

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 3

What does Christmas mean to you?

Sometimes it's so easy to get caught up in the busyness of Christmas that it can start to feel a little overwhelming. However, when we turn our focus to the WHO of Christmas instead of all the things we get or do at Christmas, we start to see the joy that Jesus brings. We hope this question becomes a great conversation starter that leads kids to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and why He is worth celebrating!

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!

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 and knowing that can help us celebrate Jesus-- the true reason for the season!

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

Jesus is born

Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line

Celebrate because God sent a Savior

Christmas Playlist- Week 3 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: **BaHUM-bug!**
7. Intro: Christmas Playlist
8. Bible Lesson Video: **Jesus is born**
9. Application
 - a. Weekly Bottom Line: **Celebrate because God sent a Savior.**
 - 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: **What does Christmas mean 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 3

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 so we are going to worship 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 so we can 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

Show Graphic: BA-HUM-BUG

If you've been around this month, you already know we're all about Christmas playlists and celebrating the reason for the entire season-- Jesus! To keep the celebration going, we have a game to play! It's called: BaHUM-bug!

Okay, okay . . . Yes, 'Ba-HUM-bug' and celebrations don't usually go together. It usually means someone is ruining the party, but stay with me here! This is a fun, musical game that I'm going to need two of you to help me with. Who thinks they know a lot of Christmas music and wants to volunteer to play? **(Choose 2 kids to come up on stage)**

The rules are simple. In a minute, I will hum some Christmas songs-- no words, no motions, only hum, hum, hum. And we will see which of you can guess which song it is the fastest. Got it? Let's go!

Hum a song from the provided lists. Allow kids to guess and declare a winner.

Variations: Switch to 2 new guessers for each song so kids can discuss with a partner, allow kids to take turns humming the songs to each other, teacher/host hums and whole group is allowed to guess.

INTRO 1 minute

Show Series Graphic: Christmas Playlist

Today we're in the Book of Luke. **(Hold up Bible)** Luke wrote down lots of important stories from Jesus' life . . . including His birth! But remember, God's plan to send Jesus started long before that.

Back in the very beginning, the whole world was created through Jesus. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to make things right! Through the words of the prophets, like Isaiah, God promised to one day send a Savior. Over hundreds of years, God's people waited for the Savior to arrive. Let's check out our video to learn more!

BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Graphic: WK3_Bottom Line

God had promised to send a Rescuer and so God sent Jesus to be born as a tiny baby in the most unexpected of places-- in Bethlehem-- in a place where animals were kept! We can celebrate today because we know that God's promise came true. God sent Jesus to save us! Here's what we need to remember today:

[BOTTOM LINE] Celebrate because God sent a Savior. Say that with me! Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

Everything about that first Christmas was unusual. It wasn't the way people might have expected the Savior to arrive. But Mary and Joseph were able to experience the joy and wonder of being part of God's incredible story. They were the first ones to receive God's gift. Jesus was a gift to Mary and Joseph, and Jesus is a gift to us today. Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Memory Verse:

Let's remember this by practicing our Memory Verse for this month. It's 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)

As we take time to enjoy all the fun things that happen during Christmas, let's remember the real reason why we get to celebrate. We celebrate because Jesus came to live here on Earth as a baby! He grew up to show us how to love God and love others. And He gave up His life for us so we could live forever with God!

God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to come to Earth, to be born in Bethlehem, and to be the Savior of the world.

Show Graphic: WK3_Key Question

As you go to your groups today, think about this: **What does Christmas mean to you?**

Talk with your Small Group about what it means to truly celebrate our Savior, even with everything that's happening, because there is usually a LOT that is happening at Christmas! Maybe you're not sure what Christmas really means to you right now, and that's okay, too. Small Group is a great place to talk about that and ask questions! But before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for sending us the greatest gift-- Jesus our Savior!

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for the way You love us! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. You promised a long time ago that You would send a Rescuer, and You kept Your promise, like You always do! We know that You are faithful, and we know that we can trust You no matter what. When You sent Jesus to live here on earth, You showed us just how much You love us. We are so thankful, and we want to celebrate You today! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

SMALL GROUPS

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)

Show Graphic: Small Group