

K-1st

Small Group

December — Week 1

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

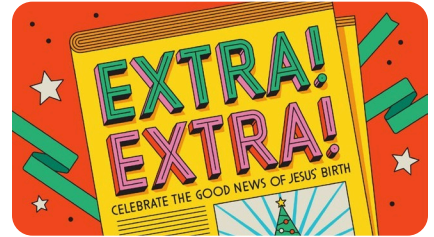
Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2

Bottom Line

**Jesus is good news
for everyone.**

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

This leader guide is created with inclusion in mind. It supports children with learning differences, disabilities, or special needs as they participate alongside their peers. Look for the highlighted sections for extra tips to help welcome and include every child. For more resources, check out our free *A Place at the Table* course with Kim Botto and EveryChild Curriculum. joinamazing.com/everychild



Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

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December — Week 1



ACTIVITY ONE

Stand or Sit*

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed



① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Tell the kids: "If I say something God promised about Jesus, stand up. If it's NOT something God promised, sit down."
3. Use these example statements: (Feel free to add more!)
 - "A Savior would be born in Bethlehem." (*stand—Micah said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.*)
 - "The Savior would be a forever King." (*stand—Isaiah said the Savior would reign on David's throne forever.*)
 - "The Savior would ride a bicycle." (*sit*)
 - "A child would be called Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince Who Brings Peace." (*stand—Those are the names that Isaiah shared.*)
 - "The Savior would be born in a giant castle." (*sit*)
 - "The Savior would bring peace." (*stand—Isaiah said that the peace the Savior brings would never end.*)
 - "The Savior would be a great soccer player." (*sit*)
4. After each one, explain why it's true or false according to what Isaiah and Micah said.

Continued on the next page. ->

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.


 USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

ACTIVITY ONE

Stand or Sit*

Bible Story Review

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What You Need

No supplies needed


 MADE TO
Move

② What You Say

"Long before the first Christmas, way back in the Garden of Eden, God made two people who were His close friends. But then they chose to sin, and a curse entered the whole world. No one could be close to God anymore. But God didn't want to keep things that way! He loves us and wants to be our close friends! He made people to be His close friends!"

"So He put His rescue plan in motion. And through years and years, God faithfully worked on His rescue plan. God spoke through His prophets, including the two we read about today, Isaiah and Micah, giving big promises to His people about His great rescue plan."

"Isaiah said a child would be born who would be called Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Father Who Lives Forever, and Prince Who Brings Peace. God hinted that He was going to rescue the world through a child, a baby! Micah gave the exact place, Bethlehem, where the Savior would be born. The Savior was the rescuer that would break that awful curse of sin the world was under. God did not just give random promises. Every detail was perfectly planned."

"The Christmas story is not just about a baby in a manger. It's about God keeping His promise! That promise was for the whole world, and it was for you. Jesus came to rescue us, love us, and give us peace. We can celebrate because [Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone!"

"This season, there are Christmas decorations all around you. What are some Christmas decorations you see around you? *(Pause for responses.)* Wow! Those are awesome! The whole world is having a party! That's because whether or not people believe it, they're celebrating Jesus. Jesus is the true reason for the season. God sent His Son to save the world! So [Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

ACTIVITY TWO

Verse in Motion

Memory Verse Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Pages



Inclusive Pro Tips

Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of two.
2. Give each pair of kids a Bible marked at Luke 2:11.
3. Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.

② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.

③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.

④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number.
Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.

⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

4. Repeat the verse together several times.
5. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
 - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
 - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: "This is the One God promised! He's the Rescuer, the forever King, the one we've all been waiting for to make us right with God again!"
6. Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
7. Use the "Verse Motions" Activity Page to teach the motions to the kids. (The NIV and NIV are very similar.)
 - "Today in the town of David" (point to the ground)
 - "a Savior has been born to you." (pretend to rock a baby)
 - "He is the Messiah" (point one hand up)
 - "the Lord." (point both hands up)
 - "Luke 2:11" (open hands like holding an open Bible)

Talk Together

1. Walk through the motions slowly, until the kids have learned them.
2. Repeat the verse with the motions for several rounds.
3. Ask:
 - "Who is the Savior this verse is talking about?"
 - "What does it mean that Jesus is good news for everyone?"



ACTIVITY TWO

Verse in Motion

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

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Pray to God

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Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Luke 2:11
- ☐ "Verse Motions" Activity Pages

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Extra "Verse Motions" Activity

Pages

What You Say

"Great job learning our Memory Verse! This verse is so important because it tells us the GOOD NEWS the angel shared with the shepherds. The angel didn't say, 'A Savior has been born for just some people.' He said, 'a Savior has been born to YOU.' That means Jesus came for every single person—moms, dads, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, and YOU.

"Who do you think this verse is talking about? (*Pause for kids to answer: Jesus.*) That's right, Jesus! He's the Savior, the Rescuer, the forever King.

"Why is this such good news? (*Pause for responses.*) Because Jesus didn't just come for important people or special people. [*Bottom Line*] Jesus is good news for everyone! He came to break that curse of sin so everyone could be close friends with God!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

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Small Group

December — Week 1

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed



What You Say

“God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus, just like You said You would, to be our Savior so we could be close to You. We know that You have a plan, and that You hear every prayer we pray. Please help us to trust You while we wait for Your answers, just like Your people trusted You while they waited for Jesus. As we see anything Christmas this year, help us remember that we are celebrating what You did for us. The world is having a party because You love us! Jesus is good news for everyone! We love You too, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



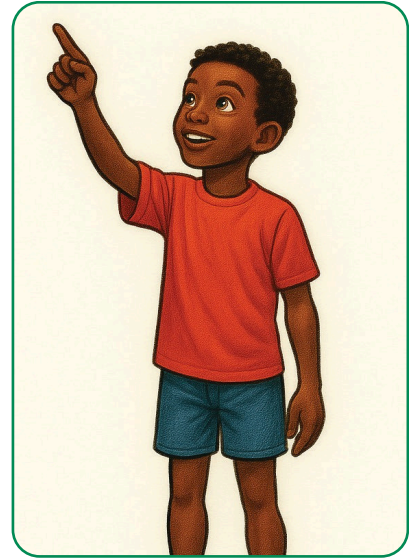
Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.



“Today in the
town of David”



“a Savior has
been born to you.”



“He is
the
Messiah,”



“the Lord.”



“Luke 2:11”