

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 4

How are you celebrating Christmas this year?

What's that one Christmas tradition you look forward to every year? What's your favorite may be different from someone else's favorite. Through all of our various backgrounds and experiences, we have a chance to celebrate Jesus in the unique ways God has created us.

We hope this question invites preteens to share the joy Jesus brings with others this Christmas season.

For week 4 we continue the story in **Luke 2:8-20**. Jesus was born, and it was now time to announce it to the world. Instead of heading to the wealthiest people, some angels visited the shepherds and announced Jesus' birth to them first! The shepherds ran to see Jesus, and once they did, it was news they couldn't keep to themselves. Jesus is worth celebrating with everyone!

Celebrate Jesus with others. This story reminds us that Jesus didn't just come for the powerful or most important people. Jesus came to show everyone that they can be part of what God is doing in the world. We pray that this Christmas kids will remember that Jesus came for them and for everyone around them, and that's a good reason to celebrate!

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

Shepherds and Angels.

Luke 2:8-20

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus with others.

Christmas Playlist- Week 4 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: **Wrapping Race**
7. Intro: Christmas Playlist
8. Bible Lesson Video: **Shepherds and Angels**
9. Application
 - a. Weekly Bottom Line: **Celebrate Jesus with others**
 - 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: **How are you celebrating Christmas this year?**
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 4

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 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

Can you believe it? We're SO close to Christmas! I love this time of year, because . . . well, I love Christmas music. I love a good Christmas playlist! And most of all, I love celebrating Jesus' birth with the people I love. My family loves to bake a 'Happy Birthday Jesus' cake, and we all give each other gifts by our Christmas tree. Gifts are always a big part of our celebration! That makes sense because Jesus Himself is the greatest gift we could ever receive. And really, all good things in life are gifts from God!

One of my favorite things about gifts is wrapping them, so today, we are going to have a Wrapping Race! I need 2 volunteers! (Choose 2 kids to come up on stage)

When I start the music you both have 1 minute to wrap up your item! (Give each a set of wrapping paper. Tape and scissors are optional) Remember, you have 1 whole minute so let's see who can wrap the best! Ready? Let's go!

INTRO 1 minute

Show Series Graphic: Christmas Playlist

This month, we've been talking about how God gave us the very best gift by sending Jesus to be our Savior. Let's check out this week's video to learn even more!

BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes

Show Video: Video_WK4_So&SoShow

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Series Graphic: Christmas Playlist

Mary's 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. Not only were their lives about to change, but all of our lives changed! That's why other people, like the shepherds, were celebrating too! And they told others so they could celebrate with them! Here's what we need to remember today:

Show Graphic: WK4_Bottom Line

[Bottom line] Celebrate Jesus with others. Say that with me! **Celebrate Jesus with others!**

It's pretty cool to think that Mary and Joseph were the very first ones to get to celebrate Jesus. Because of the incredible news they'd heard from the angel, they knew that within just a few months, they would literally be holding God's own Son in their arms! There are so many fun ways to celebrate Christmas. And the reason we celebrate is the same reason Mary and Joseph could celebrate way back then. Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift!

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)

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! That's a big reason to celebrate!

Show Graphic: WK4_Key Question

As you go to your groups today, think about this: **How are you celebrating Christmas this year?**

Talk about what it looks like to celebrate Jesus in a way that we can share the good news about Him with others. I bet your Small Group can come up with some amazing ideas! Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for Jesus.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus for us. Thank You for the way Jesus showed us what it means to give up our lives for others. Please help us to follow Jesus' example. Help us to see the needs of the people around us . . . and give us the wisdom to think of ways we can help. Help us to put Your love in action! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SMALL GROUPS

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)

Show Graphic: Small Group