

3-6 | December 7

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus Is Promised • *Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Jesus is good news for everyone.

**Monthly 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

## 1. Opening Activity

### **Pray for your group before they arrive.**

Pray for kids who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for sending Jesus, the Savior of the world! Ask God to fill your room with joy and wonder as you share the story of Jesus' birth. Pray that every child would understand that Jesus came for them and that He is the greatest gift of all. Invite the Holy Spirit to help each child see how special it is that Jesus was born!

### **What You Need:**

- ☐ "Birth of Baby Jesus" Hidden Picture Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons or washable markers

### **What You Do:**

- Give each child an activity page.
- Explain that there are hidden objects on the page they get to find.
- Encourage the kids to circle, or color each object as they find it.
- As they search, talk about how people long ago were also searching for something very special—God's promised Savior, Jesus!
- When all the objects have been found, celebrate together and say:

"Great job finding everything! Just like we looked for Jesus on our page, people were waiting and looking for Jesus to be born. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us!"

### **Inclusive Pro Tips:**

Choose activity pages with clear, simple images and large spaces for coloring so all children can participate successfully.

*[Lead your group to the Large Group area.]*

## 2. Stand or Sit\*

### **What You Need:**

- ☐ No supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell the kids: "If I say something God promised about Jesus, stand up. If it's NOT something God promised, sit down."
- 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*)
- After each one, explain why it’s true or false according to what Isaiah and Micah said.

### 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.

### 3. Drawing a Plan

#### What You Need:

- ☐ Copy paper
- ☐ Pencils or washable markers
- ☐ Clipboards

#### What You Do:

- Direct the kids to pair up.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil or marker.
- Instruct one kid from each pair to sit one in front with his/her back facing toward their partner.
- Direct that kid to place their piece of paper on the floor as a flat surface to draw on. The child drawing on the floor may use a clipboard.
- Instruct the other kid to sit behind their partner and place their piece of paper on their partner's back.
- Direct the kid with their paper on their partner's back to slowly draw a large Christmas shape. (You can help direct the child's drawing with shapes if they need help—like a star, a Christmas tree, a gift box, a candy cane, a gingerbread man, etc.)
- Instruct their partner to guess what shape they're drawing.
- Once the kid in front thinks they know the shape they felt on their back, direct them to draw the shape on their piece of paper on the wall.
- Once the kid in front has drawn the shape, instruct the kids to switch places and flip their papers over.
- Instruct the kid who *was in front* to choose a new Christmas shape to draw on their partner's back, and that partner attempts to imitate the shape on their paper.

#### What You Say:

"You couldn't see what was being drawn on your back, but you could feel it and try to follow the plan. God's people couldn't see exactly how His rescue plan would happen either, but they could trust that He had one. And His plan was not just for one group of people, it was for the whole world. God's promise to send Jesus was good news for *everyone*."

"What were some of the Christmas shapes you drew? (*Allow kids to answer.*) Just like you had to think about your friend when you were drawing so they could follow along, God's plan has always been for everyone to know and follow Him. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told Isaiah and Micah about a Savior who would come and give everyone a chance to be close friends with God again. And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, every detail came true."

"Because of Jesus, everyone, no matter where they live, what they look like, or how old they are, can be a close friend of God. God loves everyone so much that He worked for years and years and years on His rescue plan. And then He sent Jesus, who would rescue us all. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone**, and that's great news we can share with the people around you. Every time you see a Christmas decoration or something Christmas, that's a great starting point that can help you talk to people about Jesus. Every light, every Christmas tree, every decoration, every Christmas cookie is celebrating Jesus! The whole world is having a party because God loves them! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone!**"

***[Make It Personal] (Tell your group about an age-appropriate time you got to tell someone good news and how it made you feel, then connect it to how amazing it is to share the good news of Jesus.)***

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

“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.”