

UPPER 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



Upper Elementary - Large Group

DECEMBER 2024

WEEK 1

Why is Jesus important to you?

As we start the month of December, Christmas is on everyone's mind. It's the perfect time to help kids consider not just what they believe, but why. This week, we'll talk about how God always had a plan to send Jesus, the light of the world! We pray that this question will help kids be open to asking questions so they can grow in their faith and make it their own.

We kick off week 1 at the very beginning. In **John 1:1-5, 14**, we learn that before there was anything, even life itself, there was the Word. Jesus was this Word — a light that became a human to shine in the darkness and show us Who God is. We get to see the plan God had for us from the very beginning, and celebrate because of the gift of Jesus!

God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Much of what we celebrate at Christmas is an incredible reminder that God can be trusted no matter what. Since the very beginning, God made a promise to save the world and then followed through with Jesus! Because of Jesus, we can celebrate the opportunity to have a relationship with God that lasts forever.

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

In the Beginning Was the Word

John 1:1-5

Bottom Line

God always had a plan to send Jesus

Christmas Playlist- Week 1 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: **Do you hear what I hear?**
7. Intro: Christmas Playlist
8. Bible Lesson Video: **In the beginning was the Word**
9. Application
 - a. Weekly Bottom Line: **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**
 - b. 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)**
 - c. Key Question: **Why is Jesus important to 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.



Upper Elementary - Large Group

DECEMBER 2024

WEEK 1

WELCOME 3 minutes

(Welcome kids)

Hi everyone! Welcome to Flatirons Kids! I'm so excited to see you here today! It's a great day for us to sing and give praises to God. We are going to worship God together! 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. Let's all stand up on our feet as we sing together!

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

Before we get into our video, how about we play a game!

Show graphic: Do you hear what I hear?

I know you guys are really awesome listeners, so to play this game, I need some help from you guys! (Split group into 2 teams however you choose- by grade, boys vs girls, left side vs right side)

First, let me get three of you from each team...

(Bring up three kids from each group)

(To the contestants) Thanks for playing, friends. You and your teammates can go ahead and stand in line. I'm going to play a sound related to Christmas, and if you think you know what the sound is, the person at the front of the line can run up to the table and ring the bell. (Demonstrate)

If you answer correctly, you get a point for your team. But be careful . . . because if you do not answer correctly, then the other team will get a chance to guess and steal the point. If neither team can figure it out, then we'll ask the audience and see if any of YOU (point the audience) can figure it out!

(To contestants) Are you ready to play? Okay! Here's your first Christmas sound.

(ONE AT A TIME!!)

Play audio: CHRISTMAS SOUNDS 1-8

- Play the sound once.
- Call on the first kid who runs over and rings the bell. If that kid answers correctly, they get a point for their team. Play the sound one more time so everyone can hear it again.
- If the first kid answers incorrectly or can't give an answer in five seconds, then let the other team can talk it over and give an answer as a group. If they get it right, THEY get a point.
- If the other team can't guess the sound, play it again for the audience to guess. You can have fun with this by giving a point to the audience if they guess the answer.
- When you've played all the sounds, count up the score and congratulate the winners.
- Thank the contestants and send them back to their seats.

SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Wow! Some of those sounds were pretty tough to guess, but our contestants were great listeners! Now let's talk about our lesson!

INTRO 1 minute

Show Series Theme Graphic: Christmas Playlist

It's December! And that means... Merry Christmas, friends! This is my favorite time of year because everyone is excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus! At Christmas, we celebrate how Jesus, God's only Son, came to Earth as a baby! And that was all part of God's plan from the very beginning! We can read about the **light** Jesus brought to the world here in the Book of John. (Hold up Bible) John, who wrote this book, was one of Jesus' disciples. That meant he was one of Jesus' closest friends while Jesus was here on Earth. The four Gospels-- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John-- tell us what Jesus did and said while He was on Earth. John got the amazing opportunity to see and hear the things Jesus did for himself!

At Christmas, we celebrate how God sent Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up and taught us how to live, and then He gave His life on the cross so that we could be forgiven... but then, He came back to life, proving that He really is the Son of God! The birth of Jesus is VERY good news because it means we are saved! Let's check out our video to learn more!

BIBLE TRUTH 10 -12 minutes

Show Video: Video_WK1_So&SoShow

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Series Theme Graphic: Christmas Playlist

Jesus showed us exactly what God is like! And the best part is, we can be friends with Jesus too-- just like John was!

All along, God had a plan to send Jesus. God's plan was for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, to show us how to live and what God is like, and, eventually, to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins. Today, we can be forgiven for all the wrong things we've done because of what Jesus has done for us!

That's why Christmas is so much bigger than some presents or even just the birth of a little baby 2,000 years ago. Christmas is part of God's epic story that started at the very beginning!

Show Graphic: WK1_Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus. Say our bottom line with me! **God always had a plan to send Jesus.** It's so good to know that Jesus' birth was something God planned from the very beginning! That's the real reason we celebrate at Christmas. It's not just about the gifts or the decorations or even the fun music—even though we love all of those things. It's all about Jesus!

Show Verse: Matthew 1:21 (NirV)

Our **Memory Verse** for this month is Matthew 1:21. This is what the angel announced to Joseph, who was engaged to be married to Jesus' mother, Mary. The angel said:

“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 is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift. Jesus IS a gift to us. We can put our faith in Jesus and choose to follow Him each day. That's definitely worth celebrating!

Show Graphic: WK1_Key Question

As you go to your groups today, think about this: **Why is Jesus important to you?**

Chat with your group about how having a bigger understanding of God's plan through Jesus helps you appreciate what Jesus did for you even more. Maybe you're just learning about why we celebrate and sing songs about how God sent Jesus at Christmas time. And that's okay too! You're in the right place to ask all your questions! Your Small Group Leader would love to chat with you about all of that and more!

Before you go, let's pray and thank God for sending the Light of the World into the darkness.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for having a plan to send Jesus. Your plans are always good, and we know that we can trust You no matter what. Even though we mess up and don't follow Your Word all the time, we can still have a relationship with You when we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. Thank you that He was your plan from the very beginning. Please help all of us to remember why we are celebrating as we enjoy Christmas. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

SMALL GROUPS

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)

Show Graphic: Small Group