

ADVENT

2024-2025 CURRICULUM



LEADER MANUAL

PRIMARY: GRADES K-3 | INTERMEDIATE: GRADES 4-6

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Large Group



LESSON 1: LARGE GROUP

Hope

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 wrapped boxes
- ☐ Candy canes or other holiday candy
- ☐ Chair
- ☐ Printout 1, copies for each character
- ☐ (Optional) Name tags for skit

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Consider going through the “Who is Jesus” call and responses before the lesson.

Today we are starting our four-week series on Advent. These are four lessons that will lead up to Christmas!

The word Advent means the arrival of a notable person or event. For Christmas, it is both because it’s about the birth of Jesus!

This week we will be focusing on the topic of hope, specifically the hope that Jesus gives us.

Show children a large and beautifully wrapped box and a gift wrapped very simply. Explain that they will be able to open it and look inside. But first they will have to wait. Have children sit as still as possible for at least a minute (variable depending on age), without any movement or noise.

- **Is it hard to sit still, quietly waiting? Why?**

Discuss briefly the struggle of patience.

- **What kinds of things do we have to wait for?** (birthdays, visits from friends, special events, the bathroom, etc.) **Why is it hard to wait?**

Pick two students to unwrap the packages, revealing that both gifts are the same thing.

- **What is the difference between these two gifts?** (just the way they are wrapped)
- **Which one did you expect to be a better gift?** (most likely the gift wrapped with nicer wrapping paper) **Why?**

Pass out candy canes or other Christmas candy for all students.

Say, **As we talk about Christmas, the very first Christmas was the birth of Jesus. He was the chosen Messiah. The Messiah was supposed to be the King that would save God’s people and who would rule and reign forever.**

People had been waiting for a long time for this King to come!

Is it hard to wait? (Yes!) Still, God’s people had hope that God would send the Messiah and King, but they had to wait a long time.

SKIT (BASED ON LUKE 2:8-20)

Ask for several volunteers to help with a skit.

Characters:

- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Shepherd 3
- Angel
- Chorus of Angels (depending on group size, consider using the whole group of students)
- Mary
- Joseph

Printout 1 contains the script. Consider printing multiple copies for characters to read.

HELPFUL HINT

Provide name tags with each character's name on it. As you assign students to roles you can have them place the name tag so that students in the audience know the characters.

God's chosen people, the people of Israel, were waiting for the Messiah to come. The Messiah was supposed to rule and have a kingdom that would last forever! If you heard that a king was going to be born, where would you expect him to be born? (a palace or castle)

Say, **When the Messiah was born, it wasn't what anyone expected, just like you experienced when you opened the wrapped box.**

We can have expectations about how things look, but the way Jesus was born was not what the people expected. They expected a king to be born into royalty, to live in a castle or palace, and to fight against the enemies of the people.

More important than that, God's people had hope in God that he would keep his promise to send the Messiah who would rescue them and lead them. What does it mean to have hope in someone? (Take answers.)

OBJECT LESSON: COMMON HOPE

Place a chair in the front of the room.

Explain, **This chair serves as a symbol of support and stability. Chairs are something we use all the time, but each time we sit down, we are putting our hope in this chair to hold us up.**

Just as a chair offers physical support, hope provides emotional, mental, and even spiritual support during challenging times.

Ask for a volunteer to come forward and sit on the chair.

As they sit down, say, **Hope can give us a sense of grounding and strength, even when we feel overwhelmed or uncertain. What we place our hope in is important.**

What are some other things that we place our hope in everyday? (cars, fridge, food, water)

Say, **It's important to hold onto hope, even when faced with adversity. The people of Israel had hope that God would send the Messiah to save them and lead him. God did keep his promise!**

WRAP IT UP

Ask students to have a seat.

Say, **The birth of the Messiah, the King, came in an unexpected way. It was special and beautiful!**

We will discuss the hope that Jesus brings more in small groups.

Pray and dismiss kids into small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Large tic-tac-toe boards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Christmas music
- ☐ 5+ soft dodgeballs (see game notes)
- ☐ Pad of sticky notes

LARGE GROUP GAME: CHRISTMAS RELAY TIC-TAC-TOE

Materials: Large tic-tac-toe boards (create several large tic-tac-toe boards using poster boards or large sheets of paper; you can decorate them with Christmas-themed designs); markers; Christmas music (a playlist of upbeat Christmas songs to play during the relay).

Space: An open area where participants can run back and forth between the starting line and the tic-tac-toe boards.

Object of game: As a team, get three marks in a row.

How to play: Divide participants into two teams. Each team should have an equal number of players. Designate a starting line where all players will begin. Place the tic-tac-toe boards a distance away from the starting line. You can have multiple boards for larger groups.

Teams line up behind the starting line. The first player of each team holds a marker (or their Christmas-themed item). When the music starts or a signal is given, the first player from each team runs to their tic-tac-toe board. The player marks their chosen spot on the board (either X or O) and runs back to tag the next teammate. The next player repeats the process, marking the board with their team's symbol and running back to tag the next player. The game continues until one team gets three of their marks in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally). Once a team wins, the game is reset, and the relay continues with a new round.

Optionally, after each game, teams can switch markers (e.g., team with X now uses O) to keep it fair and interesting.

Variations:

- **Obstacle Course:** Add Christmas-themed obstacles (e.g., hopping over presents, crawling under tinsel) between the starting line and the boards
- **Timed Rounds:** Play in timed rounds (e.g., 5 minutes) and see which team wins the most games within that period.
- **Holiday Challenges:** Incorporate small holiday-themed challenges players must complete before marking the board (e.g., sing a Christmas carol, answer a Christmas trivia question).

LARGE GROUP GAME: WARRIOR DODGEBALL

Materials: Five or six soft dodgeballs (more dodgeballs may be needed depending on your group size)

Object of game: Be the last player in the game

How to play: Place the dodgeballs in the center of the room. Have all the players start by touching one of the four walls in the room. When you call "battle!" all the players run for the balls. They try to throw them at someone

Large Group

else to get them out. If they hit another person from the shoulders down, that person is out and sits down right where they are. If the person catches the ball, the one who threw it is out and sits down. No one may walk or run while holding a ball. To move the ball, a player must roll it on the floor. Anyone who walks or runs while carrying a ball is out. Play continues until only one player is left, and then another round begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME: WHO AM I?

Materials: Prepare a self-adhesive label or sticky note for each person in your group.

Object of game: Figure out who you are

How to play: Write the name of a well-known or famous person on the sticky note. This can be a historical character or current athlete, musician, TV personality, celebrity, or even superhero, etc. Keeping the names hidden, stick the sticky notes on the foreheads of everyone in the group. They must then ask yes or no questions of the others to find out their identity.

Each person takes a turn to ask questions and figure out who they are. For example, "Am I alive?", "Am I female?", or "Am I in a band?" Only yes or no questions can be asked. If the answer is no, their turn is over and the other person gets to ask questions. If the answer is yes, they can ask another question and keep going until they get a no or guess who they are. Keep playing until everyone has guessed, or if time is short, stop after the first few correct answers.



LESSON 1: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Hope

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Snacks, 1 per child
- ☐ Printout 2A-2D, 1 set per small group
- ☐ Printout 3, several copies per small group
- ☐ Large sheet of paper or poster board
- ☐ Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue or tape
- ☐ (Optional) Popsicle sticks

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **What are the best parts about Christmas?**
- **Why do we get excited about Christmas?**
- **Why do we celebrate Christmas?** (It's celebrating the birth of Jesus.)
- **Do you like the wait for Christmas day to come?**
- **What do you think people were awaiting in Jesus' time?**

Say, **For many years, God's people suffered, experiencing trials, oppression, slavery and fear. God sent prophets to give hope that a messiah was on the way.**

God promised that he would one day send a King, the Messiah to save God's people and rule forever.

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13 for students.

DEFINITION

Messiah: Jesus is the deliverer or savior who came to save people from their sins. The Messiah was to be the chosen King who would have a kingdom that would last forever.

ACTIVITY: MATCHING FOR A KING

Explain to students that they will be playing a matching game. Pass out Printouts 2A-2D, and have students choose which pictures represent a king best.

Have students use the pictures to choose what objects they would expect with the coming of a king, the Messiah.

If you heard that a king was going to be born, what do you expect him to look like? (Take answers.)

As we look at the birth of Jesus, we will see that he was not born in the way you might expect as the Messiah and King, but he was born in a special way.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

Have you ever been excited for a gift, but you got something different?

Have you ever gotten a gift that was better than you expected?

Say, **Sometimes we think we will get a gift, but it isn't what we expected. Sometimes it's even better than we expected!**

As we get ready for Christmas, we can get excited with the anticipation of fun, gifts, and celebration. There will be times when it's different than we expect, but that can be a good thing.

As we look at Jesus, the Messiah being born as the King of the Jews, his birth was different than anyone expected, but it was a special birth. The birth of Jesus was the promise God kept to his people. Jesus was the person the people could put their hope in to save them.

Consider sharing a personal example of receiving an unexpected gift or a gift that was better than you expected.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: HOPE TREE

Ask, **What does it mean to hope in Jesus?**

Hope in Jesus is the confidence that he is always with us, guiding us, and that we can trust in his promises. Read out loud Hebrews 10:23, NLT.

Ask, **What are some examples of things you hope for, like hoping for a sunny day, a good grade, or something fun you would like to do?**

Draw a large tree trunk and branches on the poster board or paper. Make sure it's big enough to hold many leaves. Hand out the construction paper and scissors. Help the students cut out leaf shapes if they need assistance. Consider coming with pre-cut leaves or using sticky notes as an alternative.

Give each child several paper leaves or sticky notes.

Ask the children to think about things they hope for in Jesus. Encourage them to write or draw one hope on each leaf. Younger children can draw pictures representing their hopes if they can't write yet.

Have the children come up one by one to share their hopes and then glue or tape their leaves onto the tree branches.

As each child places their leaf, say, **Our hope in Jesus means that we are trusting in him. Just like we trust a chair to hold us up, or a car to get us from one place to another.**

Once all the leaves are on the tree, step back and admire the Hope in Jesus Tree.

Say, **Look now that it's full of hopes. Just like the tree has grown and become more beautiful with our hopes, our lives can be filled with growth through hope in Jesus.**

Whenever we feel down or uncertain, we can think about the Hope in Jesus Tree and remember all the things we are looking forward to through Jesus.

Optionally, take a picture of the Hope in Jesus Tree to share with parents or to keep as a reminder.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: HOPE STABLE

First, take 5 popsicle sticks and glue them together, making a house or stable shape. Next, take a white piece of card stock and trace around the outside. Cut it out just inside of the tracing. Allow students to color or draw the nativity on the paper. This could include Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, animals, and a star.

Have students write the word "Hope" on their paper or on the stable. For the final part, glue the paper on the back.

Say, **Today is a day to celebrate hope. Because of Jesus, we have hope, because Jesus is the King and Messiah who entered our world to be able to experience life and all that we go through. Jesus came to die for our salvation despite our own sin. We have hope.**

ILLUSTRATION

Talk to the students about having something to look forward to, like a vacation, Christmas break, gifts, etc. and how it gives us hope.

Say, **When we feel tired or bored with school, having something exciting to look forward to can give us the energy to push through difficult times.**

Similarly, God's people were struggling under the control of another nation that dictated their actions. They were frustrated with their situation but held onto the hope that God would keep His promise to send the Messiah to save them and be the King they needed.

The promised King did come, though in an unexpected way. It was different, but it was a better way—God's way.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus is the chosen Messiah, sent by God to bring hope to the world. Jesus' birth was simple and unexpected, but it was still wonderful and part of God's plan to bring the King who was to bring hope to God's people.**

Ask,

- **What are some things that you put your hope in every week?** (chairs, cars, people like parents or teachers)
- **When we put our hope in a teacher, what are we hoping or trusting them for?** (We are trusting they are teaching something important and true.)
- **Why can we put our hope in Jesus?**
- **What are we putting in our hope in Jesus for?** (Jesus saves us from our sins.)

This is a great place to pull out the Gospel Hand and talk about the salvation we have through faith in Jesus. Consider focusing on the hope that we have because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from their sins.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

On the back side of the card, encourage students to draw a picture of the first Christmas. Ask them to bring the card back next week to share their picture with the small group. Give an incentive if they bring it back next week (i.e., a ticket).



