

K-5TH

LARGE & SMALL GROUPS

DECEMBER.—WEEK 4

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

PRE-SERVICE

GAME	15 MIN
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LARGE GROUP [33 MIN]

OPENING GAME	10 MIN
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WORSHIP	5 MIN
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STORY VIDEO	13 MIN
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BOTTOM LINE

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY

SALVATION MOMENT	5 MIN
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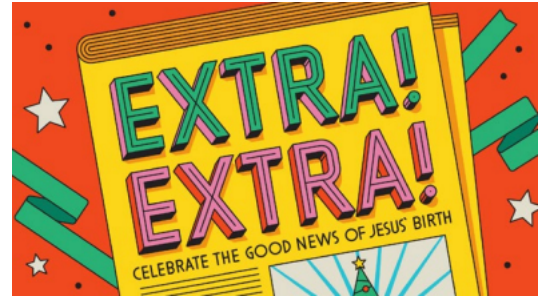
SMALL GROUP [30-35 min]

APPLICATION 1	12 MIN
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APPLICATION 2	12 MIN
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CLOSING PRAYER	6 MIN
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THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Visit Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus all year long.

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

Please make sure that
children who were not
here last week receive a
memory verse card to
take home so they can
practice and memorize
it throughout the week.

Please go over the
memory verse with the
class every Sunday.

PRE-SERVICE GAME

“PIN THE GIFT UNDER THE STAR”

What You Need

- ☐ “Large Star” Activity Page
- ☐ Wall tape looped for back of “gifts” from the “Gift Box” Activity Page
- ☐ Blindfold

Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave!

What You Do

1. Ask the kids about their favorite part of Christmas break so far.
2. Tape the large star cutout from the “Large Star” Activity Page to the wall (make sure it’s at kid-level height).
3. Instruct the kids to line up about 10 feet away.
4. Blindfold the first player (or have them close their eyes).
5. Spin them gently in a circle, hand them a taped gift cutout from the “Gift Box” Activity Page, and challenge them to place the paper “gift” under the star.
6. Instruct the rest of the group to cheer and help guide them by calling out directions like “a little higher!” or “move to the left!”
7. Continue until everyone gets a turn.

What You Say

“Nice work, everyone! Just like you were trying to get your gift under the star, the Wise Men followed a real star to find Jesus. They didn’t give up, even when the journey was long and difficult. And when they found Jesus, they celebrated Him with gifts and worship.

“The Wise Men remind us that Jesus is worth looking for, following, and celebrating, not just at Christmas, but always. We can celebrate Jesus every day because we live in His great rescue and His great love every day! [Transition] Today, we’ll hear more about how the Wise Men found Jesus, celebrated Him, and how we can celebrate Him beyond Christmas too!”

LARGE GROUP

OPENING GAME

“PERSONAL STORY SHARING”

What You Need

- ☐ Small box to hold folded index cards, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Non-holiday wrapping paper, enough to wrap the small boxes
- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

WORSHIP

STORY VIDEO

SALVATION MOMENT

What You Need

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

HOST:

“Hey there! Welcome to FUSION KIDS. This month, we’re discovering the joy and wonder of Christmas as we celebrate Jesus, God’s greatest gift to us. I’m super-excited because today, we’re going to have a special time sharing our own stories about Christmas.

“Before we jump into our story of the Wise Men and their journey, let’s get to know each other a bit better with a game of ‘Personal Story Sharing.’ It’s all about the times we’ve felt joy and gratitude during Christmas—kind of like our version of the Wise Men’s adventure.

“Now, you might be wondering, ‘How can we celebrate Jesus all year long?’ That’s a great question, and our game today will help us start thinking about that. You’ll see how, just like the Wise Men, we can find joy and give thanks for Jesus no matter what month it is.

We have a small gift-wrapped box and some index cards. What you’re going to do is write down or draw, one thing you love about Christmas on the index card. It could be a favorite memory, a tradition, or something you’re thankful for about Christmas.

