

December — Week 3

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

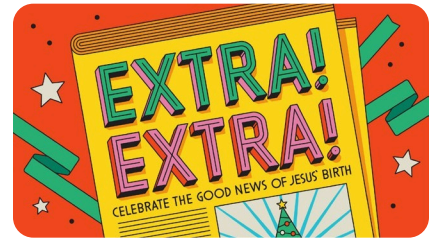
Kids move with their leader to small groups

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

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-20

Bottom Line

Jesus is the
greatest gift.

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! It's almost Christmas! Yay!

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

"I'm so glad you're here today as we discover even more about why Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

SLIDE → Game_Our Very Own Rhythm and Music

"And speaking of Christmas, have you ever listened closely to the sounds of Christmas? The jingle of bells, the hustle and bustle, and, of course, the music! Well, today, we're going to make music together with our very own rhythm and music game!"

→ Divide kids into four groups—one for bells, one for wooden sticks, one for drums, and one for shakers. Give each kid one instrument. *(If you don't have enough instruments to give each kid an instrument, then form a quartet and ask four kids to be your onstage band.)*

"Okay, everyone, let's start with our hand bells. When I point to you, give them a good shake. Ready? Here we go. Listen to the jingle—it sounds just like sleigh bells on Christmas Eve, doesn't it?

"Now, let's try the wooden sticks. When it's your turn, tap them together like you're a drummer in a Christmas parade.

"And what about our drums? Give them a soft pat, pat, pat. Imagine you're playing along with the angel announcing the greatest gift ever—Jesus!

10 MINUTES

OPENER

“Last one, our shakers! Shake them up and down gently. It’s like the sound of falling snowflakes on a night at Christmastime.

“Now let’s put it all together. We’re going to play our instruments to ‘Joy to the World’ to celebrate Jesus, the greatest gift. Each of you has a part in this song, just like each of you has a part in celebrating Jesus this Christmas.”

→ Host acts as conductor, and directs each group to play as the song plays over audio.

AUDIO: “Joy to the World”

“Isn’t it great that we can come together and make music? This season is full of so much joy! Whether or not they believe it, the whole world is having a party because at Christmas God gave us the greatest gift—Jesus!

“Great job, everyone! Let’s go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!”

10 MINUTES

Story

③

Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W3

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "No one understood it then, but this tiny baby would grow up to teach, heal, and show people what God is like. And then Jesus would choose to lay down His life and die on a cross—for you and me, and for the whole world. He would break that curse of sin so we could be close to God again!"

→ Hold up the finished cross cookie and then place it against the backdrop.

"Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever! Jesus is our Rescuer!"

"And that's why we celebrate Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the season. At Christmas, we celebrate that God gave us the greatest gift."

"That reminds me of our Bottom Line for this week!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Jesus is the greatest gift. Say that with me."

→ Host enters and joins in.

STORYTELLER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "Jesus is the greatest gift."

"God loves you so much that He sent you Jesus! Merry Christmas, everyone!"

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 NIV

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 were the two people who traveled to Bethlehem?
➔ Mary and Joseph.
- Where did Mary and Joseph have to go for the census?
➔ To Bethlehem.
- Why was it hard for Mary to travel?
➔ Because she was going to have a baby.
- Where was baby Jesus born?
➔ In a place where animals stayed.
- Where did Mary put baby Jesus after He was born?
➔ In a manger.
- Who saw the angels in the field?
➔ The shepherds.
- What good news did the angel tell the shepherds?
➔ That Jesus, the Savior, was born!
- What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus?
➔ They told everyone the good news!
- Why did God send Jesus to us?
➔ Because He loves us and wants to be close to us.
- What is the best gift of all at Christmas?
➔ Jesus!

5 MINUTES

Prayer

④ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: “Dear God, thank You for sending us the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember this Christmas, and every Christmas, You gave us the greatest gift because You love us so much. Merry Christmas, Jesus. We love You so much too.”

→ 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
- ☐ Hand bells (or jingle bells tied to ribbons), several or one, depending on your group size
- ☐ Wooden sticks (or spoons), several or one, depending on your group size
- ☐ Drums (or upside-down buckets), several or one, depending on your group size
- ☐ Homemade shakers (or plastic bottles filled with beans), several or one, depending on your group size

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ An audio recording of “Joy to the World”

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. Decide how many kids you'd like to play. Ideally, you'd have an instrument for each kid. But if you have a Large Group and you don't have enough instruments to give each kid an instrument, then have four instruments (one of each type) for an onstage quartet.

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