

Today's Suggested Schedule—December 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: Gabriel Visits Mary • Luke 1:5-66

Conversation Starter: What are your plans this Christmas?

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

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [Name of environment]. This month, we're discovering why we celebrate Christmas and how it's not just about the presents or the decorations. It's about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

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

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! It's a special time of year, and we're going to celebrate with some songs that remind us of the first Christmas when God gave us the greatest gift ever—Jesus! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! Are you ready to sing and celebrate together?"

"Let's start with a song called 'Silent Night.'"

VIDEO: "Joy to the World"

LEADER: "Great singing and dancing, everyone!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

"This is part of what the angel said:

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

"What great news! Jesus had been born! 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 season, we can remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Isn't that amazing? It's great, great news! It's so fun to celebrate what God did for us at Christmas! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: So and So Show

LANDING

LEADER: "Sometimes life surprises us with unexpected news, just like Mary was surprised when Gabriel told her about Jesus. When things feel confusing or difficult, it's important to remember that God always keeps His promises.

"We can choose to trust God like Mary did. She didn't have all the answers, but she trusted God. She knew He is good, so she trusted Him. And that's something we can hold onto as well—the promise that God is good and He is always working for good, even when we can't see it.

"In this Christmas season, as we celebrate Jesus, we're reminded of God's great love for us. Just as our Memory Verse for this month tells us, part of what the angel announced to the shepherds:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 (NIV) and read.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

"This verse isn't just a part of history; it's about God's plan for us. A plan that is good and filled with love—a plan that brought Jesus into the world.

"God always had a plan to send Jesus, and that's really what we're celebrating. It's not just about the festive lights or the gifts, but it's about God's faithful love that came to us through Jesus.

"As we look forward to our Christmas plans, let's ask ourselves ...

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What are your plans this Christmas?"

"Are they full of love, joy, and the peace that comes from knowing Jesus? How can we show others the kind of love Jesus shows us? Chew on this question as we head to Small Group. We'll talk more about it there.

"Let's pray together and ask God to help us live out the truth of Christmas every day."

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAYER

LEADER: "Lord, thank You for Your perfect plan that brought Jesus to us. Help us to trust You more and to share Your love with the people around us this Christmas. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.