



Preschool Leader Guide

Dec. 7 – Pre-K & Kindergarten

Monthly Theme: God Is Always with Me

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Gives Me Strength

Snack Time This can be done at any point during the hour except for within the last fifteen minutes in the classrooms to ensure that everything is able to be cleaned up and put away prior to parent pick up. Use your discretion as the classroom leader in choosing when to distribute snack to children.

**Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

Welcome & Connect Time:

Use this time to welcome children as they arrive! Introduce yourself, learn names, and help children learn their friends' names. Connect Time is an easy way to help a child feel included and part of the team right from the beginning. The purpose is to help kids meet other kids, connect with their leaders, and feel a part of the team. These "stations" are already found all around each preschool classroom. Building blocks, cars, baby dolls, or any of the other toys and manipulatives in the classrooms for kids to play with. Please feel free to pull out blank paper and writing/drawing materials as well as playdough and cookie cutters. All of these are available to you for use during this time. If you need any other items, please feel free to let Katie Grace or your hallway coordinator for the week know and they will work on next steps to secure those items for your room.

Treehouse Music & Worship:

Using the Treehouse TVs select the **Preschool Worship** or **Kid's Worship Sing & Dance Along** playlist to play 3 songs for worship time. Pray to open your time in the treehouse and then after the final song send kiddos back to their classrooms to do Super Clue and Bible Story.

Please note: **THE PUPPET STAGE DOOR SHOULD BE CLOSED AT ALL TIMES FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY.** Both the door to the treehouse storage closet and the door to the back of the treehouse must remain closed during programming as both pose a safety and security risk for children.

Activity:

Preschoolers will choose which item they like best and move to the corresponding side of the room.

Big Goal: Find something in common.

Script: Welcome to church! I am so glad you are here today. Let's start by doing a fun activity called "This Side or That Side." What is it called? (*This Side or That Side!*) Great! I will call out two things, and I want you to choose which one you like more. Then you will move to the side that is for the item you picked. Let's do a practice round. Which do you like more? Looking at Christmas lights or listening to Christmas music? If you like Christmas lights better, move to *this* side of the room. (*Point to one side.*) If you like Christmas music better, move to *that* side of the room. (*Point to the other side. Invite preschoolers to move to the side they prefer.*) Awesome! Some of you like Christmas lights more, and some of you like Christmas music more. We will play several rounds to learn about some Christmas items you like.

Use some of the following ideas or create your own:

Decorating a Christmas tree or decorating a gingerbread house?

Eating Christmas cookies or baking Christmas cookies?

Opening presents or giving presents to someone?

Eating candy canes or drinking hot chocolate?

We had so much fun learning about each other as we chose *this* or *that*. We found some things we have in common with each other. Having things in common means we like the same things. We have many more fun activities in store today as we learn about God and celebrate Christmastime.

Countdown Video:

Play Countdown Video

Welcome Video:

Play Welcome Video

Music Video:

Script: *(Invite preschoolers to count down with you and the video.)* 5-4-3-2-1! Hello, friends! My name is _____, and I am so excited for today. Before we begin, we need to warm-up and get ready for our time together. Let's stand up and do a few stretches. Let's pretend we are decorating a Christmas tree. First, bend low to the ground and place ornaments on the bottom of the tree. *(Stretch down low, pretending to put ornaments on the bottom of a Christmas tree.)* Now we need to place ornaments on the middle of the tree. *(Stretch side to side, pretending to put ornaments on the middle of a Christmas tree.)* Now we need to place ornaments at the top of the tree and put a star at the top. *(Stretch up high, pretending to put ornaments up high on the Christmas tree and adding a star at the top.)* Great job! It is so much fun talking about Christmas! This month we have a special Christmas Theme—*Best Gift Ever!* Let's say that together. Ready? "Best gift ever!" Nice! Today we will be learning about how God is always with us and how Jesus is the best gift ever.

Singing is so much fun! Let's sing this new song called "Best Gift Ever!"

Play Theme Song Video.