“Once you’ve all written something down, fold your index card in fours and place it inside the box. Then, pass the box around in the circle. When you receive the box, take out one slip of paper, read the Christmas memory or tradition written on it, and guess who in the circle it belongs to. If you guess right, the person will share more about their story. If you guess wrong, keep passing the box in the circle until the right person’s name is called.

HOST:

“This isn’t just any game; it’s a way for us to celebrate Jesus by sharing our joy with each other. It’s a reminder that all the good things we enjoy at Christmas—and all year round—are gifts from God, just like the Wise Men understood when they followed the star to find Jesus.

(CONT.)

LARGE GROUP

OPENING GAME (CONT.)

“Are you ready to share and celebrate together? Let the game begin!”

→ Play the game. Ensure all participants are respectful and attentive when others are sharing. Encourage a positive atmosphere where everyone feels safe and valued.

“Wow, I learned so much about you all! Now let’s get ready and worship the God who gave us Jesus—the greatest gift!”

WORSHIP

STORY VIDEO

SALVATION MOMENT

What You Need

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 1

“JOURNEY TO JESUS”

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Matthew 2:1-12, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print “Journey to Jesus” Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group

What You Do

1. Before kids arrive, tape the four pictures from the “Journey to Jesus” Activity Page spaced around your group area to mark the story “stations.”
2. Gather the kids and explain that you’ll walk through the story by moving from picture to picture, just like the Wise Men traveled.
3. Lead the kids to each picture station in the order below.
4. While you are at each picture station, read a short part of the story from Matthew 2:1-12 (using the marked Bible) and invite the kids to answer a question.

Star Appears (Star picture)

1. Read Matthew 2:1-2 (NirV): Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus’ birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him.”
2. Ask: What do you think the Wise Men felt when they saw the star?

Jerusalem (Crown picture)

1. Read Matthew 2:3-8 (NirV): When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied. “This is what the prophet has written. He said,

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are certainly not the least important among
the towns of Judah.
A ruler will come out of you.
He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.”

Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too.”

2. Ask: Was Herod happy or worried about this news? Why?

(CONT.)

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 1 (CONT.)

Bethlehem (House picture)

1. Read Matthew 2:9-10 (NirV): After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.
2. Ask: How do you think the Wise Men felt when they finally found Jesus?

Gifts for Jesus (Gift picture)

1. Read Matthew 2:11-12 (NirV): The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.
2. Ask: The Wise Men gave Jesus their very best gifts. What are some ways YOU can give something to Jesus today—not something you buy, but something from your heart?

What You Say

“Awesome job walking through the story today! The Wise Men followed the star because they knew God had done something amazing. When they found Jesus, they celebrated Him and gave Jesus their best gifts.

“We can celebrate Jesus too! We may not bring gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but we can give Jesus our life, our time, our love, and our choices. Think about what you can give Jesus. When we give Jesus something, that’s one way we can worship Him. We can worship and celebrate Jesus not just at Christmas, but every single day! He loves us every single day, and we live in the rescue He won for us every single day! Remember, we can [Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus all year long!”

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 2

“FOLLOW THE CLUES”

What You Need

- ☐ Envelopes with cards from the “Clue Cards” Activity Page inside

What You Do

1. Before Small Group time, place the numbered envelopes around the room in places the kids can see.
2. Gather the kids together and explain that they’re going to “follow the clues” to help retell today’s Bible Story.
3. Invite the kids to walk with you around the room, finding each clue one at a time.
4. The envelopes are numbered, so search for the clues in order.
5. When the kids find a clue, pause, open the envelope, and talk through what part of the story the card inside represents. (What the picture on the card represents is listed below.)
 - **Star:** The Wise Men saw a special star in the sky and decided to follow it.
 - **Camel:** The Wise Men traveled a very long way, across deserts, following the star, for a long, long time.
 - **Crown:** After their long journey, they went to Jerusalem and met King Herod, who wasn’t happy about a new king being born.
 - **House:** The Wise Men left Jerusalem, and the star led them to the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying.
 - **Gifts:** The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor Jesus.
 - **Dream:** God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went home a different way.
6. After all clues are collected, gather the kids in a circle to talk about the story together. Hold up each card as you talk about it, and use the prompts below.

