

→ The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)