Super Clue & Bible Story Video:

Supplies:

"Super Clue: Gingerbread House" printable 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

Super Box 1 per group

Small gingerbread house 1 per group (optional)

Big Deal Motions:

Best Gift Ever! *(Take a present and pretend to push it forward.)*

God Is Always with Me! *(Reach up with both hands open, pointing inward. Bring them down to your chest.)*

Script: Christmastime is such a special time. We can celebrate and give gifts to people we love. Let's learn today's Big Deal. A Big Deal is a special truth we can learn about God. Today's Big Deal is, "Best Gift Ever! God Is Always with Me!" Let's say that together. I'll say it first, and you can say it after me. *(Do motions above as you say the Big Deal.)* Best Gift Ever! *(Best Gift Ever!)* God Is Always with Me! *(God Is Always with Me!)* Great job! Today we will be talking about how

God gives us strength. *Strength* is the ability to do something hard. Do you know what it means when we say, "God gives us strength"? *(Allow responses.)* God helps us believe what He says and do what He tells us to do, even when it is hard. He gives us strength to stand strong and follow Him. He is always with us! Isn't that super?

Hey! Did you hear that? *(Allow responses.)* That sound can only mean one thing. It's the Super Box! Now this box isn't just an ordinary box. This box has something special inside called a Super Clue that connects to our Big Deal, "Best Gift Ever! God Is Always with Me!" I wonder what the Super Clue could be? If you are ready to open the Super Box, give me a thumbs-up! *(Give a thumbs-up and allow responses.)* Great!

(Open the Super Box and pull out the physical Super Clue or Super Clue printable.)

Oh! It's a gingerbread house! I love decorating these at Christmastime. Have you ever decorated a gingerbread house before? If you have, give me a wave. *(Allow responses.)* A gingerbread house is made of gingerbread and decorated with candies and icing to look like a little house! But I wonder how a gingerbread house can help us learn more about our Big Deal, "Best Gift Ever! God Is Always with Me!" You know what? We can send this Super Clue to our friends, the Super Crew, at the Clubhouse. They will know what this means! I can't wait for them to tell us.

(Place Super Clue back in Super Box.)

We can count down and press the "Go" button to send the Super Clue to the Super Crew. When I say, "Go," I'll press the button on this Super Box. You can pretend to press the button by pressing one hand on top of the other, like this! *(Hold one palm faceup and press the other palm to it facedown, like pressing a button.)*

Ready? 3-2-1 Go!

Play Bible Story Video.

Script: *(To preschoolers)* Today we have learned that God gives us strength. In our Bible story, an angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus. He would be great because He is God's Son. Mary and Joseph needed God's strength to believe what the angel said and to do what God said to do.

Our Super Clue is a gingerbread house. A gingerbread house needs icing to hold it up and keep it standing strong. God gave Mary and Joseph strength to trust Him and do what He said to do. God gives us strength to stand strong and follow Him too. Let's say our Big Deal again. I will say it first, and you say it after me. Ready? Best Gift Ever! *(Best Gift Ever!)* God Is Always with Me! *(God Is Always with Me!)* Great job!

Let's talk and listen to God. This is called *prayer*. We can thank God for giving us strength.

God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for giving us the strength to follow You. Amen.

Game:

Preschoolers will move to a corner of the room and answer questions when their corner is called.

Big Goal: Remember the Bible story.

Leader Prep: Cut a small strip of paper from four different colored sheets of paper. Place the strips in a gift bag. Tape the remaining sheets of colored paper in four different areas (corners) of the room.

Supplies:

Adult scissors 1 per group

Assorted colored paper 4 per group

Gift bag 1 per group

Painter's tape 1 per group

Script: Let's look around the room at the different sheets of paper on the walls. What colors do you see? *(Point to and name each color.)* Great job! There are four different colors. Let's count to four together. Ready? Go! "1-2-3-4!" Yes! When I count to three, I want you to move to one of the sheets of paper and stand by it. You can choose any color you like. Ready? Let's practice that! 1-2-3! *(Encourage preschoolers to move to a paper on the wall.)* I am going to choose a strip of paper from this bag. If I choose the color where you are standing, I want your group to answer a question from our Bible story. Let's try it! *(Choose a colored strip of paper and ask the corresponding team a question. Continue playing, allowing preschoolers to move to a new area each round.)*

