

Lesson Plan

December 14th, 2025

This Month's Truth: I Am Never Alone

Bible Story: Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:26-56)

Theme Verse: A child will be born for us, a Son will be given to us. (Isaiah 9:6a)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

Share: Today we get to share the joy of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with kids as we tell the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and everyone present recognized the extraordinary significance of Baby Jesus and responded with overwhelming joy. (Read Luke 1:41-42.) During this season, which is often filled with gifts that bring temporary happiness, we get to teach kids that the joy we have through Jesus is a gift that never runs out!

Pray: Thank God that His joy is something we can enjoy every day and pray that His joy would fill your team as they serve.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.** The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

Teacher Opener: Hey, kids! I am _____, and I am so excited you are here today! Turn to your neighbor and say, "I am so excited you are here!" (I am so excited you are here!) I cannot wait to learn all about the best gift ever! Say, "Best gift ever!" (Best gift ever!) That is right! Today we are going to learn that, because of God's Son, Jesus, we are never alone! That is the best gift ever! Let's dive in!

Finish That Lyric

Game Rules:

1. Split your group into however many teams would allow.
2. Invite 1 player from each team to the front.
3. Display the slide, reading the line from the Christmas song.
4. Direct the players to raise their hand if they know the answer. Invite the player who first raised their hand to share the answer.
5. Display the answer. Award one point for the team if the answer is correct.
6. Allow the correct guesser to stay and play a second round. (Only allow correct guessers to guess two times in a row to assure all kids get a chance to play.)
7. Declare the winner as the team who earns the most points.

What You Say: OK, friends, let's play "Finish That Lyric!" Say, "Finish that lyric!" (Finish that lyric!) We are about to have so much fun seeing how well you know your Christmas songs! I will need one player from each team to join me at the front.

I will show a slide, say part of a song lyric, then stop. If you think you know the right answer then you will raise your hand and I will be watching for the person that raises their hand the fastest to share. Then I will show the answer. If you get it correct, you win a point for your team and you get to play another round. If you get it incorrect, someone else will get a chance to guess. To make sure everyone gets a chance to play, correct guessers will get to play two rounds in a row, then go sit down. Players, are you ready? (Yes!) Teams, are you ready to cheer on your teammates? (Yes!) Let me hear you say, "Finish that lyric!" (Finish that lyric!)

Leader Tip: Allow players who get answers correct to play two rounds in a row, then sit down to allow others to play.

"Deck the halls with _____." Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let's see if you got it!

"Boughs of holly." Great job! That is a point for _____! Let's see the next one.

“Dashing through the snow, in a ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“One-horse open sleigh.” Great job! That is a point for ____! Let’s see the next one.

“On the first day of Christmas, my ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“True love gave to me.” Great job! That is a point for ____! Let’s see the next one.

“Silent night, holy night, ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“All is calm, all is bright.” Great job! That is a point for ____!

“We wish you a Merry Christmas and a ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“Happy New Year!” Great job! That is a point for ____! Let’s see the next one.

“Hark the herald, angels sing ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“Glory to the newborn King!” Awesome! That is a point for ____! Let’s see the next one.

“Joy to the world, the Lord ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“Is come!” Great job! That is a point for ____! Let’s see the next one.

“O holy night, the ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“Stars are brightly shining!” Great job! That is a point for ____! And now for the last one!

“Away in a manger, ____.” Finish that lyric! (Allow answers.) Let’s see if you got it!
“No crib for a bed.” Great job! That is a point for ____!

Loud and Clear: Let’s cheer for our winning team! Players, you can all have a seat. (Allow time.) You know, just like you cheered on your teammates and helped them finish the lyrics, there is Someone who is always with us to guide us and help us finish life’s challenges—God! The Bible reminds us that we are never alone because God is always by our side. When I say, “God is with me,” you say, “I am never alone!” Ready? “God is with me!” (I am never alone!) That is right! No matter where we are or what we are going through, God’s presence is always with us.

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: Today we are going to dive into the best gift ever! Say, “Best gift ever!” (Best gift ever!) That is right. Let’s see what a do-it-yourself master named DIY Dan has to say about this. Count down with me, 3-2-1!

