



WEEK THREE – DECEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Born to Save* | Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line: *Celebrate because God sent a Savior*

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 sent a Savior. We all know that Christmas is about Jesus, but sometimes it’s easy to make it all about the lights, decorations, and presents. Those things aren’t bad, but it’s important that we stay focused on the truth of what and WHO we celebrate at Christmas. God loved us enough to send Jesus to rescue us. Knowing that can help us celebrate Jesus, the true reason for the season.

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: Music

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Encourage those who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to stand up and spread out to play a game of Freeze Dance!
- Instruct the kids to dance and move around when the music is playing and freeze when you stop the music.
- Explain that any kids caught moving after the music stops are out.
- Start the music to start the game.
- Pause the music randomly, looking to see if any kids are moving after the music stops.
- If a kid is caught moving, share that they are out.
- Continue playing until you declare an ultimate Freeze Dance Champion!

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

Large Group Overview: In week three, we head to Luke 2:1-7 for the birth of Jesus! This Word that God had promised from the beginning had finally arrived as a humble baby. It may not have been as everyone thought, such as a warrior or someone with high status, but it was exactly what the world needed. God’s rescue plan to save the world was in motion, and as we remember how Jesus was born, we can always find a reason to celebrate!

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

God Sent A Savior

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 1:21, “Matthew 1:21 Ornament” Activity Page, crayons (or markers), single hole punch, and string or yarn

What You Do:

- Choose a kid to open the marked Bible to Matthew 1:21.
- Read the verse aloud, and invite kids to repeat after you.
- Repeat the verse a few times as a group.
- Remind kids that Jesus wasn’t just any baby, Jesus is our Savior!
- Read the second part of Matthew 1:21 aloud again.
- Remind the kids that this special baby would be called Jesus and that He was sent to save us from our sins.
- Give each kid a cutout from the “Matthew 1:21 Ornament” Activity Page.
- Set out the crayons (or markers).
- Encourage the kids to color their ornament.
- Point out the verse on the ornament.
- Encourage the kids to write “JESUS” in the blank space provided on the ornament.
 - Write “JESUS” out somewhere for kids to reference, or help them write as needed.
- As they finish, invite the kids to write their names on the back of their ornament.
 - Be sure to help as needed.
- Use the hole punch to create a hole at the top of each ornament.

- Run a piece of string or yarn through the hole, and tie the ornament for hanging.
- Let the kids hold onto their ornaments for the Pray and Dismiss Activity.

What You Say:

*“These ornaments look awesome! I’m so glad God sent Jesus to save us. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Sin is anything that gets in the way of our relationship with God—but because God loves us, God sent Jesus to give His life to make a way for us to be friends with God again! From the very beginning, God knew we’d need a Savior and had a plan to make things right! At just the right time, God sent Jesus that first Christmas! You can take your ornament home and find a place to hang it as a reminder that we **[Bottom Line] celebrate because God sent a Savior.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Kids’ completed ornaments from the God Sent a Savior Activity

What You Do:

- Invite kids to hold up their ornaments from the “God Sent Us a Savior” Activity.
- Repeat the Bottom Line together twice: **[Bottom Line] Celebrate because God sent a Savior.**
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Jesus to save us. When we put our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, we know that we can have a friendship with You that lasts forever! What a reason to celebrate this Christmas! Help us to celebrate Jesus all year ‘round. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their ornaments as they talk to their parents about how we [Bottom Line] celebrate because God sent a Savior.