Use some of the following review questions or create your own:

What was the name of the angel that visited Mary? *(Gabriel)*

What did the angel tell Mary? *(Do not be afraid. You will have a son.)*

Who appeared to Joseph in a dream? *(an angel)*

What did the angel tell Joseph? *(Mary was going to have a son, and His name would be Jesus.)*

What did Mary and Joseph name their baby? *(Jesus)*

Nice job playing “Four Corners!” In our Bible story today, an angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus. He would be great because He is God’s Son. Mary and Joseph needed God’s strength to believe what the angel said and to do what God said to do. God is with us and gives us strength to follow Him too!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

A child will be born for us, *(Cross your arms like you are holding a baby.)*

a son will be given to us. *(Spread your arms in front of you with palms up.)*

Isaiah 9:6a *(Hold hands out like a book.)*

Script: We can learn that God is always with us from reading the Bible. Today’s Theme verse comes from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. *(Open a Bible to Isaiah 9:6. Point out the Theme verse to preschoolers.)* Let’s watch a video to learn our Theme verse from the Bible.

Play Theme Verse video.

Script: Great job! Today’s Theme verse was written a long time before Jesus came. God promised to send Jesus to be with us, and God always keeps His promises. Our Bible verse talks about how God would send His Son, Jesus. He is the best gift ever! That is why we celebrate Christmas!

Craft:

Preschoolers will make gingerbread houses out of brown paper bags and put them together to make a village.

Big Goal: Remember the Main Idea, “God Gives Me Strength.”

Leader Prep: Make several sample houses. Note: the gingerbread house will be a brown paper bag placed upside down on a flat surface. The bottom of the paper bag will be the roof of the gingerbread house.

Supplies:

Brown paper bags 1 per child

Cotton balls Several per child

Glue sticks 1 per child

Markers or crayons Several per child

Stickers Several per child

"Gingerbread Village Instructions & Example" printable 1 per group

Craft Instructions:

1. Before the session, make several sample gingerbread houses.
2. Invite preschoolers to decorate a brown paper bag like a gingerbread house, leaving the paper bag flat while decorating. Encourage them to use markers or crayons to draw a door, windows, and other accessories.
3. Provide stickers for them to add additional decorations.
4. Lead preschoolers to add "snow" to their houses by gluing cotton balls down.
5. Guide preschoolers to open their paper bags and place their houses together to make a village.

Script: Today we will be making a Super Clue village! Since our Super Clue is a gingerbread house, we will be making a gingerbread house village. What will we make? (*A gingerbread house village!*) Great! I will give you each a brown paper bag. Keep it closed and flat, and you can use markers or crayons to draw doors, windows, and other things on your house. You can even draw candies on it and add stickers. Then I will give you cotton balls to glue on to look like snow. Don't forget to keep your house flat as you decorate it. Once we are done, we will open the bags up and place them all together to make a village.

Look at our gingerbread village! It looks awesome! When you make a gingerbread house, you need icing to make it strong. Today we are learning that **God gives me strength**. Let's say that together! Ready? "**God gives me strength.**" Good work! God gives us strength to stand strong and follow and trust Him.

Room Refresh & Clean Up:

Script: Okay friends, it is time for us to clean up! Let's walk around the room and find objects and toys that are out of place. We need to see where they belong and put them back! Look at the pictures around the room to help. This is an important way to show our love for our church.

-Currently, you're welcome to keep a few key items out for children to play with while they wait for their parents to arrive. Our goal in building this into our Sunday morning routine/schedule is to ensure that our classrooms are refreshed and ready either for the next service or to close out our Sunday morning. We want to encourage and teach our little ones how to take care of the church and instill that value in their lives. This will also help our weekday volunteers in preparing the rooms for the next Sunday.

Pick Up Time:

During this time, children may play with toys that are not already put away in and around the room until their parents arrive to pick them up. Once all children have left, please make sure to collect and put back any of the items that are left out in the respective places. The photographs around the room will help make sure we leave these spaces the way we found them. We are so appreciative of all you do!



