

December — Week 2

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Kids arrival : 9:25 / 11:10

Play high-pitch music as kids arrive

Countdown : 9:30 / 11:15

Start the countdown with excitement!

Large Group : 9:30-9:55 / 11:15-11:40

→ Opener

→ Bible Story

→ Talk It Out!

→ Memory Verse

→ Prayer

Transition to Small group : 9:55-10:00
/11:40-11:45

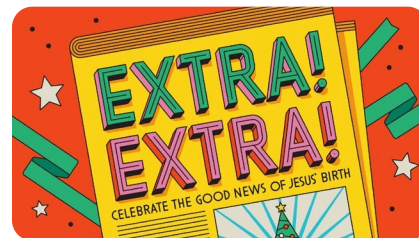
Kids move with their leader to small groups

Small group : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Creating a safe place to connect.

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Gabriel Visits Mary
Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

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



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

OPENER

①

Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.
SLIDE → Theme

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown
Optional Video → Theme Intro

HOST: "Hello, friends! Merry early Christmas! Welcome to *[Name of environment]*! This month is extra-special because we're celebrating something amazing. We're discovering how Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

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

SLIDE → Game_The Great Gift Wrap Challenge

"Today, we're kicking things off with a super-fun Group Competition! Do you know what makes a competition exciting? It's not just about winning; it's about doing our best and having fun together. And that's a little bit like Christmas—it's about coming together and celebrating the most incredible gift we've ever received. I'm going to create four teams for this game!

→ Depending on your group size and how many kids you want to compete, create four teams. Assign each team to a wrapping station.

"Okay, great! We've got our teams! Here's how our Group Competition will work. As you see in front of you, each team will have its own station with everything it needs to wrap a Christmas gift.

"We're going to see which team can wrap their gift the fastest. But remember, we need to be excited and quick, but we also want to do our best work—just as God gave us His best when He sent Jesus. When you're done wrapping, tie a ribbon around your gift, stick the bow on top, and hold your gift up! The first group with a finished gift—and I will judge if a gift is finished—wins!

10 MINUTES

OPENER

“Alright, let’s get ready, get set, go!”

AUDIO: Upbeat Christmas-themed music

→ Start the game, comment on the action, and declare a winner.

“Great, great job, you guys! You are phenomenal gift wrappers! I would be delighted to get a gift wrapped by you!”

“Just like we put effort into wrapping these gifts, God’s gift to us in sending Jesus was full of purpose. He always had a plan to send Jesus. Let’s hear our true story from the Bible today!”

10 MINUTES

Story

③

Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W2

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "As we wrap this up, remember that God's plan to send Jesus wasn't random; it was perfect and powerful, and straight from Him. He had planned to send Jesus for a long, long time.

"Through Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary, we see that God keeps His promises! He will work through situations that seem impossible, but they aren't impossible for Him. He had promised that He would rescue His people, and He made a way where it seemed like there was no way!

"And, this is absolutely amazing. Our rescue was so important to God that He sent us His very own Son as our Rescuer. What a great, great gift!

STORYTELLER: "Jesus, God's Son Himself, came to rescue us so we could be close to God again. That's what makes Christmas such good news."

"The story of Jesus' birth is one that we can carry in our hearts all year long. God loves us so much that He sent us Jesus!

"God always had a plan to send Jesus ... and He did!

"That's our Bottom Line for today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God always had a plan to send Jesus. Say that with me."

SLIDE -> Memory Verse

Memory Verse

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

Luke 2:11 NIrV

5 MINUTES

TALK IT OUT



Now, before we move on, I have a question for you... (lean in and whisper) do you know what time it is?

It's time to... (pause, cup your hand to your ear) **TALK IT OUT!** That means it's your turn to do the talking! You get to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how this story connects to YOUR life.

So, let's put on our 'thinking caps' ... zip up our listening ears... and get ready to Talk. It. Out!"

SLIDE -> Talk It Out

Talk It Out Questions

Who was the priest that saw the angel in the temple?

➤ Zechariah.

What did the angel tell Zechariah would happen?

➤ His wife Elizabeth would have a baby named John.

Why couldn't Zechariah talk for a while?

➤ Because he didn't believe the angel's words.

Who was the angel that talked to both Zechariah and Mary?

➤ Gabriel.

What special news did the angel tell Mary?

➤ That she would have a baby named Jesus, God's Son.

How did Mary respond to the angel's message?

➤ She trusted God and said yes.

What happened when Mary went to visit Elizabeth?

➤ Elizabeth's baby jumped for joy inside her!

What did Elizabeth and Zechariah name their baby?

➤ John.

What did Zechariah do after he could talk again?

➤ He praised God.

What is the good news of Christmas?

➤ God sent Jesus to be our Rescuer because He loves us!

5 MINUTES

Prayer

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer. This Christmas, help us to see Your great love for us in the amazing gift of Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer. This Christmas, help us to see Your great love for us in the amazing gift of Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

→ Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video: Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ 4 rolls of Christmas-themed wrapping paper (one for each team)
- ☐ 4 pairs of child-friendly scissors (one pair for each team)
- ☐ 4 rolls of tape (one for each team)
- ☐ 4 sets of ribbon (one for each team)
- ☐ 4 small bows (one for each team)
- ☐ 4 bows (one for each team)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ Upbeat Christmas-themed music to use as kids play the game

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

1. Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
2. Refer to week 1 to confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments.
3. Before the kids arrive, set up four stations on stage with a roll of wrapping paper, a pair of scissors, a roll of tape, ribbon, a bow, and a small box.

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