LESSON 1: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Hope

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of a king and savior, though he arrived in a humble and unexpected way. His life and mission were part of God's divine plan, and we should place all our hope in him because he is the only one who can truly save us.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:8-20
- Isaiah 7:14

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Snacks, 1 per child
- ☐ Printout 2A-2D, 1 set per small group
- ☐ Printout 3, several copies per small group
- ☐ Large sheet of paper or poster board
- ☐ Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue or tape
- ☐ (Optional) Popsicle sticks

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **What are the best parts about Christmas?**
- **Why do we get excited about Christmas?**
- **Why do we celebrate Christmas?** (It's celebrating the birth of Jesus.)
- **Do you like the wait for Christmas day to come?**
- **What do you think people were awaiting in Jesus' time since there was no Christmas yet?**

Say, **For many years, God's people suffered, experiencing trials, oppression, slavery and fear. God sent prophets to give hope that a messiah was on the way.**

Do you know what a prophet is? (a person chosen to speak for God and to guide the people of Israel)

A prophet called Samuel came to one of the kings of Israel, King David, and told him this:

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13 for students.

DEFINITION

Messiah: Jesus is the deliverer or savior who came to save people from their sins. The Messiah was to be the chosen King who would have a kingdom that would last forever.

ACTIVITY: MATCHING FOR A KING

Explain to students that they will be playing a matching game. Pass out Printouts 2A-2D, and have students choose which pictures represent a king best.

Have students use the pictures to choose what objects they would expect with the coming of a king, the Messiah.

If you heard that a king was going to be born, what do you expect him to look like? (Take answers.)

As we look at the birth of Jesus, we will see that he was not born in the way you might expect as the Messiah and King, but he was born in a special way.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

Have you ever been excited for a gift, but you got something different?

Have you ever gotten a gift that was better than you expected?

Say, **Sometimes we think we will get a gift, but it isn't what we expected. Sometimes it's even better than we expected!**

As we get ready for Christmas, we can get excited with the anticipation of fun, gifts, and celebration. There will be times when gifts are different than we expect, but that can be a good thing.

As we look at Jesus, the Messiah, born as the King of the Jews, his birth was different than anyone expected, but it was a special birth. The birth of Jesus was the promise God kept to his people. Jesus was the person the people could put their hope in to save them.

Consider sharing a personal example of receiving an unexpected gift or a gift that was better than you expected.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: HOPE TREE

Ask, **What does it mean to hope in Jesus?**

Hope in Jesus is the confidence that he is always with us, guiding us, and that we can trust in his promises. Read out loud Hebrews 10:23, NLT.

Ask, **What are some examples of things you hope for, like hoping for a sunny day, a good grade, or something fun you would like to do?**

Draw a large tree trunk and branches on the poster board or paper. Make sure it's big enough to hold many leaves. Hand out the construction paper and scissors. Help the students cut out leaf shapes if they need assistance. Consider coming with pre-cut leaves or using sticky notes as an alternative.

Give each child several paper leaves or sticky notes.

Ask the children to think about things they hope for in Jesus. Encourage them to write or draw one hope on each leaf. Younger children can draw pictures representing their hopes if they can't write yet.

Have the children come up one by one to share their hopes and then glue or tape their leaves onto the tree branches.

As each child places their leaf, say, **Our hope in Jesus means that we are trusting in him. Just like we trust a chair to hold us up, or a car to get us from one place to another.**

Once all the leaves are on the tree, step back and admire the Hope in Jesus Tree.

Say, **Look now that it's full of hopes. Just like the tree has grown and become more beautiful with our hopes, our lives can be filled with growth through hope in Jesus.**

Whenever we feel down or uncertain, we can think about the Hope in Jesus Tree and remember all the things we are looking forward to through Jesus.

For older students, discuss the difference between general hope and hope in Jesus, emphasizing the importance of faith and trust in him. Optionally, take a picture of the Hope in Jesus Tree to share with parents or to keep as a reminder.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: HOPE STABLE

First, take 5 popsicle sticks and glue them together, making a house or stable shape. Next, take a white piece of card stock and trace around the outside. Cut it out just inside of the tracing. Allow students to color or draw the nativity on the paper. This could include Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, animals, and a star. Have students write the word "Hope" on their paper or on the stable. For the final part, glue the paper on the back.

Say, **Today is a day to celebrate hope. Because of Jesus, we have hope, because Jesus is the King and Messiah who entered our world to be able to experience life and all that we go through. Jesus came to die for our salvation despite our own sin. We have hope.**

ILLUSTRATION

Talk to the students about having something to look forward to, like a vacation, Christmas break, gifts, etc. and how it gives us hope.

Say, **When we feel tired or bored with school, having something exciting to look forward to can give us the energy to push through difficult times.**

Similarly, God's people were struggling under the control of another nation that dictated their actions. They were frustrated with their situation but held onto the hope that God would keep His promise to send the Messiah to save them and be the King they needed.

The promised King did come, though in an unexpected way. It was different, but it was a better way—God's way.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus is the chosen Messiah, sent by God to bring hope to the world. Jesus' birth was simple and unexpected, but it was still wonderful and part of God's plan to bring the King who was to bring hope to God's people.**

Ask,

- **What are some things that you put your hope in every week?** (chairs, cars, people like parents or teachers)
- **When we put our hope in a teacher, what are we hoping or trusting them for?** (We are trusting they are teaching something important and true.)
- **Why can we put our hope in Jesus?**
- **What are we putting in our hope in Jesus for?** (Jesus saves us from our sins.)

This is a great place to pull out the Gospel Hand and talk about the salvation we have through faith in Jesus. Consider focusing on the hope that we have because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from their sins.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

On the back side of the card, encourage students to draw a picture of the first Christmas. Ask them to bring the card back next week to share their picture with the small group. Give an incentive if they bring it back next week (i.e., a ticket).

Printout 1A

CHARACTERS

- Shepherd 1
- Shepherd 2
- Shepherd 3
- Angel
- Chorus of Angels (depending on group size, consider using the whole group of students)
- Mary
- Joseph

SCENE 1

Narrator: Imagine a field near a small town called Bethlehem at night. The shepherds are sitting around a small fire, tending to their flocks.

Shepherd 1: *(feeding the fire)* It's a quiet night. Not much happening around here.

Shepherd 2: *(looking up at the sky)* The stars are particularly bright tonight.

Shepherd 3: *(petting a lamb)* I'm glad for the calm. It's been a long day.

(Suddenly, a bright light surrounds them, and an Angel appears. The shepherds are terrified.)

Angel: *(raising a hand reassuringly)* Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

(The sky is filled with a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God.)

Chorus of Angels: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Shepherd 1: *(awed and excited)* Did you see that? We must go to Bethlehem!

Shepherd 2: Yes, let's go and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

Shepherd 3: Hurry, let's gather the flock and head there right away!

(They quickly gather their things and head towards Bethlehem.)

Printout 1B

SCENE 2: THE MANGER IN BETHLEHEM

Narrator: In a stable in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph are there with the newborn Jesus, who is lying in a manger.

(The shepherds enter quietly, awed by the sight.)

Shepherd 1: *(whispering)* Look, it's just as the angel said, the baby in the manger.

Mary: *(smiling warmly)* Welcome, shepherds. The Lord has blessed us with his son.

Shepherd 2: We were in the fields when an angel appeared and told us the good news.

Shepherd 3: And then the sky was filled with angels, praising God! It was the most glorious sight.

Joseph: *(nodding)* The Lord's works are truly wondrous.

Shepherd 1: *(kneeling by the manger)* We must spread the word of what we have seen and heard.

Shepherd 2: Yes, let everyone know the Savior has been born.

Shepherd 3: Praise be to God for this miraculous night.

Narrator: The shepherds leave, filled with joy and spreading the word about the miraculous birth.

Shepherd 1: *(exiting the stable)* Praise be to God!

Shepherd 2: Glory to the highest!

Shepherd 3: Peace on earth, and goodwill to all!

Narrator: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. And Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Printout 2A



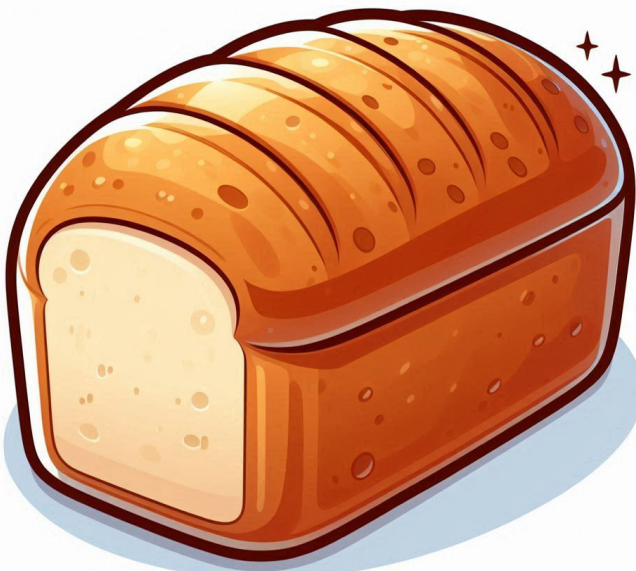
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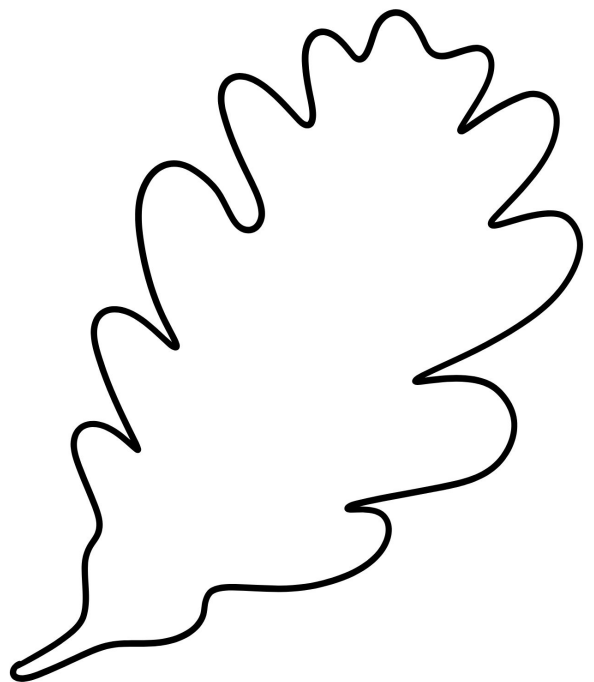
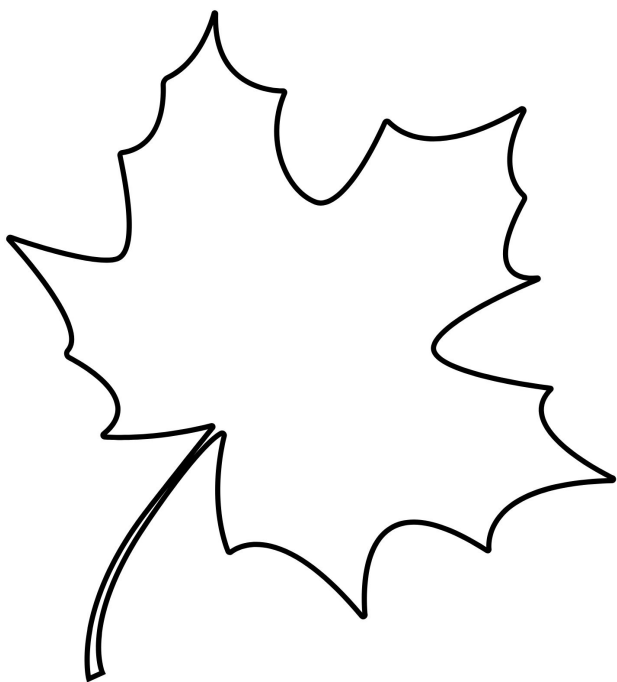
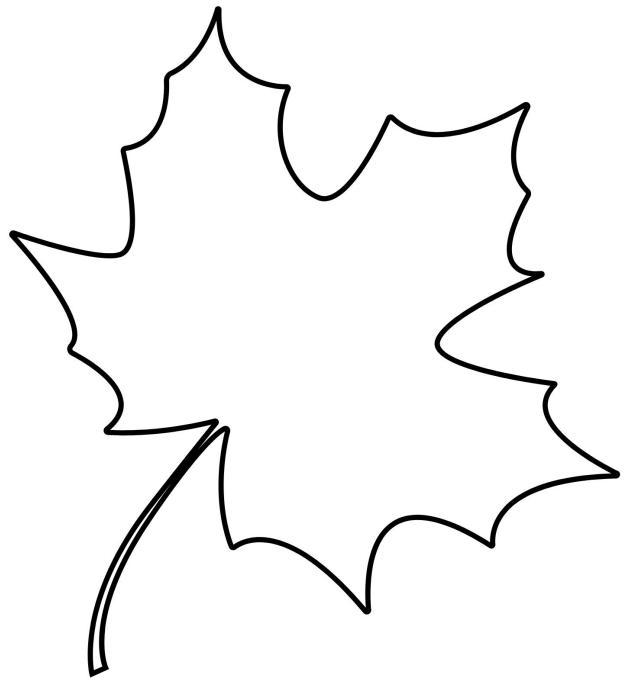
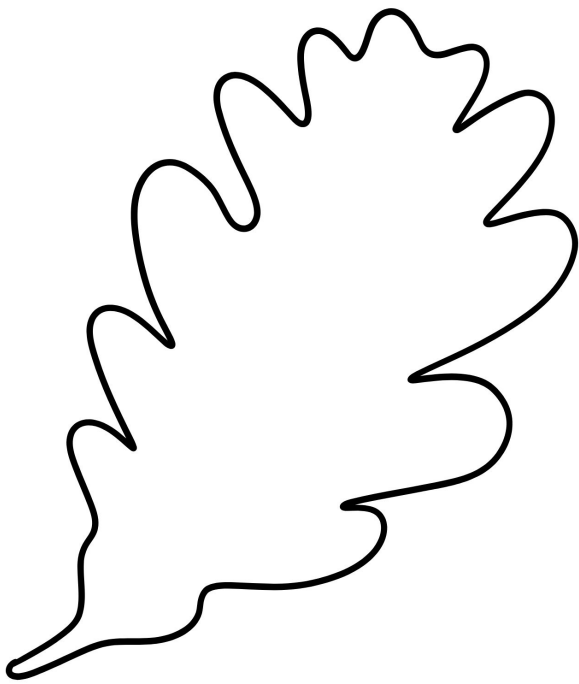
Printout 2C



