

LOWER ELEMENTARY- DECEMBER



ELEMENTARY

DECEMBER 2024

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

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. It's easy to get distracted with all the lights, presents, and traditions that sometimes we forget it's not about the things we do, but Who we do it for and why we do it.

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.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

In the Beginning Was the Word
John 1:1-5, 14

BOTTOM LINE

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph
Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God is with you.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Shepherds and Angels
Luke 2:8-20

BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate Jesus with others.

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

CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATING JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT



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WEEK 2

What helps you remember that God is with you?

We start with this question to help kids start thinking about all the times that God has been there for them in the past. Focusing on what God has already done instead of their current circumstances makes it a little easier to face new troubles that may come up and helps them to remember that they are not alone!

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 would be with them through it all.

Celebrate because God is with you. When God sent Jesus, it was the answer to many, many prayers and a LOT of 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!

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)

Bible Truth

An Angel appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Bottom Line

Celebrate because God is with you

Christmas Playlist- Week 2 Teaching Outline

Start at 15 after (if service is expected to be about an hour)

1. Intro: Welcome kids, get them excited
2. Worship
3. Announcements
4. Room Expectations
5. FATW: **Uncharted**
6. Game Time: **Puzzlin' Around the Christmas Tree**
7. Intro: Christmas Playlist
8. Bible Lesson Video: **An Angel appears to Mary**
9. Application
 - i. Weekly Bottom Line: **Celebrate because God is with you.**
 - ii. Memory Verse: **"Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save the people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NirV)**
 - iii. Key Question: **What helps you remember that God is with you?**
10. Prayer
11. Small Groups

Lesson Total: 30 minutes

Small Groups: 15 minutes

End on the hour

NOTES:

- All **yellow highlighted text** are cues for visual and audio slides.
- The text in **red** indicates stage directions.



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WEEK 2

WELCOME 3 minutes

(Welcome kids)

Hi everyone! Welcome to Flatirons Kids! I'm so excited to see you here today! I love Christmas time, don't you? It's the best time of the year! I love how we get to keep singing and giving Jesus all the praise He deserves! Today, let's use everything we have to praise God-- our hands, our feet, our words, and our energy... but most of all, our hearts. There's nothing like the joy Jesus gives us, so let's sing about it!

WORSHIP 6-7 minutes

(Encourage kids to worship God through song and dance. Play worship songs)

Show Worship Song: 12 days of Christmas

Show Worship Song: Here is Our King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Share campus-specific announcements-- see your Kids Director for details)

ROOM EXPECTATIONS 3 minutes

Show Graphic: Elementary Room Expectations

We want to have all the fun here at Flatirons Kids Ministry! We have a few things that we like to commit to so everybody has a good time.

Flatirons Kids are...

Respectful: We respect everyone and take care of the room and toys we have.

Kind: We treat each other kindly, just like we want to be treated; we go out of our way to be kind to others in the room.

Focused: We listen and follow the leaders in the room and the teacher in each activity.

Accountable: None of us are perfect, we will all make mistakes, but we will try our best and choose to change our actions when needed and take responsibility for our actions even if they have consequences.

FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD 3 minutes

Show Graphic: Friends Around the World – Uncharted

Here in Flatirons Kids Ministry, we do this cool thing called Friends Around the World. Every month we help one of our friends with a special project in their community. This month, we're partnering with our friends at **Uncharted International**.

Uncharted supports brave men and women in a bunch of places around the world who are building churches and teaching people about Jesus! They help people learn about how awesome God is, usually in places where it's dangerous to follow Jesus, so we're going to help them in their work! Check out this video!

Show Video: Friends Around the World – Uncharted

If you brought money today for our friends, come on up!

Show Song: Friends Around the World – Uncharted

Thank you so much for taking care of our friends! If you didn't bring money today, that is totally okay! What is another way we can help our friends? **(Pause for answers)** Yes, praying! Praying is a great way to show others we love them and are asking God to help them in ways we can't. I challenge you this week to take time to pray for our friends at **Uncharted** by yourself and with your family! Let's practice right now! Can you bow your heads and close your eyes with me?

