



WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Send Me An Angel* | Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Bottom Line: *Celebrate because God is with you*

Memory Verse: “[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NirV)

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: Have you ever stopped to listen to a group of carolers and then joined them to go spread some more Christmas cheer with others? Music is such a big part of Christmas, but it’s not the main reason we celebrate. That’s why this December, we’re singing loudly as we jam out to our Christmas Playlist to celebrate Jesus, God’s greatest gift! The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it’s possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we get in the mix this Christmas season, let’s take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.

Bottom Line: Celebrate because God is with you. When God sent Jesus, it was the answer to many, many prayers and years of waiting. The people must have wondered what God was doing or if God was still working. We can feel the same way in our own lives. Yet, time and time again, we see that we can trust God no matter what, and celebrate because God sent Jesus for us.

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you will create a “Wildest Dream” story together.
- Begin the story with the following prompt: “I had a dream that our Christmas tree fell over because . . . *(add your response here)*.”
- After you finish your thought, say the words “and then . . .” and allow the kid on your left to add the next line.
- Continue in the same way around the circle, reminding each kid to end their thought with “and then . . .”
- If time allows, start a different “Wildest Dream” story!

What You Say:

“Wow! That was a pretty wild dream. You have awesome imaginations, friends!
[Transition] In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about a dream that brought incredible news for us all! Let’s find out what happened. Come with me.”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In week two, we turn to Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25. On both occasions, an angel visited Mary and Joseph to inform them that they would be the parents of the coming Savior of the world. They would call Him

Immanuel, which means “God with us”. They could have said no and refused, but even though they were afraid, they trusted that God was with them through it all.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Left Right Across

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Prepared gift box (or prepared gift bag)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you will review the Bible Story as kids pass the gift around the circle.
 - If you say the word “Right,” instruct the kids to pass the gift to the right.
 - If you say, “Left,” instruct the kids to change directions and pass the gift to the left.
 - If you say “Across,” instruct the kid holding the gift to pass it to someone across the circle.
- Take a moment to review left and right with the group.
- Stand on the outside of the circle, and hand a kid the gift box.
- Ask the kid to begin passing the gift to the left carefully as you read the story below.
 - The bag should move consistently in one direction and only change direction when called for.
- Pause to make sure the gift is moving according to the directional words you say in the story.
- **Bible Story Review:**

- God’s plan to send Jesus started long before Jesus was born! The whole world was created through Jesus. Though people turned away from God, God had a plan **RIGHT** from the beginning to send a Savior. The Israelites were **LEFT** under the rule of the Roman Empire and had to pay heavy taxes. It seemed like God wasn’t going to make everything **RIGHT** and send a Rescuer. But some people still trusted God, including a girl named Mary. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. One day an angel appeared **RIGHT** before her and gave Mary a very special message. Mary would have a Son and name Him Jesus. Then the angel **LEFT**. Mary trusted God. Though she had lots of questions, she chose to trust God, knowing that God’s plans for her were **RIGHT** and good. **ACROSS** town, Joseph was working as a carpenter. When it became clear that Mary would have a baby, Joseph wasn’t sure what to believe. Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid. Mary would have a Son, Jesus, and He would save people from their sins! Then the angel **LEFT**. The prophet Isaiah said this would happen! Isaiah said that a young woman would have a Son and His name would mean, “God with us.” As soon as Joseph woke up, Joseph made plans to marry Mary **RIGHT** away. Mary and Joseph were **LEFT** with this amazing news. They were the first to celebrate Jesus, but soon more people would discover this good news! Today, **ACROSS** the world, people celebrate the gift of Jesus at Christmas! God sent us Jesus—Immanuel, God with us. When we put our trust in Jesus, we are **LEFT** with peace.

What You Say:

“Years before Jesus was born as a baby, Isaiah talked about Him! Immanuel, God with us. Even though Mary and Joseph’s lives were changed in a way they could never imagine, they chose to trust God. They had peace knowing that God’s plan was coming true!”

*“We can have that same peace when we remember that God sent Jesus for us too! Jesus came to make a way for us to have a friendship with God. At Christmas—and all year through—you can **[Bottom Line] celebrate because God is with you.**”*

[Make It Personal] (Has anything reminded you that God was with you recently? Share an age-appropriate example with your group this week. How do you celebrate that God is with you at Christmas and all year long?)

Candy Cane Balance!

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles (marked at Matthew 1:21 for kindergartners) and candy canes

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of two to three.
- Give each group a Bible.
- Encourage each group to look up Matthew 1:21 using the Bible Navigation tips below:
 - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Matthew* at the top of the page as you say “Matthew” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 21; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.
 - ***Finding verses with 1st graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Matthew

starts with the letters M-A. When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 21 in chapter 1.

- Read the verse and invite kids to repeat it after you.
- Read the first two sentences/phrases of the Memory Verse again. Let the kids know that God sent us Jesus, and His name Immanuel means “God with us.”
- Collect the Bibles.
- Direct the kids to spread out.
- Give each kid a candy cane.
- Explain that the group is going to repeat the Memory Verse together but with a twist!
- Show the kids how to balance their candy cane using the following prompts, inviting them to repeat parts of the Memory Verse each time:
 - Open your palm, balance the candy cane on your hand.
 - Balance the candy cane on your shoulder
 - Balance the candy cane on your elbow.
 - Balance the candy cane on your left knee while standing on one foot.
 - Balance the candy cane on your right knee while standing on one foot.
 - Walk slowly as you balance the candy cane on your head.

What You Say:

*“Whew! Some of those challenges were tougher than others. I love celebrating Christmas because God gave us the best gift ever—Jesus! Jesus came to be our Rescuer, to make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God. When we choose to follow Him, we can know for sure that we are never alone. This Christmas, you can **[Bottom Line]** celebrate because **God is with you.**” As adults arrive to pick up, challenge the kids to repeat the Memory Verse as they balance their candy cane on their hand. Encourage the kids to share that at Christmas, we can **[Bottom Line]** celebrate because **God is with you.***