

Today's Suggested Schedule—December 2025, Week 2

Today's Bible Story: Gabriel Visits Mary • *Luke 1:5-66*

Conversation Starter: What are your plans this Christmas?

Today's Bottom Line: God always had a plan to send Jesus.

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 NIV*

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags:

Bible Story Review

- ☐ Butcher paper with a news desk drawn on it
- ☐ Bible marked at Luke 1:5-66
- ☐ Tape

Memory Verse Activity

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Dry-erase board and marker

Application Activity

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Markers and large crayons
- ☐ Device for playing worship music

Prayer Activity

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind you (and your group) that God is good and that He is always working for good. Pray for any visitors that they would find a safe place in your group to wonder and ask questions. Thank God for inviting ordinary people like Mary into His extraordinary rescue plan. Ask the Holy Spirit to help preteens recognize that God's great love for them led Him to work for years and years so they could be close friends with Him again! And because He loves them so much, He is always working for good in their lives, and they can trust Him!

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- ☐ Butcher paper with a news desk drawn on it
- ☐ "Emoji News Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ Bible marked at Luke 1:5-66
- ☐ Tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape the butcher paper with a news desk drawn on it to a wall in your group area (or place it on the floor).-or just place on the wall or dry erase board
- Gather the kids on the opposite end of your group area.
- Give each kid one of the "Emoji News Cards" and a piece of tape.
- Show them how to loop a piece of tape double-sided and place it on the back of their card.
- Explain how to play:
 - Show the kids the butcher paper "news desk."
 - Explain that you will read the Bible Story aloud in short sections.
 - When part of the Bible Story matches their card, that kid will quickly run to the "news desk" to deliver it.
- Read through the Bible, pausing to make sure the appropriate card is put on the news desk at the appropriate time. (The cards are numbered, so that should help keep things in order!)
- Continue until all the cards have been taped in story order.
 - If you have more than 10 kids in your group, assign multiple kids to one of the "Emoji News Cards." If you have fewer than 10 kids in your group, a kid can have more than one card from the "Emoji News Cards" Activity Page. Just make sure all of the "Emoji News Cards" are assigned.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share your plans that you have this Christmas with family and friends. Do you serve or give gifts to others to remind them of Jesus' love for them?)***

Story Matches

1. 🙌👦🙌🙌 Luke 1:5-7
2. 🏛️👦🙌🙌 Luke 1:8-20
3. 👦🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:23-25 (The last emoji represents the tablet Zechariah likely wrote on.)
4. 👦🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:26-29
5. 📧🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:30-33
6. 🙌🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:34-37
7. 👦🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:38
8. 👦🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:39-45
9. 🙌🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:46-55
10. 👦🙌🙌🙌 Luke 1:57-66

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are your plans this Christmas?
- Since God worked on His great rescue plan for years and years to pay for sin so He could be your close friend, how does that show He feels about you?
- Why is Jesus the best news we could share?
- If you could tell one friend or family member the good news about Jesus, what would you want them to know first?

2. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Dry-erase board and marker

What You Do:

- Before you begin, write Luke 2:11 on the dry-erase board and erase several words. The kids will identify the missing words during this activity.
- Give every kid a Bible and invite them to look up Luke 2:11.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids, like 'Messiah.' If you have a lot of returning kids from week 1, ask them what 'Messiah' means. If not, use this recap to share:
 - "Messiah" is a special title that means: "Anointed One" or "Chosen One."
 - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
 - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: "This is the One God promised! He's the Rescuer, the forever King, the One we've all been waiting for to make us right with God again!"
- Put the Bibles away.
- Gather the kids together in front of the dry-erase board.
- Let them take turns guessing the missing words from the verse.
- Continue changing the missing words and calling on various kids to guess them.
- Ask:
 - The verse says a Savior has been born "to you." How does it feel knowing Jesus came for YOU personally?
 - If you had to share this verse with a friend in your own words, what would you say?

3. Application Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Markers and large crayons
- ☐ Device for playing worship music

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape the butcher paper on a wall or across the floor.
- Tell kids this is the “Jesus Graffiti Wall.”
- Play the worship music softly.
- Invite the kids to write or draw words, doodles, or symbols of truths they know about Jesus.
 - *For example, Jesus came for everyone, Jesus is God’s Son, I can trust God because He is good, I can say “yes!” to God like Mary did, etc.*
- As they work, ask them questions like:
 - If you were making a headline about Jesus—a big, bold statement hitting the main point you want to make for the whole world to see—what would it say?

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- If kids in your group need more personal space, consider using more than one piece of butcher paper to spread them out.

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need:

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils

What You Do:

- Give every kid an index card and a pencil.
- Invite them to reflect on today’s **[Bottom Line]** **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**
- Lead a salvation conversation with the kids.
 - Say: “God always had a plan to send Jesus. That plan wasn’t just for Mary or the shepherds or the people living back then. It was for YOU too! God’s plan has always been to make a way for us to be close to Him, and that’s why He sent Jesus.”
 - “The truth is, we all mess up (that’s called sin). Sin keeps us from being close to God. BUT God’s plan was to send Jesus to take the punishment for our sin so we could be close friends with God again! When you believe in Jesus, you’re saying, ‘I know You died for me, and I want to follow You.’ That’s the BEST news you could ever accept. If you’ve never told Jesus you believe in Him and want to follow Him, you can do that anytime, even right now, as you pray.”
- Encourage the kids to take a quiet moment to talk to God.
 - Say: “Take a quiet moment. You might want to thank God for sending Jesus. You might want to write a prayer telling Jesus you believe in Him and want to follow Him! Or you might just want to tell God what you’re feeling right now.”
- Instruct the kids to use the index card and a pencil to write a prayer to God.
- Spend some time in quiet prayer.