God, we pray for our friends at Uncharted and for all our Friends Around the World. We pray that you would help them with all the work they are doing for you and thank you for

letting us be a part of it by giving money and praying. We love you, and it's in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen!

GAME TIME

Show Graphic: Puzzlin' Around the Christmas Tree

Christmas songs the best! There are so many Christmas songs out there that you could probably never listen to them all, even if you tried! Even if you had an unlimited Christmas playlist! That just goes to show what a big deal it is that Jesus was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago! Such a big deal that there are like... infinity songs about it!

Today, I have a fun Christmas game planned for you. This one has to do with some of my favorite Christmas songs. I call it: Puzzlin' Around the Christmas Tree.

These puzzles will have some emojis that give hints about the name of a Christmas song. You'll have to figure out what song title is on the screen by decoding the emojis. You'll see what I mean as we play! Talk with your neighbors or leader to try to figure out the answer, but don't shout it out! We want everyone to guess! After a little while, I'll ask what you guys think and you can raise your hand if you think you know the answer! Let's get started!

(ONE AT A TIME!!)

Show: Emoji Puzzles 1-6

- For each slide, give the groups 20 to 30 seconds to try to figure out the answer and then reveal the correct song titles.

Great job, everyone! You are all amazing puzzle-solvers! Now let's focus up for our Bible lesson.

INTRO 1 minute

Show Series Graphic: Christmas Playlist

Christmas is SUCH a fun time of year, and all the joy and celebration is about Jesus! We celebrate because at Christmas, Jesus was born to be our Savior! Jesus is God's greatest gift to us, and He's the best gift we could ever receive!

(Hold up Bible) We can find our story today in two of the Gospels: Matthew and Luke. Remember, the Gospels are the four books at the start of the New Testament-- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John-- that tell us about Jesus' life. Let's check out our Bible story video to

learn more!

BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes

Show Video: Video_WK2_StoryLab

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Series Graphic: Christmas Playlist

Mary and Joseph's lives were about to change in a way they could never have imagined. But they both had peace because they knew that God was with them! God had chosen them to take care of the Savior, Jesus, so Mary and Joseph welcomed baby Jesus into the world! Here's what we need to remember today:

Show Graphic: WK2_Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] Celebrate because God is with you. Say that with me! Celebrate because God is with you.

Even when things happen that we don't expect, we can have peace because we know that God is with us, and we can trust God no matter what! There are so many fun ways to celebrate Christmas, but the reason we celebrate is the same reason Mary and Joseph could celebrate way back then-- because of Jesus!

Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift! Let's remember this by practicing our **Memory Verse** for this month. It is Matthew 1:21 (NirV). Let's say it together:

Show Verse: Matthew 1:21 (NirV)

"Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save the people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NirV)

God sent Jesus FOR us, and God is always WITH us! When we choose to follow Jesus and discover more about Him, we can be friends with Him! We can know that God is always with us, and that can give us true peace no matter what's going on in our lives! When you know Jesus, you can always have peace. That's a big reason to celebrate!

Show Graphic: WK2_Key Question

As you go to your groups today, think about this: **“What helps you remember that God is with you?”**

Think about times when you have been tempted to believe that God wasn't with you. Then think about you were able to remember that God is with you. You might have trouble thinking about a specific moment, and that's okay. You'll have a chance to chat about this with your group. They might be able to help you! Now, before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for, Jesus who always reminds us that God is with us!

PRAYER

God, thank You for the way You showed Mary and Joseph that You were with them. Thank You for the way You chose them to welcome Jesus, our Savior, to the world. And God, thank You for reminding us today that You're always with US too. When things happen that we don't expect, or that seem confusing, help us to trust You and remember that You are always with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

SMALL GROUPS

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)

Show Graphic: Small Group