Clue Prompts

1. Star

→ “Here’s a star. The Wise Men saw a special star in the sky. They knew it meant that something very important had happened. They believed a new King had been born, so they chose to follow the star.”

2. Camel

→ “This camel reminds us of the long journey. The Wise Men traveled a very long way, across deserts and hills. It wasn’t easy and it took a long time, but they kept going because they believed God had sent a King.”

(CONT.)

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 2 (CONT.)

3. **Crown:**

→ After their long journey, they went to Jerusalem and met King Herod, who wasn't happy about a new king being born.

4. **House:**

→ The Wise Men left Jerusalem, and the star led them to the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying.

5. **Gifts:**

→ The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor Jesus.

6. **Dreams:**

→ God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went home a different way.

What You Say

"Great job following all the clues! Each one told us part of the story of the Wise Men. They didn't have all the answers, but they trusted God, they knew He was up to something good, and they followed the star. And when they found Jesus, they celebrated Him with worship and gifts.

"The Wise Men gave Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gifts that showed He was a King. But the best gift they gave Him wasn't something they carried on their camels. The best gift was their worship and their choice to honor Jesus as King.

"We don't need to bring Jesus gold, or frankincense, or myrrh. The best way we can celebrate Jesus is by giving Him our love, our lives, our obedience, our kindness to others, and our worship. Just like the Wise Men traveled far and gave their very best, we can choose to give Jesus our very best too.

"And here's something amazing: we don't just celebrate Jesus one day at Christmas. We can celebrate Him all year long! You can start by worshipping and praising Him, by being His close friend, and by following His ways. You can always celebrate Jesus!

"So let's remember: Jesus is worth celebrating, every single day, not just on Christmas morning. We can celebrate Jesus every day because He loves us every day! We can [Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus all year long."

SMALL GROUP

PRAY AND DISMISS

What You Need

- ☐ *3rd-5th Graders - Index Cards & Pens**

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Say: "The Wise Men celebrated Jesus by bowing down to worship Him and giving Him gifts. The Bible shows us many ways we can worship Jesus too. We can sing songs to Him. We can pray and thank Him. We can read the Bible and learn more about Him. We can even give our time and attention to Him—He wants us to be His close friends. Worship isn't just something we do at church, and it's not just singing. It's something we can do every day!"
3. Invite kids to close their eyes and think of one way they can worship Jesus this week (examples: sing a song of praise telling Him how wonderful He is, pray and thank Him for any blessing they experience, spend time reading the Bible, talk to Him during the day).
4. Give the kids a quiet moment to decide, then ask if a few would like to share aloud.
5. Close in prayer.

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, the greatest gift. Just like the Wise Men worshiped Jesus with their gifts, we want to worship Jesus with our lives. Help us to sing, pray, thank, learn about, and stay close to Jesus this week. Remind us that every day, not just at Christmas, we can worship Jesus because every day, He loves us, every day, we live in the rescue He won for us, and every day He is our King. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

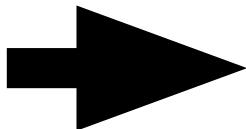
Transition

-> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share: "One way I can worship Jesus is by _____. " Remind families that worship doesn't stop with Christmas; we [**Bottom Line**] celebrate Jesus all year long because He loves us all year long.

****3rd-5th- write down your prayer request on a index card and place inside the prayer box.***

GETTING READY

What You Need



PRE-SERVICE GAME

- ☐ “Large Star” Activity Page
- ☐ Wall tape looped for back of “gifts” from the “Gift Box” Activity Page
- ☐ Blindfold

OPENER GAME

- ☐ Small box to hold folded index cards, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Non-holiday wrapping paper, enough to wrap the small boxes
- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pens, one for every kid

SALVATION MOMENT

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

APPLICATION 1

- ☐ Bible marked at Matthew 2:1-12, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Print “Journey to Jesus” Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group

APPLICATION 2

- ☐ Envelopes with cards from the “Clue Cards” Activity Page inside

PRAY AND DISMISS

- ☐ *3rd-5th Graders - Index Cards & Pens**