Printout 2D



Printout 3



Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

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MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

Large Group



LESSON 2: LARGE GROUP

Peace

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of King and Savior. Jesus offers peace between us and God. This peace is offered to everyone who puts their trust in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:1-20
- Isaiah 7:14
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags for skit
- ☐ Printout 1
- ☐ Printout 2
- ☐ (Optional) Baby doll wrapped in cloths

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Consider going through the “Who is Jesus” call and responses before the lesson.

This is our second week in our four-week series on Advent, which will lead up to Christmas!

Last week we talked about Hope. Specifically we talked about hope in Jesus and how the first Christmas was the fulfillment of God’s promise to send the Messiah, the Savior.

The Bible says that everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved! To believe in Jesus means that you are putting your full hope in him.

This week, we will be focusing on the topic of peace.

I will need several volunteers to help with a skit.

SKIT (BASED ON LUKE 2:1-20)

Ask for several volunteers to help with a tableau skit. Let students know that this is a skit where they act things out silently as the narrator reads.

Characters:

- Narrator (leader)
- Joseph
- Mary
- Baby Jesus (represented by a doll wrapped in cloth and placed in the manger)
- Angel
- Additional angels (All students could be used)
- Shepherds (suggested 2-5 students)
- Sheep (optional actors or props to represent the flocks of sheep the shepherds are guarding)
- Innkeeper (optional character)
- Scene change assistant (optional)

Printout 2 contains the script.

WRAP IT UP

What was the response of the shepherds when they saw the angel? (They were terrified.)

What did the angel say to help the shepherds calm down? (Don't be afraid. I bring you good news.)

What was the good news the angel came to give? (That a baby was born. he is the Messiah, the Lord.)

When the choir of angels appeared to the shepherds, what did that say? (Take responses.)

Say, **They said, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."**

When Jesus was born, it was to bring peace on earth. Jesus allows us to have peace with God, through a relationship with him. We can only have this peace and relationship with God through trusting in Jesus.

We will learn more about this in our small groups.

Pray and dismiss into small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Small toy or candy bar
- ☐ Wrapping paper
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Blindfold

LARGE GROUP GAME: RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Materials: None

Object of game: Get to the leader's side first.

How to play: One leader will stand at one end of the playing area, and all the students will stand at the other end. The leader will yell out either "green light", "yellow light", or "red light". When yelling out "green light", the leader will close their eyes, and the students can run as fast as they want. The leader can then yell out "yellow light" or "red light" and open their eyes. On "yellow light", students can only be walking, and any student that the leader sees still running will go back to the wall and start over. On "red light", students must stop, and if the leader sees anyone moving, they must go to the wall and start over.

LARGE GROUP GAME: PASS THE PARCEL

Materials: A small prize (a small toy or candy bar), wrapping paper, clear tape

Preparation: Wrap a small prize (a small toy or candy bar) in eight to ten layers of wrapping paper.

Object of game: Whoever opens the last layer of paper gets to keep the prize inside.

How to play: Children stand in a circle and pass a well-wrapped gift around the circle as music is played. When the music stops, whoever is holding the gift gets to unwrap it. When the music begins again, the gift must continue to be passed around the circle. Whoever opens the last layer of paper gets to keep the prize inside.

LARGE GROUP GAME: BLOB TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: Players tagged by the blob of people must join the blob.

How to play: A designated area is decided upon to play. Eight people are then paired up, resulting in four groups. Everyone else spreads out over the playing field.

The pairs of people try to run and tag other players. The two must remain holding hands while chasing others. If someone gets tagged, they must join the blob of people. The game ends when everyone is tagged.

Large Group**LARGE GROUP GAME: TRUST TAG**

Materials: Blindfold

Object of game: Avoid being tagged

How to play: Play a game of tag where the person who is “it” must close their eyes and rely on their sense of hearing to tag others. This activity encourages trust as children learn to navigate and interact with each other without sight. This game works best with smaller spaces or a designated playing area. Consider spreading leaders out to help direct and keep the person who is “it” from getting hurt.



LESSON 2: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Peace

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of King and Savior. Jesus offers peace between us and God. This peace is offered to everyone who puts their trust in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:1-20
- Isaiah 7:14
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach. Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ A snack per child
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Printout 3, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- ☐ Printout 4, several copies for each small group
- ☐ Printout 5, several copies for each small group
- ☐ Printout 6, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- ☐ Paper plates (with the middle cut out)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ White paper
- ☐ (Optional) Colored paper
- ☐ Crayons or colored pencils
- ☐ Plastic cups, 6-10 per small group
- ☐ Repair tokens (tickets or coins), 3 per student

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Begin with a discussion about the importance of peace in relationships. Ask questions like:

- **Do you have a best friend?**
- **Who is your best friend?**
- **Have you ever disagreed with your best friend?**
- **Did you work out the disagreement?**

It's important to work out any issues with the people closest to you. It's a wonderful thing when you can once again have peace in that friendship.

Ask students how they would respond in different situations.

- **A friend took your toy without asking.**
- **You and your brother or sister both want to watch different TV shows at the same time.**
- **You feel upset because your parents said you couldn't go to a friend's house.**
- **A friend didn't invite you to their birthday party.**

There are times when we have people who do or say things to us that hurt us. We can get into arguments or fights with others, even with the people we are closest to. How we deal with those conflicts is important.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A TOWER

We are going to play a building game to help us see the importance of repairing relationships.

Place all blocks in a pile in the center of the small group. Shuffle the Positive Action Cards and Negative Action Cards together.

Give each student 1-3 Repair Tokens (tickets or coins).

HELPFUL HINT

You may consider using, dominoes, or jenga blocks in this game.

Students take turns drawing a card from either the Positive Action Deck or the Negative Action Deck (Printout 3). If a student draws a Positive Action Card, they read it aloud and place a block on the Relationship Tower. If a student draws a Negative Action Card, they read it aloud and must remove a block from the Relationship Tower.

Students can use a Repair Token to negate the effect of a Negative Action Card. If they do, the block stays on the tower, and the token is discarded. The game continues until all blocks are used or the tower collapses.

The game is won if the players manage to use all the blocks and build a stable Relationship Tower. The game is lost if the tower collapses due to the removal of too many blocks. After every student has a chance to pick a card, discuss what they learned about positive and negative communication and how it affects relationships.

Say, **It's important to make peace with others, whether that is friends, brothers or sisters, or parents.**

Read Romans 5:10.

LEADER NOTE

Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that goes against what God says is right. Consider asking for examples of sin in our lives.

Right now, we are God's enemies because of the sin in our lives. But God loves us and wants to have peace with us, and the only way to have peace with God is through faith in his son Jesus.

It is also important that we have peace in our relationship with God. Today we are going to talk about the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas and how Jesus helps give us peace with God.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

INTRODUCTION

- **Did you know that we don't have peace with God without Jesus?**

Say, **The Bible tells us that we are enemies of God because of our sin.**

Look up Romans 3:23 and read out loud.

- **What is sin?** (Anything that we think, say, or do that disobeys God.)
- **Who has sinned?** (Everyone has sinned.)

That means that everyone has sinned against God and fallen short of his standard. We have hurt God, and our relationship with him is broken.

Look up Romans 5:10 and read out loud.

- **Because of our sin, what does this verse tell about who we are before Jesus fixes our relationship with God?** (We were God's enemy.)

Say, **Before Jesus came, we didn't have peace with God. Instead of peace with God, we were his enemies. Jesus came so that our friendship with God could be fixed and we could have peace with God.**

Let's take a look at our story today to find out why the first Christmas was so special and why the coming of Jesus was able to bring peace.

ACTIVITY: FINDING THE ANSWER

Option 1: Allow students to color as you read the passage and ask questions. (Coloring page is Printout 5.)

Option 2: Using Printout 6, have students find the answer to each question.

Read Luke 2:11-14 out loud.

- **What is the first thing the angel said to the shepherds when he appeared to them? Why did he say that?** (Don't be afraid! Because the shepherds were terrified)
- **When the angels appeared to the shepherds, what kind of message did they bring?** (Good news that will bring great joy.)
- **Who was the message for?** (All people.)
- **What was the Angel's message about?** (The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord has been born in Bethlehem.)
- **What was the sign for the shepherds to recognize the baby?** (The baby will be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.)
- **What did the group of angels do when they all appeared before the shepherds?** (They praised God.)
- **As the angels praised God, what did they say was offered to those on earth?** (Peace on earth.)

ACTIVITY: WREATH

Wreaths are full of rich history and symbolism. They are usually made from evergreens and represent strength, as evergreens last even through the harshest of winters. Many people like to use them as Christmas decorations. Today we will be making our own wreath that will help us remember that Jesus came to give peace.

- Using Printout 4, take the paper plate and cut a hole in the middle of it.
- Use the colored paper and have students cut out desired shapes, or give them the opportunity to use white paper and color their leaves.
- Have students write and cut the word "peace", allowing students to color and decorate the words. Have students glue everything to the paper plate.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **This wreath is a reminder of the peace that Jesus brings. Through faith in Jesus we can now have a good relationship with God, where we are no longer enemies of God but now have peace with him.**

Ask,

- **What is one thing about Jesus you learned today?**
- **Why do we need peace with God?** (Because we are God's enemies.)
- **How can Jesus help give us peace with God?** (Jesus can fix our relationship with God when we put our faith in him to save us from our sins.)

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Encourage students to take their wreath home and put it in a place this week where it can be a reminder of how Jesus offers peace with God. Consider challenging your students to think of ways they have sinned against God and writing them on the back of their wreath. But because of Jesus they can flip the wreath around and see they now have peace with God.

If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.

Finish in prayer, asking the Lord to help students gain peace with him through faith in Jesus for salvation.



LESSON 2: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Peace

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of King and Savior. Jesus offers peace between us and God. This peace is offered to everyone who puts their trust in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:1-20
- Isaiah 7:14
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ A snack per child
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Printout 3, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- ☐ Printout 4, several copies for each small group
- ☐ Printout 5, several copies for each small group
- ☐ Printout 6, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- ☐ Paper plates (with the middle cut out)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ White paper
- ☐ (Optional) Colored paper
- ☐ Crayons or colored pencils
- ☐ Plastic cups, 6-10 per small group
- ☐ Repair tokens (tickets or coins), 3 per student

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Begin with a discussion about the importance of peace in relationships. Ask questions like:

- **What does a good relationship look like?** (You get along with the other person, you like to spend time with them, etc.)
- **What happens when someone does something to you or says something that hurts you?**
- **Is it easy to spend time with someone who has hurt you?**
- **Why is it important to resolve conflicts and once again have peace in that relationship?**

Ask students how they would respond in different situations.