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Wow, what an adventure with DIY Dan and the Joy-O-Matic! But just like we saw, true joy is not found in a machine—joy comes from God. Christmas is all about celebrating the joy God gave us by sending His Son, Jesus. Real joy comes from knowing and having a relationship with Him! Let me hear you say, “God gives me joy!” (God gives me joy!)

Worship

What You Say: I’m so excited for worship this morning! Come join me up front and let’s worship God together!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

Bible Story Video

Transition script Teachers please use this to set-up the Bible Story and to encourage the use of Bibles in the classroom with the Kids: (Open the Bible to Luke 1:26-56.) Today’s Bible story is about two amazing women, Mary and Elizabeth, and how they both experienced God’s joy in a special way. Say, “Way cool!” (Way cool!) This story is found in the book of Luke. That is in the second part of the Bible called the New Testament. The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. Repeat after me: “I am never alone!” (I am never alone!) Let’s dive into the story and see how Mary and Elizabeth experienced God’s joy!

What To Do:

- Play the Bible Story
- When it’s over, turn lights back on and ask what the Bible story was about (as well as the questions below), have kids respond, take some answers from the **small group leaders** and share some yours as well, use the script below to help make the connection for the kids.

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: What an amazing story! Let me hear you say, “Wow!” (Wow!) God gave Mary and Elizabeth joy. Even though their lives were about to change in huge ways, they could have joy because they knew God was with them. When we think about this story, we can remember that we are never alone. Say, “I am never alone!” (I am never alone!) That is right! God was with Mary and Elizabeth, and He is with us too! The joy they experienced was not just a feeling that came and went—it was deep, lasting joy that came from knowing and trusting God.

Joy comes from God and lasts no matter what. Say, “God gives me joy!” (God gives me joy!) That is right! Joy does not depend on our circumstances or what is going on around us. God’s joy is something that stays in our hearts because we know that He loves us and is always with us!

If you have any questions about following Jesus or want to know more about the joy that comes from following God, talk to me or your leader. We would love to help you understand how much God loves you and how you can follow Him every day! Repeat after me: “I am never alone; God gives me joy!” (I am never alone; God gives me joy!) And remember, because of Jesus, you can have the real, lasting joy that only He can give!

Offering

What To Do:

- Play video explaining offering to kids
- Play offering time video while kids pass the bucket
- Ask a student(s) to come up and pray over the offering

Theme Verse Review:

Choose between the Video-Led Theme Verse option or the Host-Led Theme Verse option.

Theme Verse Motions:

A child will be born for us, (Cross and cradle 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 your hands out like a book.)

Option #1: Put the memory verse slide on the screen.

What You Say: We are going to learn a verse from the Bible to always remember that we are never alone. Say, "I am never alone." (I am never alone!) Stand up on your feet!

Repeat after me: (Use the motions above.)

A child will be born for us, (A child will be born for us,)

a son will be given to us. (a son will be given to us.)

Isaiah 9:6a (Isaiah 9:6a)

Great job! Now let's say it in your most energetic and joyful voice!

A child will be born for us, (A child will be born for us,)

a son will be given to us. (a son will be given to us.)

Isaiah 9:6a (Isaiah 9:6a)

That was fun! Great job, everyone! It is amazing to know that God gave us the best gift ever!

Say, "Best gift ever!" (Best gift ever!) That is right! In our verse, that child is Jesus. Say, "Jesus!" (Jesus!) And God sent Jesus, His Son, to be with us so we are never alone. That is the best news because Jesus brings us joy that lasts forever. When life gets tough, we can hold on to the fact that we are never alone, and God gives us joy. When I say, "I am never alone," you say, "God gives me joy!" "I am never alone." (God gives me joy!) Great job!

Option #2: Play Memory verse video

What You Say: Let's stand on our feet as we learn a verse from the Bible to always remember that we are never alone. Say, "I am never alone." (I am never alone!)