Preschool Leader Guide

Dec. 14 – Pre-K & Kindergarten

Monthly Theme: God Is Always with Me

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Gives Me Joy

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Activity:

Preschoolers will toss pom-poms into a hula hoop in the center of the room.

Big Goal: Remove barriers to belonging.

Supplies:

Hula hoop 1 per group

Red and green pom poms Several per child

Script: Hi, everyone! Let's sit in a circle around the hula hoop. We are going to sit around the what? (*The hula hoop!*) Yeah! If more friends join us, we can scoot over to make room for them. Let's all move back a little bit from the hula hoop so we are ready to play the game. I have some red and green pom-poms here. (*Show pom-poms.*) We have a special job to do. We need to work together to get these pom-poms into the hula hoop, but there is one problem. The hula hoop is a little far away, so we will need to toss our pom-poms to try to get them into the hoop. We may not get the pom-poms in the hula hoop on the first try, and that is OK! We will do our best, but let's make sure to celebrate even if our pom-poms do not make it in the hula hoop. We can try as many times as we need to get them all inside.

Wow! Great job, friends! We did such a good job tossing the pom-poms into the hula hoop. What did we toss? (*Pom-poms!*) We all had a part to play in our game, and it was so much fun working together.

Countdown Video:

Play Countdown Video

Welcome Video:

Play Welcome Video

Music Video:

Script: (*Invite preschoolers to count down with you and the video.*) 5-4-3-2-1! Hi, friends! I am so glad you are here today. Have any of you seen Christmas decorations as you have been in the car this week? Raise your hand if you have seen a Christmas tree. (*Allow responses.*) Stand up and stomp your feet three times if you have seen Christmas lights when it is dark outside. (*Allow responses.*) Spin around two times if you have put up Christmas decorations at your house. (*Allow responses.*) Great job! I love seeing all the pretty decorations at Christmastime. This week we are talking about the best gift ever! We celebrate the best gift ever at Christmas because the best gift ever is Jesus. Let's say, "Best gift ever!" together. Ready? "Best gift ever!" Nice!

It is time for us to sing our Theme song about the best gift ever. Let's sing together.

Play Theme Verse Song Video.

Super Clue & Bible Story Video:

Supplies:

Bible 1 per group

Small stocking 1 per group (optional)

Super Box 1 per group

"Super Clue: Stocking" printable 1 per group

Big Deal Motions:

Best Gift Ever! *(Take a present and pretend to push it forward.)*

God Is Always with Me! *(Reach up with both hands open, pointing inward. Bring them down to your chest.)*

Script: I know what that sound means! It means we have a new Super Clue in the Super Box! The Super Clue connects to our Big Deal, "Best Gift Ever! God Is Always with Me!" Let's find out what is inside. If you are ready, say, "Super!" *(Super!)* Great! Let's open it.

(Open the Super Box and pull out the physical Super Clue or Super Clue printable.)

Play Bible Story Video.

(To screen) That is amazing! Thank you, Super Crew!

(To preschoolers) In our Bible story today, we learned about Mary visiting Elizabeth, one of her relatives. When Elizabeth saw Mary, the baby inside her leapt for joy. Then Mary praised God because she knew how special it was that Jesus would be born. Remember, *joy* is delight or happiness that comes from knowing and serving God. We learned that God sent Jesus to be with us, and He is the best gift ever! Let's say our Big Deal, "Best Gift Ever! God Is Always with Me!" together. I will say it first, and you say it after me. *(Use motions as you say the Big Deal.)* Ready? Best Gift Ever! *(Best Gift Ever!)* God Is Always with Me! *(God Is Always with Me!)* Great job!

Our Super Clue today is a stocking. A stocking can be filled with things that bring us joy and excitement. We can be filled with joy because of the good news of Jesus.

Let's pray together. *Prayer* is talking and listening to God. We can thank Him for giving us joy. Ready?

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be with us. Thank You for the joy we have from knowing You. Thank You for Jesus who is the best gift ever! Amen.

Game:

Preschoolers will work together to roll a ball around the circle in different directions without stopping.