- **A friend took your toy without asking.**
- **You and your brother or sister both want to watch different TV shows at the same time.**
- **You feel upset because your parents said you couldn't go to a friend's house.**
- **A friend didn't invite you to their birthday party.**

There are times when we have people who do or say things to us that hurt us. We can get into arguments or fights with others, even with the people we are closest to. How we deal with those conflicts is important.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A TOWER

We are going to play a building game to help us see the importance of repairing relationships.

Place all blocks in a pile in the center of the small group. Shuffle the Positive Action Cards and Negative Action Cards together.

Give each student 1-3 Repair Tokens (tickets or coins).

HELPFUL HINT

You may consider using, dominoes, or jenga blocks in this game.

Students take turns drawing a card from either the Positive Action Deck or the Negative Action Deck (Printout 3). If a student draws a Positive Action Card, they read it aloud and place a block on the Relationship Tower. If a student draws a Negative Action Card, they read it aloud and must remove a block from the Relationship Tower.

Students can use a Repair Token to negate the effect of a Negative Action Card. If they do, the block stays on the tower, and the token is discarded. The game continues until all blocks are used or the tower collapses.

The game is won if the players manage to use all the blocks and build a stable Relationship Tower. The game is lost if the tower collapses due to the removal of too many blocks. After every student has a chance to pick a card, discuss what they learned about positive and negative communication and how it affects relationships.

Say, It's important to make peace with others, whether that is friends, brothers or sisters, or parents.

Read Romans 5:10.

LEADER NOTE

Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that goes against what God says is right. Consider asking for examples of sin in our lives.

Right now, we are God's enemies because of the sin in our lives. What are some examples of sin in our lives? Our sins hurt God and keep us from having a relationship with Him. But God loves us and wants to have peace with us, and the only way to have peace with God is through faith in his son Jesus.

It is also important that we have peace in our relationship with God. Today we are going to talk about the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas and how Jesus helps give us peace with God.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

INTRODUCTION

- **Did you know that we don't have peace with God without Jesus?**

Say, **The Bible tells us that we are enemies of God because of our sin.**

Look up Romans 3:23 and read out loud.

- **What is sin?** (Anything that we think, say, or do that disobeys God.)
- **Who has sinned?** (Everyone has sinned.)

That means that everyone has sinned against God and fallen short of his standard. We have hurt God, and our relationship with him is broken.

Look up Romans 5:10 and consider having a student reading it out loud.

- **Because of our sin, what does this verse tell about who we are before Jesus fixes our relationship with God?** (We were God's enemy.)

Say, **Before Jesus came, we didn't have peace with God. Instead of peace with God, we were his enemies. Jesus came so that our friendship with God could be fixed and we could have peace with God.**

Let's take a look at our story today to find out why the first Christmas was so special and why the coming of Jesus was able to bring peace.

ACTIVITY: MATCHING THE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 2:11-14. Allow each student to have an opportunity to match up an answer with the question (Printout 6).

- **What is the first thing the angel said to the shepherds when he appeared to them? Why did he say that?** (Don't be afraid! Because the shepherds were terrified.)
- **When the angels appeared to the shepherds, what kind of message did they bring?** (Good news that will bring great joy.)
- **Who was the message for?** (All people.)
- **What was the Angel's message about?** (The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord has been born in Bethlehem.)
- **What was the sign for the shepherds to recognize the baby?** (The baby will be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.)
- **What did the group of angels do when they all appeared before the shepherds?** (They praised God.)
- **As the angels praised God, what did they say was offered to those on earth?** (Peace on earth.)

ACTIVITY: WEB OF PEACE

Say, **This activity will help us illustrate the importance of communication, support, and understanding in maintaining peaceful relationships.**

Gather all participants into a circle.

Say, **This activity will demonstrate how each person's actions and words contribute to the peace and harmony within the group.**

Choose one person to start with the ball of yarn. This person will hold onto the end of the yarn and then throw the ball to someone else in the circle while saying something positive or peaceful about that person. For example, "I appreciate how you always listen to others."

The person who receives the ball of yarn will hold onto a piece of the yarn and throw the ball to another person, continuing the process of saying something positive or peaceful.

This continues until everyone in the circle has received the ball at least once and is holding onto a piece of the yarn. As the ball of yarn is passed around, it will create a web-like structure in the middle of the circle.

Say, **This web represents the network of positive connections and support within the group.**

Ask,

- **How did it feel to receive and give positive messages?**
- **What does this web symbolize in terms of our relationships?**
- **How can we maintain and strengthen this web in our daily interactions?**

Encourage participants to reflect on their role in maintaining peace and harmony in their relationships.

Ask them to think about one specific action they can take to contribute to a more peaceful environment.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **We need good relationships in our lives. Although there are things we can do to fix our relationships, there are times when we need someone to step in and help fix broken relationships.**

We also need help to fix our relationship with God. Through faith in Jesus we can now have a good relationship with God, where we are no longer enemies of God but now have peace with him.

Ask,

- **What is one thing about Jesus you learned today?**
- **Why do we need peace with God?** (Because we are God's enemies.)
- **How can Jesus help give us peace with God?** (Jesus can fix our relationship with God when we put our faith in him to save us from our sins.)

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Say, **Jesus offers us peace with God when we believe in Jesus for salvation. Think of ways you have sinned against God and write them on the back of your memory verse card. Then cross out the list and write "peace with God" above or below your list. Because of Jesus we now have peace with God. If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.**

Finish in prayer, asking the Lord to help students gain peace with him through faith in Jesus for salvation.

Printout 1A

SCENE 1

Printout 1B

SCENE 2

Printout 1C

SCENE 3

Printout 1D

SCENE 4

Printout 2A

CHARACTERS

- Narrator (leader)
- Joseph
- Mary
- Baby Jesus (represented by a doll wrapped in cloth and placed in the manger)
- Angel
- Additional angels (All students could be used)
- Shepherds (suggested 2-5 students)
- Sheep (optional actors or props to represent the flocks of sheep the shepherds are guarding)
- Innkeeper (optional character)
- Scene change assistant (optional)

SCENE 1: THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Narrator: “At that time, the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.”

(Joseph leads a donkey with Mary sitting on it, looking weary but serene. They move slowly across the stage.)

Narrator: “And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.”

The actors freeze in position as the scene transitions. (Consider having a scene change assistant walk through with paper marked with the scene number.)

SCENE 2: THE BIRTH IN THE MANGER

Narrator: “And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”

(Mary is seen holding the baby Jesus, wrapped in cloth, and gently placing him in the manger. Joseph stands protectively beside her, looking down at the baby in awe.)

Printout 2B

SCENE 3: THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD

Narrator: “That night, there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.’”

(The shepherds are startled and look up in amazement as the angel appears, a bright light shining down. The angel stands with arms raised, delivering the message.)

Narrator: “Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.’”

(The stage fills with more angels, all raising their hands in praise and looking upwards.)

SCENE 4: THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE MANGER

Narrator: “When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.”

(The shepherds move excitedly towards the stable, kneeling before the manger where Mary and Joseph stand with baby Jesus. They look at the child with wonder and reverence.)

Printout 2C

Narrator: “After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.”

(The shepherds stand and begin to move back to their original positions, still expressing joy and praise. Mary looks down at baby Jesus, a thoughtful expression on her face, as Joseph stands beside her.)

Ask students to have a seat.

Printout 3

"I'm sorry for what I did.
It was wrong."

"You're not good enough."

"I'm very sorry for what I said."

"You can't do anything right."

"I should have handled
things differently."

"This is all your fault."

"I want you to know that I'm
committed to improving and
making our relationship better."

"I understand where
you're coming from."

"I understand your perspective
and why this upset you."

"You're overreacting. You
shouldn't feel that way."

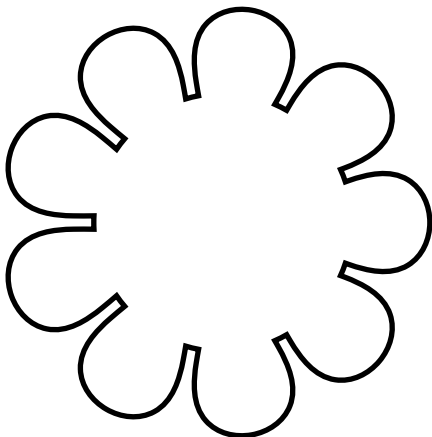
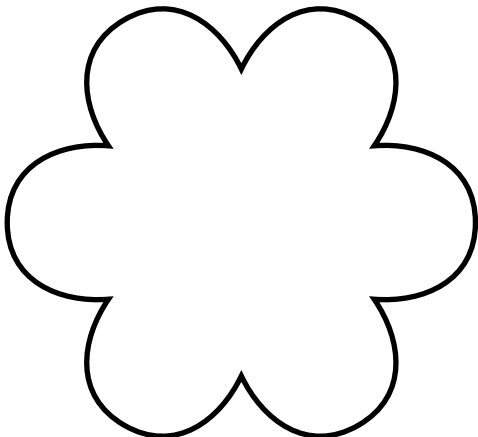
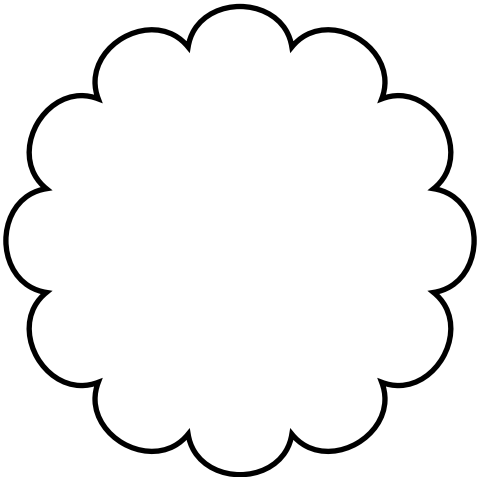
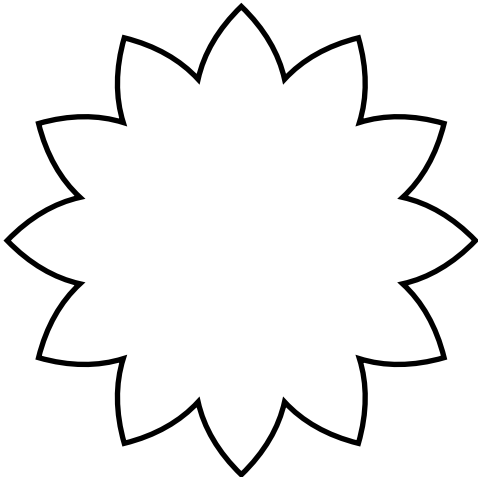
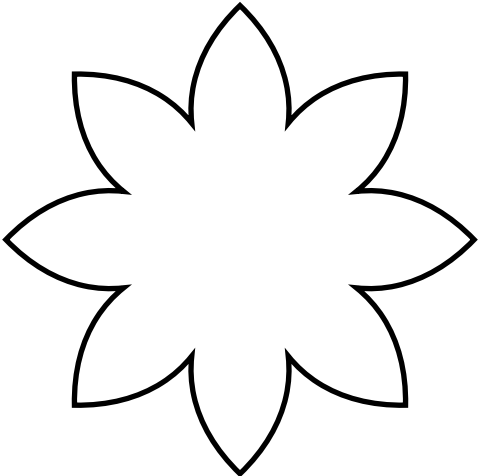
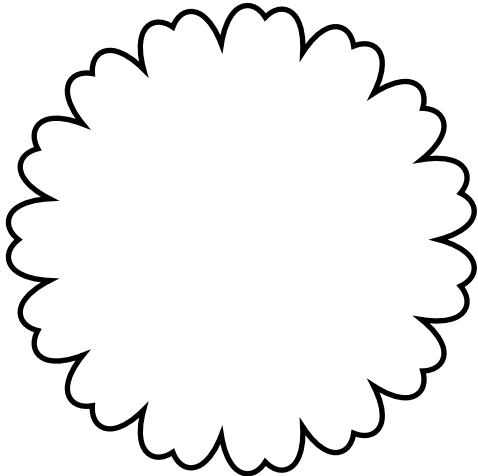
"I didn't realize this was such a
big deal, but now I see it is."

"I didn't mean to upset you,
and I'm sorry that I did."

