

Lesson Plan

December 28th, 2025

This Month's Truth: I Am Never Alone

Bible Story: Jesus was dedicated (Luke 2:1-40)

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: We are teaching kids that hope is trusting that something good will happen. When Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple, and elderly man named Simeon and an elderly widow named Anna rejoiced. They hoped and trusted they would see God's promised Savior before they died—and that hope was fulfilled!! (Read Luke 2:30-32.) When we trust and follow Jesus, we have hope that we will get to love and live with Him now and forever.

Pray: Pray for the families in your ministry to be encouraged and strengthened by the hope of God.

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: Hi, everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Time! My name is ____, and I am so excited that you are here today. We are going to have an awesome time together! Today's theme is "Best Gift Ever"—a gift so amazing, it changes everything. I need to hear you say, "I am ready!" in 3-2-1! (I am ready!) Awesome job! Let's dive in!

New Year Handshake

What You Say: We are going to say good-bye to 2025 and hello to 2026 by making up some new handshakes! Everyone, say, "New Year Handshakes!" (New Year Handshakes!) In this game, I will play a video with some music. While the music plays, you will move around the room. When the music stops, you stop too! Hold up a hand and say, "Stop!" (Stop!) The number one will be on the screen. You will find a friend and make up a three-step secret handshake. How many steps?

(Three!) Be sure you remember which friend you were with when the number one is on the screen!

Then the music will start, and you will travel around again. Each time the music stops, look at the screen. If it is a new number, you will find a new friend and make up a new handshake. But if it is a number we have already seen, find the friend that matched that number and do your secret handshake! If you have got it, give a thumbs-up and say, "I have got it!" (I have got it!) Good! Stand up and let's play!

(once the music stops) Number one! Find a friend and make up a three-step secret handshake! (Allow time.) OK, let's get moving again.

(Once the music stops) Number two! Find a new friend and make up a new three-step secret handshake! (Allow time.) Time to move again!

(Once the music stops) Number one again! Find your first friend and do your secret handshake again! (Allow time.) All right, time to move.

(Once the music stops) Number three! Find a new friend and make up a new three-step secret handshake! (Allow time.) OK, time to move.

(Once the music stops) Number two! Find your number two friend and show off your secret handshake! (Allow time.) Get moving again.

Community Big Kids

(Once the music stops) Number four! Find a new friend and make up a new three-step secret handshake! (Allow time.) All right, it is time to move.

(Once the music stops) It is four again! Find that last friend and do your handshake again! (Allow time.) Let's get moving again.

(Once the music stops) Number three again! Find your number three friends and show your secret handshake! (Allow time.) Great job, everyone! Go ahead and head back to your seats.

Leader Tip: Encourage leaders to play to build connections with kids. Monitor that kids are finding new friends as the game progresses.

What You Say: That was tons of fun! Those were some cool handshakes! Now you can start 2026 with some new handshakes and maybe even some new friends! Secret handshakes are cool because they remind us of the connections we have with each other. Today we get to talk about a connection that will last forever—our relationship with God! God loves us, and we can know that, with Him, we are never alone. Let me hear you say, "Amazing!" (Amazing!) Great job! I want you to say, "I am never alone" in 3-2-1! (I am never alone!) Great job! No matter what happens, God's love and presence through Jesus are with us every day, and that is the best gift ever!

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: It is time for a fun video! Let me hear you say, "I am ready." (I am ready!) Great job! We are about to watch a video about an inventor named DIY Dan. Say, "DIY Dan." (DIY Dan!) DIY Dan is trying to build something wild, but I am not so sure that it is going to work! Let's check it out and see what DIY Dan's plan is.

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Looks like DIY Dan learned a valuable lesson! He could not make the sun appear, but he learned that God gives us hope. Say, "God gives me hope!" (God gives me hope) That is right! Hope is when we wait and trust that something good will happen. No matter what is happening around us, God's gift of Jesus gives us the hope we need every day!

Worship

What You Say: Let's stand up and worship together this morning!

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.) Did you know this Bible is God's true message to us about Himself? It is full of truth, promises, and hope. Today's story comes from Luke 2:21-40, in the New Testament. Say, "New Testament." (New Testament) That is right! The New Testament is the second part of the Bible where we learn all about Jesus, and how we can follow Him.

In today's Bible story, we will see how two people, Simeon and Anna, had great hope because they were waiting for Jesus to come. Let's all say together, "God gives me hope!" (God gives me hope!) Let's open the Bible and see how God brought hope to the world.

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: We saw that Simeon and Anna had been waiting a long time for the promise of God to be fulfilled—the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. They were waiting for the

best gift ever—a gift that would bring hope and salvation to the world. Simeon and Anna had hope because they trusted that God’s promises would come true, even though they had to wait. And when Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna were both filled with joy and peace.

This story helps us understand that God gives us hope, and that we are never alone. When I say, “God,” you say, “Gives me hope!” “God!” (gives me hope!) When Simeon held Jesus in his arms, he said that Jesus was the light for all people—a light of hope that would shine in the darkness. Anna, too, thanked God for Jesus and told others about the great hope He brought. Like Simeon and Anna, we can have hope in Jesus because He is the best gift ever. No matter what, God is with us, and He gives us hope in any situation, even while we wait. Even in times of waiting or uncertainty, we can trust that He is with us every step of the way, like He was with Simeon and Anna.