Big Goal: Remember the Main Idea, **"God Gives Me Joy."**

Supplies:

Playground ball 1 per group

Timer 1 per group

Script: This game is called "Joy, Joy, Joy!" What is it called? (*Joy, Joy, Joy!*) Great! We are going to sit down in a circle and try to keep this ball rolling back and forth to all of our friends for one full minute. We will have to work together to keep it going. When the minute is up, we are going to say our Main Idea together, **"God Gives Me Joy!"** Then we will play again. Let's say our Main Idea together. I will say it first, and you say it after me. Ready? **God gives me joy! (God gives me joy!)** Super! Think we are up for the challenge? (*Allow responses.*) Let's play!

Great job keeping the ball rolling. It was so much fun! You all did a great job saying our Main Idea too! Our Main Idea talks about joy. It talks about what? (*Joy!*) Good! *Joy* is delight or happiness that comes from knowing and serving God. Today we are learning that God gives us joy. Let's say, **"God gives me joy!"** together. Ready? **"God gives me joy!"** Way to go! God gives us joy, and we can be excited because God is always with us!

Great job keeping the ball rolling. It was so much fun! You all did a great job saying our Main Idea too! Our Main Idea talks about joy. It talks about what? (*Joy!*) Good! *Joy* is delight or happiness that comes from knowing and serving God. Today we are learning that God gives us joy. Let's say, **"God gives me joy!"** together. Ready? **"God gives me joy!"** Way to go! God gives us joy, and we can be excited because God is always with us!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

A child will be born for us, *(Cross your arms like you are holding a baby.)*

a son will be given to us. *(Spread your arms in front of you with palms up.)*

Isaiah 9:6a *(Hold hands out like a book.)*

Script: The Bible tells us that God is always with us. Our Theme verse is from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. *(Open a Bible to Isaiah 9:6. Point out the Theme verse to preschoolers.)* Let's watch a video to learn our Theme verse.

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: Great job saying our Theme verse! This verse reminds us that God sent Jesus to be with us. He is the best gift ever! In our Bible story today, Mary praised God because she knew how special it was that Jesus would be born.

Craft:

Preschoolers will lace and decorate a stocking.

Big Goal: Remember what is super about the Super Clue.

Leader Prep: Print and cut out "Celebration Stocking" printables, one per child. Punch holes as noted on the stockings. Cut yarn into 24-inch lengths. Thread yarn through the first hole and tape it to the back to help preschoolers get started. Make a sample craft.

Supplies:

"Celebration Stocking" printables 1 per child

Adult scissors 1 per group

Cardstock Several per group

Markers or crayons Several per child

Single hole punch 1 per group (adult use)

Tape 1 per group

Yarn Several per group

"Celebration Stocking Instructions & Example" printable 1 per group

Craft Instructions:

1. Before the session, print and cut out “Celebration Stocking” printables, one per child. Punch holes as noted on the stockings. Cut yarn into 24-inch lengths. Thread yarn through the first hole and tape it to the back to help preschoolers get started. Make a sample craft.
2. Give each child a prepared stocking.
3. Demonstrate how to thread the yarn in and out of the holes. Assist preschoolers as needed. Tape the extra yarn to the back of the stocking.
4. Invite preschoolers to decorate their stockings with markers or crayons.

Script: Our Super Clue today is a stocking. What is our Super Clue? (*A stocking!*) Yes! Let’s make our own Super Clue crafts today. This craft is called “Celebration Stocking.” What is it called? (*Celebration Stocking!*) First, we will thread yarn in and out of the holes around the edges of the stocking. We will help you if you need it. When you finish, we will tape the extra yarn to the back. Then you can decorate your stocking with markers or crayons.

A stocking can be filled with things that bring us joy and excitement. Joy is delight or happiness that comes from knowing and serving God. We can be filled with God’s joy because of the good news of Jesus.

Room Refresh & Clean Up:

Script: Okay friends, it is time for us to clean up! Let’s walk around the room and find objects and toys that are out of place. We need to see where they belong and put them back! Look at the pictures around the room to help. This is an important way to show our love for our church.

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