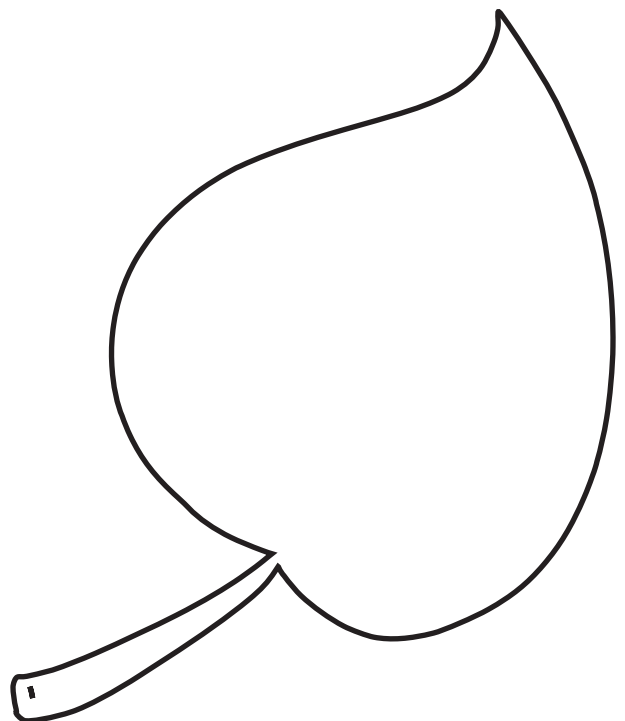
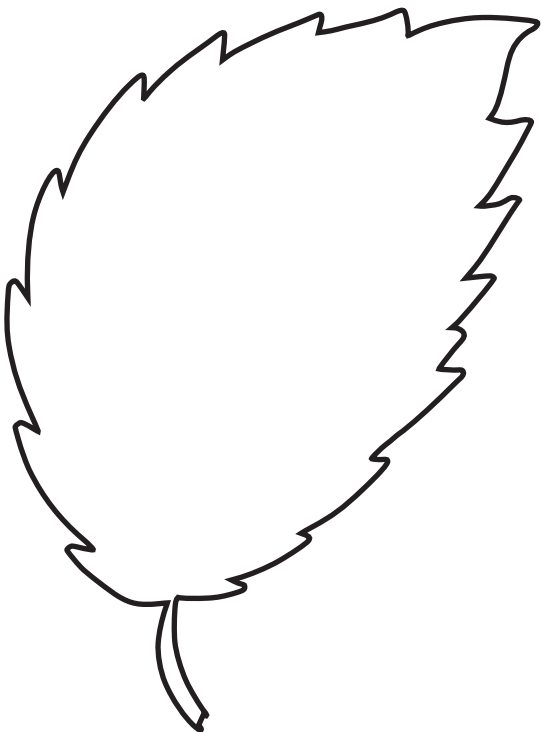
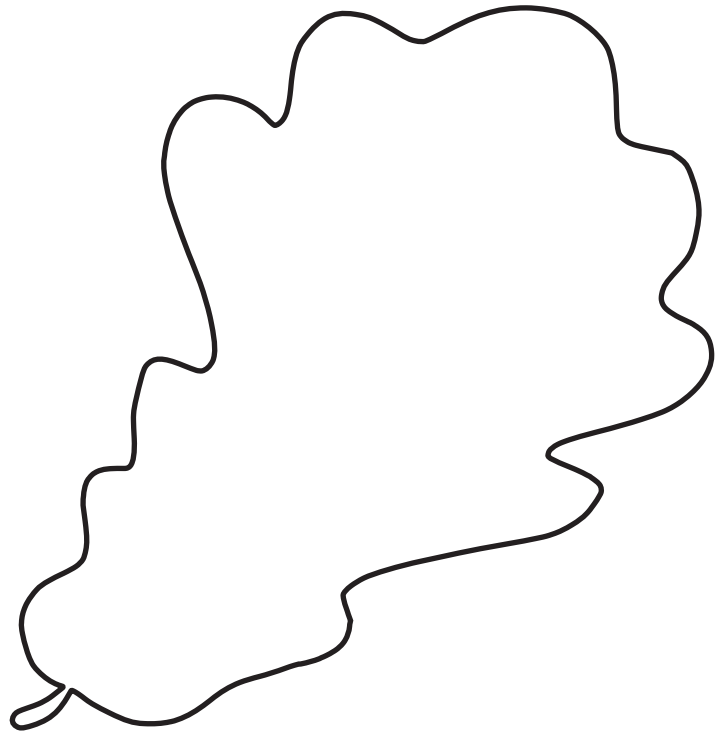
"Can you help me understand
what you're feeling?"

"What can I do to
make this right?"

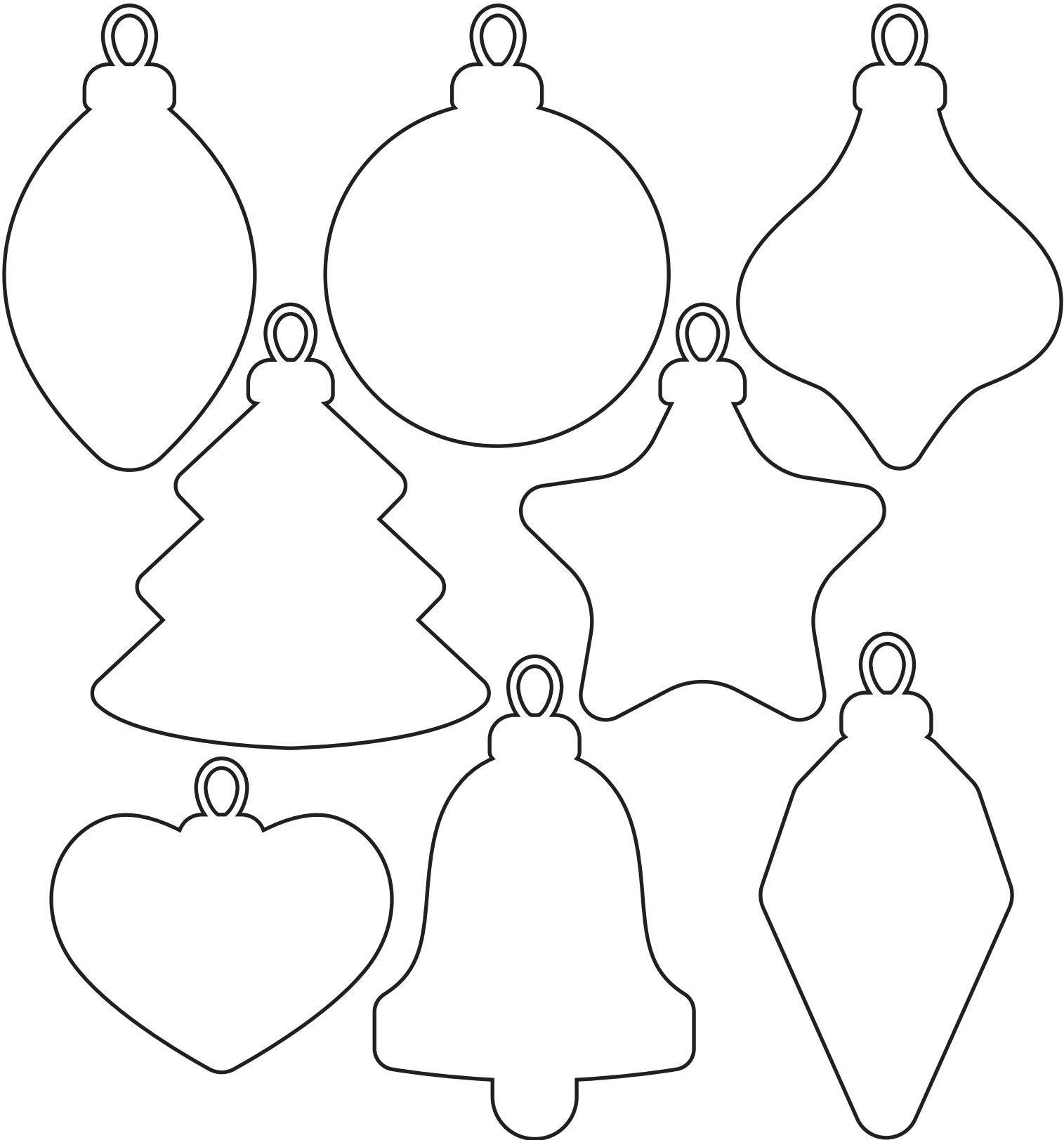
Printout 4A



Printout 4B



Printout 4C



Printout 4D



PEACE

Printout 5



Printout 6

What is the first thing the angel said to the shepherds when he appeared to them? Why did he say that?	"Don't be afraid!"
When the angels appeared to the shepherds, what kind of message did they bring?	"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."
Who was the message for?	All people
What was the angel's message about?	"The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today..."
What was the sign for the shepherds to recognize the baby?	"You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."
What did the group of angels do when they all appeared before the shepherds?	Praised God
As the angels praised God, what did they say was offered to those on earth?	"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

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Isaiah 7:14, NLT

Large Group



LESSON 3: LARGE GROUP

Joy

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is the King who offers hope and joy to all who believe in him. Jesus is the only way to come to God.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Acts 20:35
- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 22:37-39
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Matthew 2:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Large Group

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags for skit
- ☐ Printout 1, 8 copies—one for each character
- ☐ (Optional) Star (can be a cardboard cutout or a shiny star)
- ☐ (Optional) Gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh (can be represented by boxes or jars)
- ☐ Throne (chair) for King Herod
- ☐ (Optional) Baby doll

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

LEADER NOTE

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **If you had the chance to go see someone famous, would you go?**
- **What would you do when you saw them?**
- **Would you bring anything with you?**

Say, **It would be exciting to meet someone famous! If you had the chance to meet someone famous or special, most of us would make that happen. It can bring so much excitement and joy to experience something that special.**

As we look at the first Christmas, we get to hear how three men found out that there was going to be a new King. They decided to go meet this new King!

Ask for several volunteers to help with a skit to share the story of the new King being born.

If you have a story of meeting someone important or famous, consider sharing briefly about your experience.

SKIT (BASED ON MATTHEW 2:1-16)

Instruct students to only read the bold words for their character. Pick students to play the following characters. Provide name tags for each character.

Characters:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Narrator (leader) | • Angel |
| • Wiseman 1 | • Mary |
| • Wiseman 2 | • Joseph |
| • Wiseman 3 | • Baby Jesus (a baby doll) |
| • King Herod | |

Printout 1 contains the script.

WRAP IT UP

- **What did the wisemen first notice that let them know there was a new king?** (There was a bright new star in the sky.)
- **What did they decide to do when they saw the star signaling there was a new king?** (Follow the star to the new King.)
- **What did the wisemen bring with them?** (Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)

Say, **The wisemen saw a star in the sky that let them know there was a new king born. They decided to travel a long distance to go worship this new King. They brought with them some gifts to offer the new King.**

We have the opportunity at Christmas to give and receive gifts similar to the very first Christmas when Jesus was born as the new King. There is so much joy that comes from giving and receiving gifts.

The wisemen wanted to worship and offer gifts to Jesus, but King Herod didn't like the idea of a new king. We will get to talk more about this in our small groups.

Close in prayer, and dismiss into small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

LARGE GROUP GAME: SHEPHERD TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: Avoid being tagged by the shepherd/herd

How to play: Choose one student to be the shepherd and stand in the middle of the playing area. The rest of the students should line up on opposite sides of the playing area behind a designated boundary (about half the students on each side). When the shepherd calls the sheep by shouting "Come sheep!" all the students on both sides must run to the opposite side. Any players who are tagged by the shepherd become part of the herd and will help the shepherd tag players in the next round. The last student or small group of students remaining are the winners.

LARGE GROUP GAME: DRAW-ON-YOUR-HEAD NATIVITY

Materials: Paper plates and pens

Object of game: Follow the guided drawing without looking

How to play: Give each student a pen and paper plate. Instruct them to put the paper plate on top of their head and use the pen to draw according to your instructions. Tell them that it is a competition to see who can follow the directions to make the most accurate drawing. No taking the paper plate down to look at the drawing until the leader instructs! The leader should read the instructions slowly and repeat them, allowing students time in between each one to draw.

Instructions:

1. Draw walls and a roof for a table.
2. Draw some hay on the ground.
3. Draw baby Jesus inside the stable.
4. Draw a star up in the sky.
5. Draw some farm animals.
6. Draw some shepherds keeping watch over their sheep in a field nearby.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Paper plates, one per child
- ☐ Pens, one per child

Large Group

Let students take the plates off their heads and look at their drawings! Now, have them listen to the following instructions for scoring points, and have them keep a tally mark on the plate to see what their score is. Leaders should help younger students figure out their scores.

1 point if the walls and roof of your stable are touching each other

1 point if the hay is below the roof of the stable

2 points if baby Jesus is inside the stable.