Simeon and Anna were not the only people that needed hope. God knew that we would all need His hope.

So, whenever you hear this story, remember that God loves you so much and wants to be your friend forever!

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus or if you are wondering how to have this hope, I would love for you to talk to me or another leader. We would be so excited to share more with you.

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: All right, friends, let's all stand up and learn our verse for today! Isaiah 9:6a tells us about the best gift ever—Jesus! When I say, "Best gift ever," you say, "Jesus!" "Best gift ever!" (Jesus!) Great job!

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 the verse in our most high-pitched voice! Let's go!

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)

Isaiah 9:6a reminds us that Jesus, the best gift ever, was given to us by God. Because of Jesus, we are never alone. He is always with us, and God gives me hope for every day. What an amazing promise!

Option #2: Play Memory verse video

What You Say: Jesus is the best gift ever! Let's learn Isaiah 9:6a! Remember, I am never alone because God gives me hope. Let's do this!

Play Memory Verse Video

What You Say: Isaiah 9:6 is a powerful reminder of God's amazing love and plan for us. This verse tells us about the best gift ever—Jesus, who brings hope to the world. Through Him, God gives us hope because we can have a relationship with Him and follow Him. No matter what we face, we know that God's gift of Jesus means we are never alone and can always have hope.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Today, we have learned so much about the best gift ever, Jesus! Through Him, we know we are never alone. Say, "I am never alone!" (I am never alone!) No matter what we

face, Jesus is always with us. And because of God's gift of Jesus, God gives us hope—hope for every moment and every day. Say, “God gives me hope!” (God gives me hope!)

As we wrap up, let's take a moment to talk to God and thank Him for His love and for sending Jesus. Let's bow our heads and pray together.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for giving us the best gift ever, Jesus. Thank You that through Him, we are never alone and can always have hope. Help us trust You and remember that Your promises are true. Thank You for loving us so much. We love You too. 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 you are looking forward to in the next year that gives you hope and makes you excited? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)
2. Many people decorate to celebrate the beginning of a new year and make goals and plans. Why do you think we set new goals in the new year? (Answers will vary but may include how we set goals because we want to get better at something, like learning a new skill or being kind to others. Setting goals helps us look forward to what is coming up in the new year, just like waiting for something special.)
3. The Bible tells us that Jesus came as the best gift ever to give us hope. Let's open our Bibles to Luke 2:30-32 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.) What does it mean that Jesus is the light for all people? How can we share that light with others? (Answers will vary but may include that it means Jesus came to give us hope, and we can share that hope with others by showing kindness and telling them about Jesus.)
4. How does Jesus give us hope? (Following Jesus means trusting Him, asking for forgiveness, and knowing He will always be with us, giving us hope.) If you have questions about what that means, we would love to talk to you about it!
5. The Bible tells us that, because of Jesus, we are never alone, and that is the best gift ever! 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: Hopeful Hands

Craft Instructions:

1. Fold the construction paper in half so the short sides are touching.
2. Trace your hand on the folded paper, placing your pinky finger against the fold.
3. Cut out the traced hand, not cutting along the fold.
4. Write "God gives me hope" on the outside of the hand.
5. Cut out Baby Jesus from the "Hopeful Hands" printable.
6. Open the hands and glue Baby Jesus inside.
7. Write "I am never alone" on the inside of the hands.

What To Do: In our Bible story today, we learned that Simeon and Anna had hope that God would send a Savior to the world. They got to see God fulfill that promise with their own eyes when Jesus was brought by His parents to the temple to be dedicated! We learned that we can trust God and have hope that He is and always will be with us. Say, "God gives me hope!" (God gives me hope!)

We are going to make a craft that will help us remember our Bible story and the truth that God gives us hope. First, fold your construction paper in half so the short ends touch. After you do that, lay your hand flat on the paper and trace around it. Make sure your pinky finger is touching the fold on the paper. (Allow time, assisting kids with drawing as needed.)

Now, keeping your paper folded, carefully cut out the hand outline you just drew. Make sure that you do not cut along the fold. When you are finished cutting, write God gives me hope on the outside of the hand. (Allow time, assisting with writing as needed.)

Set aside your hand. Cut out and glue Baby Jesus inside your paper hands. Then write I am never alone on the inside of the hands. (Allow time.)

Keep It Going: Invite kids to draw a picture of themselves inside or outside of the hands.

Loud And Clear: Great job, everyone! Your hands look amazing! When Mary and Joseph brought Baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon and Anna celebrated because what they had been hoping for finally happened! When we have a relationship with Jesus, we have hope that He will be with us now and that we will get to live with Him forever! Say, "God gives me hope!" (God gives me hope!)

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 how Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the Promised Messiah, giving us hope through His presence and salvation. Jesus, the best gift ever, reminds us that because God is always with us, we are never alone.

Loud And Clear: The gospel reminds us that Jesus came to be Immanuel which means, "God with us," fulfilling God's promise never to leave or forsake His people. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made a way for us to have a personal relationship with God, ensuring we are never alone. No matter what we face, we can trust that His presence is with us always, bringing peace, comfort, and hope.

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: God, thank You for the gift of Jesus, the best gift ever. Thank You that we are never alone, and that You give us hope for today and forever. Help us to remember that You are always with us and guide us to share Your love with others. Amen.

Dismissal:

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.