Play Memory Verse Video

What You Say: Jesus is the best gift ever! Say, "Best gift ever!" (Best gift ever!) That is right! This verse tells us that a child will be given to us. That child is Jesus! Say, "Jesus!" (Jesus!) Because of Jesus, we have the gift of knowing that we are never alone. When we put our trust in Jesus, God gives us joy that will last forever! How long? Say, "Forever!" (Forever!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Wow, what an amazing time we have had together today! Remember, like Mary and Elizabeth, we can have joy because God is always with us. We are never alone! Say, “I am never alone!” (I am never alone!) No matter what is happening around us, we can experience God’s joy because He is with us every moment of every day! So when I say, “God,” you say, “gives me joy!” “God!” (Gives me joy!) Let’s take a moment to pray and thank God for His presence and joy in our lives.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for always being with us and for the joy You give us through Jesus. Help us to remember that no matter what we face, You are with us. We are never alone. Fill our hearts with Your joy every day. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

1. What is something that always makes you smile or feel happy? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
2. When you receive a gift bag, you may feel happy or excited for a time. How is God’s joy different from just getting something fun or exciting? (Unlike a toy or fun gift that might get old or break, God’s joy stays in our hearts because it is a gift of His presence and promises that never change!)
3. The Bible tells us that we are never alone, and that God gives us joy. Let’s open our Bibles to **Luke 1:41-42** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Elizabeth felt joy because she knew God was with Mary. How does it make you feel to know that God is with you too? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
4. When Jesus forgives our sins, He gives us a joy that lasts forever. What do you think it means to trust and follow Jesus? If you have questions about following Jesus, talk with me! (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

5. The Bible tells us that we are never alone because Jesus is always with us! When we put our trust in Jesus, He gives us a relationship with God! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.) Let's pray and talk to God. (Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)

Option #2: 3-D Tree

Craft Instructions

1. Color, decorate, and cut out the "3-D Tree" printable.
2. Glue the two trees from the first paper together, back to back. Do the same with the two trees from the second paper.
3. Color the ornaments.
4. Cut along the dotted lines in the middle of the two trees.
5. Slide the two trees together to make one 3-D tree.

What To Do: Today, we are making a special Christmas tree that reminds us that God gives us joy, and we are never alone. When I say, "God gives me joy," you say, "I am never alone!" God gives me joy! (I am never alone!) First, color and decorate your four Christmas trees. You can include ornaments, lights, ribbons—the works! Your trees already have the Bible story reference for our story today, so you can even decorate those words. (Allow time.)

Now, cut out your trees. Use your glue sticks to glue the trees from the first paper together, back to back. Then do the same with the trees from the second paper. (Allow time.)

Carefully cut down the center of both trees. Now, you can slide them together and make a cool looking 3-D tree!

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to take their time and think about the joy that comes from knowing God as they decorate each part of the tree. Ask questions like, "What brings you joy because of God?" or "How does it feel to know you are never alone?" to help connect the craft to the lesson.

Loud And Clear: Look at your Christmas tree—it is more than just a craft! The words on your trees remind you of what we learned today. You are never alone because God is always with you. Say, "I am never alone!" (I am never alone!) That is right, and because of that, our hearts can be filled with God's joy. Remember that joy does not just come from presents or fun

moments but from knowing God is always with us. That is why we celebrate Christmas, because God is always with us and gives us joy! Shout, “God gives me joy!” (God gives me joy!)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we've learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Use this time to get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that Mary rejoiced in God’s plan to send Jesus, the best gift ever. Because of that, we are never alone and can always have joy.

Loud And Clear: The Bible teaches us that Jesus, the best gift ever, came to be God with us. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made a way for us to have a personal relationship with God forever. Because of His promise to always be with us, we can know we are never alone.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: Jesus, thank You for being the best gift ever. You came to earth to take away our sins and bring us into a relationship with God. Because of You, we can have joy that lasts forever, no matter what happens in our lives. Thank You for forgiving us and for always being with us so we are never alone. Help us to trust You, follow You, and share Your joy with others. We are so grateful for the gift of knowing You and the hope and joy You give us every day. Amen.

Dismissal:

Community Big Kids

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.