2 points if the star is above the roof of the stable (only 1 point if it is touching the roof, 0 if it is below the roof)

2 points if you drew more than one farm animal

1 point for every shepherd drawn that is not in or touching the stable

1 point for every sheep drawn

LARGE GROUP GAME: SANTA SAYS

Materials: None

Object of game: Only follow the commands that start with "Santa says."

How to play: A Christmas-themed version of "Simon Says". The leader gives commands starting with "Santa says..." (e.g., "Santa says touch your toes.").

Kids only follow the commands that start with "Santa says".

If you have enough kids, consider splitting them into small groups.



LESSON 3: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Joy

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is the King who offers hope and joy to all who believe in him. Jesus is the only way to come to God.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Acts 20:35
- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 22:37-39
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Matthew 2:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Snacks, 1 per child
- ☐ Printout 2 (Optional: Copies for each student)
- ☐ Printout 3, several copies per each small group
- ☐ Blank index cards or cardstock cut into small cards (approximately 3 inches by 4 inches)
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Colored pencils or crayons
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ (Optional) Stickers
- ☐ (Optional) Rubber stamps and ink pads
- ☐ (Optional) Decorative paper punches
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Ribbon or string

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION: GIFTS CAN BRING JOY!

Ask,

- **What was the best gift you have ever received?**
- **Why was it the best gift you have ever received?**
- **Why do you like getting gifts?**
- **Do you enjoy giving gifts to others?**

Say, **Gifts can bring so much joy! Receiving gifts from others or giving a gift to someone else can bring a great deal of joy to our lives. Giving and receiving gifts can show we are thankful. Gifts can also be for celebrating a special occasion, and show love.**

Let's take some time creating gifts for someone close to us.

ACTIVITY: GIFTS FOR OTHERS

Choose from one of the following options:

Option 1: Homemade Cards

Use blank cardstock or heavy paper. Provide students with decorating supplies (markers, colored pencils, stickers and stamps, etc.). Discuss the importance of how a simple message can brighten someone's day.

Option 2: Inspirational Bookmarks

Use blank cardstock or heavy paper cut into bookmark-sized strips (approximately 2 inches by 6 inches). Provide students with decorating supplies (markers, colored pencils, stickers and stamps, etc.). Encourage students to create personalized bookmarks with inspirational messages to give to friends, family, or classmates.

Option 3: DIY Compliment Cards

Say, **This activity is to encourage others by creating and giving out personalized compliment cards. Sharing kind words to others can be an incredible gift. It can give encouragement, and it can be more meaningful than giving an item to bless others.**

Use blank index cards or cardstock cut into small cards (approximately 3 inches by 4 inches).

Provide students with decorating supplies (markers, colored pencils, stickers and stamps, etc.). Other materials to consider: decorative paper punches, hole punch, and ribbon or string.

Explain the concept of compliment cards: Small cards that contain positive messages or compliments for others. Discuss the importance of compliments and how they can make someone feel valued and appreciated.

Say, **By making and giving encouraging gifts to others, we can bring great joy to their lives. We can also experience joy by doing something special for someone else.**

When we care and love others enough to give them a heartfelt gift, it can bring so much joy. Today we will be talking about the first Christmas when Jesus was born. That first Christmas celebrating Jesus' birth, there were three men who brought gifts as they came to meet Jesus and worship him as the new King.

LEADER NOTE

Your students may not have time to complete this activity in session 1. You may choose to come back in session 2 and allow them to finish or choose a second activity to work on in session 2.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

INTRODUCTION

Finish your “Gifts for Others” activity you chose for small group session 1, or allow students to choose another option to work on while you discuss the large group lesson and read some passages of scripture.

Say, **The wisemen were excited to meet the new King that was born. They wanted to worship Jesus and brought gifts to give to him.**

Gifts are a great way to show appreciation and can bring great joy to the person who receives them.

- **Have you ever been more excited and experienced more joy giving a gift to someone?**
- **Why do you think we can get so much joy from giving a gift?**

Let’s take a look at three bible passages that might help us understand why we can get so much joy when we give gifts.

Read aloud Acts 20:35.

- **How can we be more blessed by giving gifts than we can when we get gifts?**
- **Why does giving gifts and considering helping others bring us joy?**

Read Matthew 22:37-39.

- **What is the greatest commandment?**
- **What is the second greatest commandment?**
- **Who is your neighbor?** (Jesus said anyone you meet can be your neighbor.)
- **How can we love others like we love ourselves?** (By thinking about what they need.)

Read Philippians 2:3-4

- **Is it easier to think about ourselves or about others’ needs?**
- **How do we take care of our own interests?**

Say, **It might seem backwards at first, but taking care of the needs of others can bring so much more joy to our lives than when we try to make ourselves happy.**

This is because God has created us to love others as much as or even more than we love ourselves. Each person is created in the image of God. God loves us so much that he considered our needs, and since we are created in God’s image, when we love others and look at what they need, it allows us to experience joy.

Even though the three wisemen from our story brought gifts for Jesus, the greatest gift on the first Christmas was that God would send Jesus to be born as a baby. Jesus is the greatest gift God gave us!

Jesus brought peace, hope, and joy into the world when he was born.

ACTIVITY: GOSPEL HAND

Lead your students through the Gospel Hand (Printout 2), sharing with them that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us so that we could be saved!

ACTIVITY: JOYFUL JESUS ORNAMENTS

Using cardstock or construction paper, print and cut out various shapes for ornaments (Printout 3). Make sure they are large enough to decorate.

Have the students use markers, crayons, stickers, and other decorative items to decorate their ornaments. Encourage them to think about the joy Jesus brings to Christmas as they decorate.

On each ornament, have the students write or draw something that represents the joy Jesus brings to Christmas. This could be a word (like "love", "peace", "hope", or "joy"), a small picture (like a nativity scene, a cross, or an angel), or a short sentence (like "Jesus is the reason for the season.").

Encourage the kids to hang their ornaments on their Christmas tree at home or give them as gifts to family and friends.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Ask,

- **What did you write or draw on your ornaments?**
- **Why does what you wrote or drew bring you joy?**

Say, **Jesus' birth brings joy to the world, and we can share that joy with others during the Christmas season. We can experience joy by sharing the greatest gift, and that is telling others about Jesus.**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Encourage students to think through the Gospel Hand this week. Challenge them to think through each part of the Gospel. See if they have any questions and to be prepared to bring any questions for next week. Consider making extra copies of the Gospel Hand for students to take home and write their questions on the back of the paper.

If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.



LESSON 3: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Joy

MAIN IDEA

Jesus is the King who offers hope and joy to all who believe in him. Jesus is the only way to come to God.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Acts 20:35
- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 22:37-39
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Matthew 2:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

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Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

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LEADER NOTE

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Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LEADER NOTE

INTRODUCTION

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Read aloud Acts 20:35.

- **How can we be more blessed by giving gifts than we can when we get gifts?**
- **Why does giving gifts and considering helping others bring us joy?**

If your students are struggling to stay engaged, consider going around your small group asking specific students a question. You may also consider giving tickets to each student as they answer a question.

Read Matthew 22:37-39.

- **What is the greatest commandment?**
- **What is the second greatest commandment?**
- **Who is your neighbor?** (Jesus said anyone you meet can be your neighbor.)
- **How can we love others like we love ourselves?** (By thinking about what they need.)

Read Philippians 2:3-4

- **Is it easier to think about ourselves or about others’ needs?**
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Jesus brought peace, hope, and joy into the world when he was born.

ACTIVITY: GOSPEL HAND

Lead your students through the Gospel Hand (Printout 2), sharing with them that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us so that we could be saved!

ACTIVITY: JOYFUL JESUS ORNAMENTS

Using cardstock or construction paper, print and cut out various shapes for ornaments (Printout 3). Make sure they are large enough to decorate.

Have the students use markers, crayons, stickers, and other decorative items to decorate their ornaments. Encourage them to think about the joy Jesus brings to Christmas as they decorate.

On each ornament, have the students write or draw something that represents the joy Jesus brings to Christmas. This could be a word (like "love", "peace", "hope", or "joy"), a small picture (like a nativity scene, a cross, or an angel), or a short sentence (like "Jesus is the reason for the season.").

Encourage the kids to hang their ornaments on their Christmas tree at home or give them as gifts to family and friends.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Ask,

- **What did you write or draw on your ornaments?**
- **Why does what you wrote or drew bring you joy?**

Say, **Jesus' birth brings joy to the world, and we can share that joy with others during the Christmas season. We can experience joy by sharing the greatest gift, and that is telling others about Jesus.**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Encourage students to think through the Gospel Hand this week. Challenge them to think through each part of the Gospel. See if they have any questions and to be prepared to bring any questions for next week. Consider making extra copies of the Gospel Hand for students to take home and write their questions on the back of the paper.

If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.

Printout 1A

CHARACTERS

- Narrator (leader)
- Wiseman 1
- Wiseman 2
- Wiseman 3
- King Herod
- Angel
- Mary
- Joseph
- Baby Jesus (a baby doll)

SCENE 1: THE WISEMEN SEE THE STAR

(Narrator stands to the side of the stage.)

Narrator: Long ago, in a land far away, three wisemen saw a special star in the sky. This star signaled the birth of a new king, the King of the Jews.

(Wisemen enter, looking up at the sky.)

Wiseman 1: Look, a star! It is so bright and beautiful. It must mean something very special.

Wiseman 2: Yes, it is the star of the new King. We must follow it and find him.

Wiseman 3: Let's bring gifts to honor the new King. I will bring gold.

Wiseman 1: I will bring frankincense... *(Turns to crowd)* That is a good-smelling perfume.

Wiseman 2: And I will bring myrrh... *(Turns to crowd)* That's another good-smelling perfume.

Narrator: And so, the wisemen set out on their journey, following the star.

(Wisemen walk to the other side of the stage.)

Printout 1B

SCENE 2: THE WISEMEN MEET KING HEROD

(King Herod sits on his throne.)

Narrator: The wisemen traveled far and wide until they arrived in Jerusalem. There, they went to see King Herod.

(Wisemen approach King Herod.)

Wiseman 3: Greetings, King Herod. We have come to find the new King of the Jews. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

King Herod: A new king? (Pretends to be kind) How interesting! Please, find this child, and let me know where he is so that I too may go and worship him.

(Wisemen nod and leave the stage.)

Narrator: But King Herod did not really want to worship the new King. He was afraid the new King would take his throne.

SCENE 3: THE WISEMEN FIND JESUS

(Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus are on the stage. The star is above them.)

Narrator: The wisemen followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was.

(Wisemen enter and kneel before Baby Jesus, presenting their gifts.)

Wiseman 1: We bring gold, a gift fit for a king.

Wiseman 2: We bring frankincense, a symbol of prayer.

Wiseman 3: And we bring myrrh, a sign of sacrifice.

(Mary and Joseph smile and thank the wisemen.)

Printout 1C

SCENE 4: THE ANGEL WARNS THE WISEMEN

(Angel appears to the Wisemen as they sleep.)

Narrator: That night, an angel appeared to the wisemen in a dream.

Angel: Do not go back to King Herod. He means to harm the child. Return to your country by another way.

(Wisemen nod in their sleep.)

SCENE 5: THE WISEMEN DEPART AND HEROD'S REACTION

(Wisemen wake up and leave the stage quietly.)

Narrator: The wisemen obeyed the angel and returned home by taking a different way. When King Herod realized he had been tricked, he was very angry.

(King Herod stands up angrily.)

King Herod: Those wisemen have tricked me! But I will find this child and make sure he does not take my throne!

Narrator: But Joseph was also warned in a dream by an angel to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, where they would be safe from Herod.

(Joseph leads Mary and Baby Jesus off the stage.)

Narrator: And so, the wisemen returned home, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus went to Egypt, and King Herod's plan was foiled. The new King, Jesus, would grow up to bring hope and peace to the world.

(Everyone returns to the stage for a final bow.)

Narrator: And that is the story of the wisemen and the birth of Jesus. Merry Christmas to all!

Ask students to have a seat.

Printout 2

THUMB: God created us to be with him.

Genesis 1:27

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

INDEX FINGER: Our sins separate us from God.

Romans 3:23

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

MIDDLE FINGER: Sins cannot be removed by good works.

Ephesians 2:8-9

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

RING FINGER: Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

Romans 5:8

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

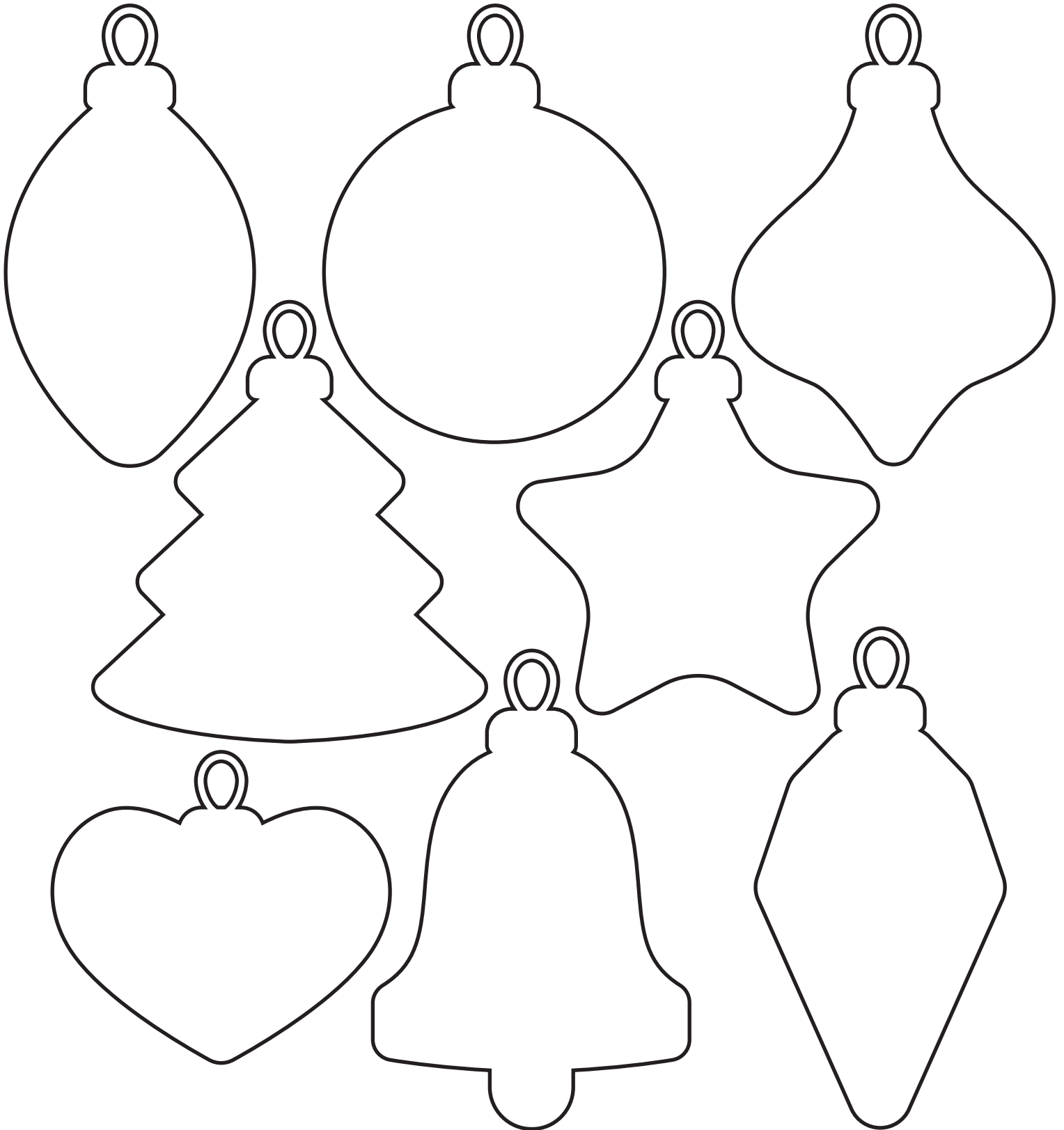
LITTLE FINGER: Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life.

John 3:16

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."



Printout 3



Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

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Isaiah 7:14, NLT

Large Group



LESSON 4: LARGE GROUP

Love

MAIN IDEA

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to be born as a baby. Jesus is the Son of God, and is the greatest gift of love God has ever given.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 1:26-38
- Isaiah 7:14
- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:9-10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Large Group

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Printout 1, two copies
- ☐ (Optional) Name tags for characters in skit
- ☐ (Optional) Flashlight

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Start with the “Who is Jesus” call and response.

Ask,

- **Has there been a time when you were surprised or scared?**
- **What or who surprised you?** (Leader might consider sharing a personal story.)
- **Have you seen those videos of a family member surprising someone?**

The person is surprised, but their shock quickly turns to excitement! Being surprised by a gift can be a great way to show that you love someone.

Throwing a surprise birthday party takes thoughtful planning, time, and most importantly, love for the person the party is for.

Today we are going to hear from Mary who was surprised by some incredible information.

Good readers or leaders are recommended for this skit.

SKIT (BASED ON LUKE 1:16-38)

Pick students to play the following characters. Provide name tags for each character.

Characters:

- Narrator (leader)
- Gabriel, the angel
- Mary

Printout 1 contains the script.

WRAP IT UP

- **What is the first thing the angel Gabriel said to Mary?**
- **How did Mary respond?** (She was confused and disturbed.)
- **What was the good news that Mary received from Gabriel?** (That she was going to have a baby.)
- **What was the baby’s name?** (Jesus.)
- **What was he going to be called?** (Son of the Most High, the Son of God.)
- **What was God going to give this baby?** (The throne of King David, and he will reign forever.)
- **How did Gabriel explain that Mary would have a baby?** (Through the power of the Holy Spirit.)
- **What was Mary’s response to all this news?** (She said she is the Lord’s servant.)

Large Group

Say, **Mary was surprised by seeing the angel Gabriel in her house but was also confused by his message. She was hearing from one of God's angels that she was in God's favor and he was going to use her to help have a baby—not just any baby though. She was going to have Jesus, who is the Son of God.**

She responded with obedience after hearing this message. She was willing to be God's servant and be a part of his plan to send Jesus, his Son, to rule and reign as King forever.

God sent Jesus because he loves us very much!

God's plan to send Jesus was all part of God's loving plan to save us from our sin. We are going to focus more on God's love for us by sending Jesus in small groups.

Close in prayer, and dismiss into small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Jingle bells, 1 per child
- ☐ 10 cups numbered 1-10 on the inside
- ☐ Painter's tape
- ☐ Green long-sleeve shirt and pants, or a green dress
- ☐ (Optional) Green felt or fabric for additional embellishments
- ☐ Safety pins or fabric glue
- ☐ Tinsel garlands
- ☐ Mini Christmas ornaments (plastic or felt for safety)
- ☐ Star or angel tree topper (for a hat or headband)
- ☐ (Optional) Battery-operated string lights
- ☐ Ribbon or bows
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hot glue gun and glue sticks (adult use only)
- ☐ (Optional) Fabric marker
- ☐ Device to play music
- ☐ Chairs

LARGE GROUP GAME: JINGLE BELL TOSS

Materials: Jingle bells (enough for each student to have one), set of ten cups with a value written inside (1-10), painter's tape

Object of game: Get your jingle bell in the highest-value cup

How to play: Set up a set of paper cups with values written inside of them for each group. The values can be as simple as single-digit numbers (for younger students) or as complex as mixed fractions (for those wanting a challenge!).

Place a piece of painter's tape at a specific distance from each set of cups. Split your class up into small groups. Give each student in each group a jingle bell to play with. Have students take turns throwing their jingle bell into a cup.

Once everyone has had a turn, add up the numbers that have a jingle bell inside. The group with the highest total is the winner!

LARGE GROUP GAME: HUMAN CHRISTMAS TREE

Materials: Green long-sleeve shirt and pants or a green dress, green felt or fabric (optional), safety pins or fabric glue, tinsel garlands, mini Christmas ornaments (plastic or felt for safety), star or angel tree topper (for a hat or headband), battery-operated string lights (optional), ribbon or bows, scissors, hot glue gun and glue sticks (adult use only), fabric marker (optional)

Object of game: Decorate your "tree" within the time limit

How to play: Divide players into teams. Each team should have one designated "tree" (the person who will be dressed up). Create 2 or more teams (each team can have 2-4 players).

Lay out all the materials in a central area where each team can access them easily. Each team must dress their designated "tree" using the provided materials within the time limit.

Emphasize safety: No sharp objects, heavy ornaments, or items that could cause discomfort.

Mention that creativity and a festive spirit will be judged (if you have judges).

Game Start: Set a timer for 10-15 minutes, depending on the age of the participants and the number of decorations.

Play festive music to set the mood (optional). Teams work together to dress their "tree" using the materials provided. They can wrap tinsel, attach ornaments, and add any other decorations to make their "tree" look festive. Ensure that all teams use safety pins, fabric glue, or hot glue under adult supervision to attach decorations securely.

Large Group

If using battery-operated string lights, teams should carefully weave the lights through the decorations, ensuring the battery pack is easily accessible and secure. Add a star or angel tree topper to the head of the “tree”.

Once the time is up, each team presents their “tree” to the judges or audience. Judges (or the audience) can evaluate based on creativity, festive appearance, and overall execution.

Give out awards for various categories such as “Most Creative Tree”, “Best Use of Materials”, “Most Festive Tree”, etc. Small prizes or certificates can be given to the winning teams.

LARGE GROUP GAME: CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CHAIRS

Materials: Device to play music, chairs

Object of game: Sit on a chair when the music stops

How to play: Begin playing the music, and instruct the children to walk in a circle around the chairs. Stop the music suddenly after a short period (random intervals work best). When the music stops, each player must quickly find a chair to sit on.

The player left standing without a chair is out of the game. Remove one chair from the circle.

Restart the music and continue the game. Each time the music stops, remove one chair and eliminate one player. Keep playing until only one chair and two players remain. The player who sits on the last chair when the music stops is the winner.

Remind the children to walk and not run to avoid any accidents. Emphasize that the game is about having fun rather than just winning, to keep the atmosphere light and enjoyable.

Variation: For a festive twist, you can use holiday music or decorate the chairs with holiday-themed decorations.



LESSON 4: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Love

MAIN IDEA

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to be born as a baby. Jesus is the Son of God, and is the greatest gift of love God has ever given.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 1:26-38
- Isaiah 7:14
- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:9-10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Name tags
- ☐ Snacks, 1 per child
- ☐ Paper or cardstock for each student
- ☐ Box of markers for each small group
- ☐ Several white crayons for each small group
- ☐ Measuring tape, one per small group
- ☐ Printout 2, one per small group
- ☐ (Optional) Printout 3, one per student
- ☐ (Optional) Glue
- ☐ (Optional) Colored paper

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask,

- **Have you ever been surprised by a gift?**
- **Why did that person surprise you with a gift?**

Say, **Getting gifts helps us feel loved and appreciated. Gifts are a great way we can show love to another person. We like to get and receive gifts from the people we are closest to and who we love the most.**

- **Have you ever thought about how much God loves you?**

God loves us so much, and he wants to give us gifts because he loves us so much.

- **What's the greatest gift God could give you?**

The Bible tells us that God created us to know him and be with him. God is perfect and lives in a perfect place called heaven. God wants us one day to be with him, but our sins separate us from God.

- **Does anyone know what sin is?** (Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against what is right.)
- **Can you give an example of sin?**

Just like we should be punished when we do something wrong, there is a punishment for sin. The punishment for sin is death and eternal separation from God.

The greatest gift God has given is his only son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to be born on the first Christmas, because Jesus is the only way for us to know God and to be with God forever.

ACTIVITY: MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE

Hand a piece of paper or cardstock to each student. Allow students to use markers to draw the outline of a heart or ornament. Using a white crayon, have students write a message of God's love.

Examples: "God loves me!", "I am loved by Jesus!", or "Jesus is God's gift."

Make sure students press firmly when writing the message. Then allow students to use their favorite color of marker to fill in the color. This will highlight their message and reminder. Darker colors help create a greater contrast and make the message easier to see.

Say, **Today in a large group, we get to hear about a message that a woman named Mary got from God. Her message was special and showed God's love for her and for all people!**

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group
Session 2

INTRODUCTION

Consider asking students to read the passages. Turn to Luke 1:26-38 and have a student summarize the passage for the group. Ask:

- **Why do you think Mary was confused and scared when the angel appeared?** (She was surprised to have an angel talking to her and unsure of what the angel meant by saying she was favored by God.)
- **How did the angel help Mary not be scared?** (The angel told Mary that she was favored by God, and she would have a son.)
- **What was the name Mary was to give her son?** (Jesus.)
- **How did Mary respond to the angel's news that she would have a son?** (She said, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.")

Say, **Mary was willing to be part of God's plan. Even though she was very shocked at first when the angel appeared in front of her, she was willing to love and serve God.**

Show a picture of a Christmas present.

- **When you get a gift, who pays for it? Does the person getting the gift pay for it?** (No. The person who is giving the gift is the one who pays for the gift.)



Read John 3:16.

- **Why is sending Jesus as a gift a way to show us how much God loves us?** (Because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved and not perish.)

Read 1 John 4:9-10.

- **How does God show his love for us?**
- **Why did God send Jesus?** (So that we might have eternal life.)
- **Does God love us just because we love him?** (No!)
- **How is it real love that God sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins?** (God loves us, not just because we love him.)

Say, **God loves us enough to send Jesus even when we didn't love him. God's love for us is so great for us that God still sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins.**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider giving students a ticket when they answer a question to keep them engaged. You may also consider going around in a circle and asking each student a question.

ACTIVITY: WHO IS JESUS?

Lead your students through the “Who is Jesus?” activity (Printout 2), sharing with them that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us so that we could be saved!

ACTIVITY: TOO BIG TO MEASURE

Use a measuring tape to measure several children, and let them help you measure several items. You can also use the measuring tape to measure out the length of interesting items such as a T-rex tooth (6-12 inches), the world’s largest waffle (8 feet across), a mammoth tusk (10-15 feet), the world’s largest flower bloom (3 feet across), a Stegosaurus tail spike (2 feet), or the world’s longest mustache (14 feet).

- **Can you name some things that are too big to measure with a tape measure?** (Like oceans, planets, and stars.)

God’s love is even greater than all those combined—it’s immeasurable!

- **How far does outer space extend above the earth?**

It stretches endlessly for millions, billions, and trillions of miles! No one has been able to measure its vastness. Sometimes, you might think your sins are too great for God to keep loving you, but that’s not true. He knows we never truly deserve his love, yet he never stops loving us because his love is beyond measure.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: JESUS LOVE ME TO PIECES

Print out the Jesus Loves Me to Pieces (Printout 3).

Have each of the children write their name (or help them do this) on the bottom line on their paper. Then, have students cut or tear 1-inch pieces of colored paper. Gather pieces of colored paper and glue them to the heart. You may just scribble glue on the heart and let the kids arrange the pieces however they may.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Because God's love is so great, God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and be punished for our sins instead of us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but God sent him to show how much he loves us.

God will never stop loving you with his immeasurable, great love no matter how many times you mess up. In fact, he's looking forward to showing you his great love forever and ever in heaven someday.

If you've already trusted Jesus to save you from sin, thank him for his immeasurable love. Whenever you see something big, remember God's love is bigger!

If you've never believed in Jesus to save you from sin before, stop and think about how much love God showed for you when he sent Jesus to take the punishment you deserve for sin. He promises that if you will trust that Jesus really is God's Son who really did die on the cross and come back to life to save you from your sins, you will be saved from sin and he will love you forever. You can believe in Jesus to save you from sin today and enjoy God's love that's way too big to measure.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Ask,

- **Do you have any questions about believing in Jesus?**
- **Is there anything keeping you from believing in Jesus today?**

If students are ready to believe in Jesus, consider leading them in prayer. Remind them that it is faith in Jesus that saves them and not just saying words in a prayer.

Example of Salvation Prayer:

**"Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against you.
I turn from my sin right now.
I believe that you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins.
I receive you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I give my life to you.
In Jesus' name, amen."**

Say, God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell; it's about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally.

If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.



LESSON 4: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Love

MAIN IDEA

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to be born as a baby. Jesus is the Son of God, and is the greatest gift of love God has ever given.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 1:26-38
- Isaiah 7:14
- John 3:16
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MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
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MATERIALS NEEDED

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- ☐ (Optional) Printout 3, one per student
- ☐ (Optional) Glue
- ☐ (Optional) Colored paper

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

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Make sure students press firmly when writing the message. Then allow students to use their favorite color of marker to fill in the color. This will highlight their message and reminder. Darker colors help create a greater contrast and make the message easier to see.

Say, **Today in a large group, we get to hear about a message that a woman named Mary got from God. Her message was special and showed God's love for her and for all people!**

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

INTRODUCTION

Consider asking students to read the passages. Turn to Luke 1:26-38 and have a student summarize the passage for the group. Ask,

- **Why do you think Mary was confused and scared when the angel appeared?** (She was surprised to have an angel talking to her and unsure of what the angel meant by saying she was favored by God.)
- **How did the angel help Mary not be scared?** (The angel told Mary that she was favored by God, and she would have a son.)
- **What was the name Mary was to give her son?** (Jesus.)
- **How did Mary respond to the angel's news that she would have a son?** (She said, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.")

ILLUSTRATION: A GIFT IS FREE

Read John 3:16.

- **When you get a gift, who pays for it? Does the person getting the gift pay for it?** (No. The person who is giving the gift is the one who pays for the gift.)
- **Why is sending Jesus as a gift a way to show us how much God loves us?** (Because everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved and not perish.)

Read 1 John 4:9-10.

- **How does God show his love for us?**
- **Why did God send Jesus?** (So that we might have eternal life.)
- **Does God love us just because we love him?** (No!)
- **How is it real love that God sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins?** (God loves us, not just because we love him.)

Say, **God loves us enough to send Jesus even when we didn't love him. God's love for us is so great for us that God still sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins.**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider giving students a ticket when they answer a question to keep them engaged. You may also consider going around in a circle and asking each student a question.

ACTIVITY: WHO IS JESUS?

Lead your students through the “Who is Jesus?” activity (Printout 2), sharing with them that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us so that we could be saved!

ACTIVITY: TOO BIG TO MEASURE

Use a measuring tape to measure several children, and let them help you measure several items. You can also use the measuring tape to measure out the length of interesting items such as a T-rex tooth (6-12 inches), the world’s largest waffle (8 feet across), a mammoth tusk (10-15 feet), the world’s largest flower bloom (3 feet across), a Stegosaurus tail spike (2 feet), or the world’s longest mustache (14 feet).

- **Can you name some things that are too big to measure with a tape measure?** (Like oceans, planets, and stars.)

God’s love is even greater than all those combined—it’s immeasurable!

- **How far does outer space extend above the earth?**

It stretches endlessly for millions, billions, and trillions of miles! No one has been able to measure its vastness. Sometimes, you might think your sins are too great for God to keep loving you, but that’s not true. He knows we never truly deserve his love, yet he never stops loving us because his love is beyond measure.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

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WRAP IT UP

Because God's love is so great, God sent his perfect Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and be punished for our sins instead of us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but God sent him to show how much he loves us.

God will never stop loving you with his immeasurable, great love no matter how many times you mess up. In fact, he's looking forward to showing you his great love forever and ever in heaven someday.

If you've already trusted Jesus to save you from sin, thank him for his immeasurable love. Whenever you see something big, remember God's love is bigger!

If you've never believed in Jesus to save you from sin before, stop and think about how much love God showed for you when he sent Jesus to take the punishment you deserve for sin. He promises that if you will trust that Jesus really is God's Son who really did die on the cross and come back to life to save you from your sins, you will be saved from sin and he will love you forever. You can believe in Jesus to save you from sin today and enjoy God's love that's way too big to measure.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Ask,

- **Do you have any questions about believing in Jesus?**
- **Is there anything keeping you from believing in Jesus today?**

If students are ready to believe in Jesus, consider leading them in prayer. Remind them that it is faith in Jesus that saves them and not just saying words in a prayer.

Example of Salvation Prayer:

**"Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against you.
I turn from my sin right now.
I believe that you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins.
I receive you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I give my life to you.
In Jesus' name, amen."**

Say, God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell; it's about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally.

If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.

Printout 1A

CHARACTERS

- Narrator (leader)
- Gabriel, the angel
- Mary

SCENE 1: THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

Narrator: Mary is a young woman who lives in the small town of Nazareth in Israel. Mary is alone in her home, busy with her daily chores. Suddenly, a bright light fills the room, and Gabriel, the angel, appears.

Gabriel: *(Appearing with a radiant glow)* Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!

Mary: *(Startled and confused)* What... What does this mean? *(Pauses, looking worried)*

Gabriel: *(Gentle and reassuring)* Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! You will have a baby and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!

Mary: *(Astonished)* But how can this happen? I am a virgin.

Gabriel: *(Calmly)* The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will be with you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was not able to have children, but she is pregnant with a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail.

Mary: *(Bowing her head in acceptance)* I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.

Gabriel: *(Smiles, then disappears.)*

Printout 2

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus came from heaven to earth.

He lived a perfect life.

He died on the cross to pay for our sin.

His body was buried in the ground.

Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!

He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me!

Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.

There he prays to the Father for each and every one,

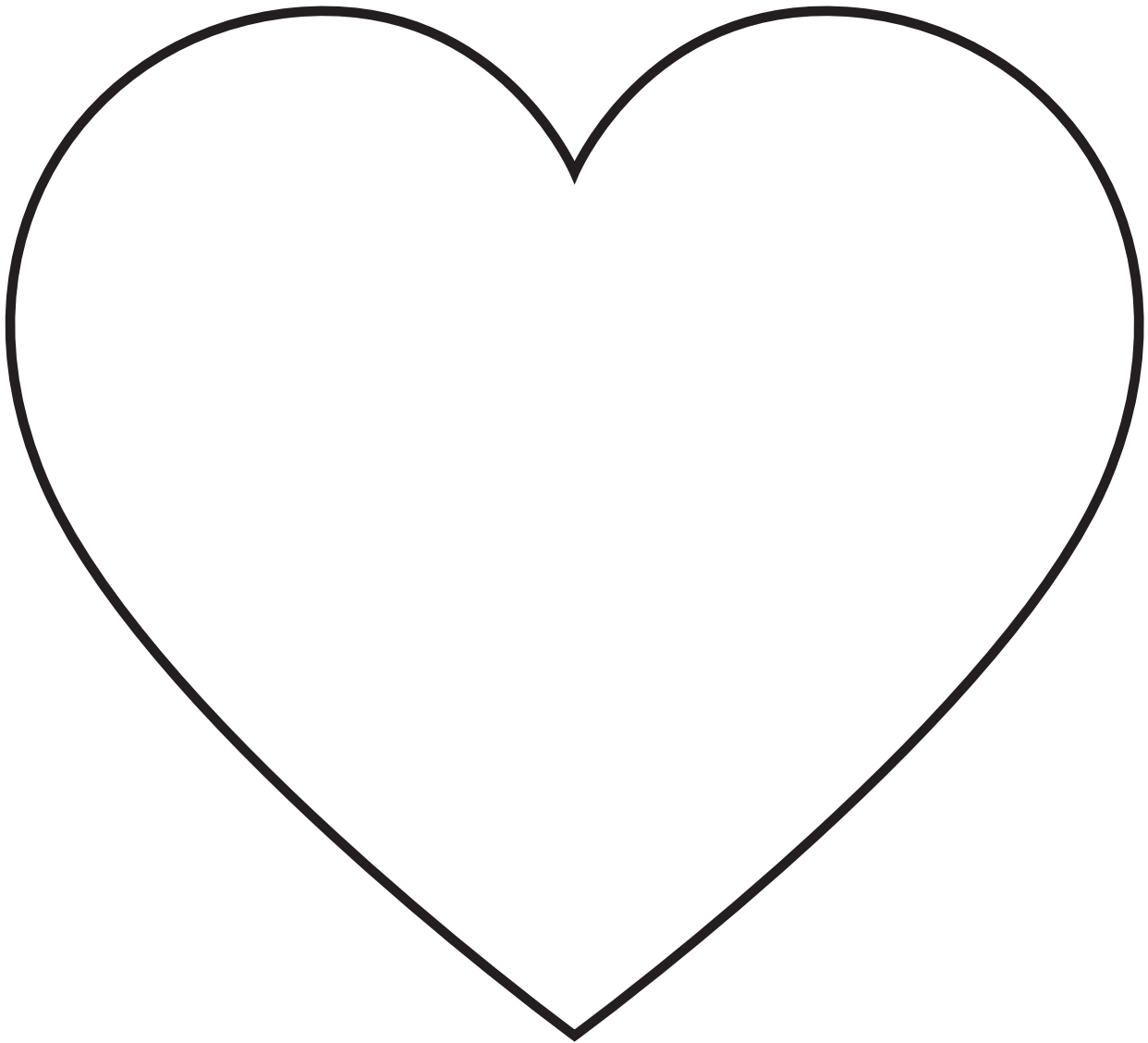
and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.

One day he will come again as the eternal king,

and he will turn every wrong thing, right!

Printout 3

Jesus Loves Me to Pieces



Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign.
Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT

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