



## WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Gabriel Visits Mary | Luke 1:5-66*

**Bottom Line:** *God always had a plan to send Jesus*

**Memory Verse:** *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:11 (NIRV)*

**Insight:** *Design of God’s Creation – What I see around me reveals a Creator who cares about me*

**Application:** *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

**Series Overview:** It’s time once more to “let every heart repair a broom” and “sleep in heavenly peas.” Even though there can be confusion around some of the classic carols, every kid knows that Christmas is a time to celebrate. And we have the incredible privilege of explaining why! You may be teaching the Christmas story for the fourth time (or twenty fourth), but it’s still fresh and new for the kids in your ministry. Even though some of them may have heard the story every year, that doesn’t mean they yet understand how the birth of Baby Jesus two thousand years ago changes everything for us today. We’ll explore how God had a plan from the very beginning to send Jesus and how all of history leads up to that point. In the stories of Mary and Zechariah, in the birth of Jesus, and in the visits of the shepherds and the wise men, we see how God’s perfectly orchestrated story was cause for celebration then... and how it’s just as much reason for us to celebrate today!

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## 8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Connection Centers

*Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders*

**What You Need:** Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

### What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for His perfect plan and for choosing Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary to be part of His big story. Ask God to help every kid learn to see that God is good and He loves us so much that He worked for years and years and years on His plan to send Jesus because He wants to be close to us. Ask God to help kids see His great love even more clearly this Christmas.**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
  - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
    - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
  - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
  - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
    - ***“If you had a giant bag of candy canes, who would you give the first one to?”***
    - ***If you could give a gift to the baby Jesus, what would you give Him? (It doesn't have to be a toy!)***
    - ***What is your favorite decoration you put up at home?***

- *Would you rather build a snowman or have a snowball fight?*
- *If you were a big, fluffy snowflake, where would you want to land?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
  - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
    - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
  - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

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**9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP**

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## **OPENING ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** “Puzzle Pieces” Activity Page

### **What You Do:**

- Before kids arrive, mix up the “Puzzle Pieces” Activity Pages and hide/place them around the group space.
- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to work to put the puzzle together.
- Once the puzzle is complete, read the headline aloud together.
- Gather the kids to discuss.

### **Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- If the kids work better in smaller groups, provide extra “Puzzle Pieces” Activity Pages, divide the kids into smaller groups, and give each group a puzzle to work on.

### **What You Say:**

“Great job putting the pieces together, friends! This puzzle reminds us of what we’re discovering all month long. **[Bottom Line]** God always had a plan to send **Jesus!** Even though God worked for years and years on that plan, He always had one. Lots of pieces, over years and years, came together to be a part of it because He loves us so much. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, we’ll look at one part of that plan, when an angel visited a woman named Mary to share some **INCREDIBLE** news with her about Jesus. Let’s go find out more!”

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

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Week 2 brings us to the stories of Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth. After hundreds of years with no recorded word from God, the rescue plan was set in motion. God sent angelic messengers with amazing news to Zechariah and to an ordinary girl named Mary. While Zechariah couldn’t quite believe that he was part of God’s plan, Mary chose to humbly accept her role as the mother of God’s own Son. No matter how we respond, God’s rescue plan can’t be stopped.

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

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## **GOD’S PLAN**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

**What You Need:** Brown or gray construction paper; prepared gift bag

### **What You Do:**

- Before you begin, place the pieces of construction paper across your group area in a winding “path” and place the gift bag at the end of the “path.”
- One at a time, let the kids take turns hopping, walking, or tiptoeing across the path to get to the gift bag.

- *NOTE: Adjust the difficulty of the path and challenge the kids not to touch the floor!*
- Once all of the kids have reached the gift bag, gather the kids and explain that God’s plan for Jesus was like a path ... every step mattered, but it led to a great gift, the gift of Jesus!
- Encourage a kid to remove the tissue paper, and distribute the candy/small toys.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you had to remind yourself that God is good and was working toward goodness in your life when something felt confusing or hard. Share a brief story with the group!)***

**Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- Allow kids to “walk the path” in creative ways: crawling, rolling a ball across, or moving a toy figure step by step.

**What You Say:**

“Great job following the paths, friends! God had a perfect plan to send Jesus, and He made sure every step happened at just the right time. When Gabriel told Mary she would be Jesus’ mother, that was part of the plan! And when Mary said yes, she trusted God’s plan even though she didn’t know all the details. Mary was able to trust God’s plan because she trusted God! Even though she didn’t know exactly how the plan would turn out, she knew that God was good and therefore His plan would be good too.

“There are going to be a lot of times in your life when you don’t know where you’re headed. But you can do what Mary did—you can trust God because He is good. Over years and years and years, God was working on His good plan to rescue you. ***[Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus.*** What He was working on was good, good, good, and He is always working toward goodness in your life too!”

## VERSE POSTCARDS

### [Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

**What You Need:** “Postcard” Activity Page; Bibles

**What You Do:**

- I Give each kid a postcard from the “Postcard” Activity Page.
- Read the Memory Verse, Luke 2:11, aloud to the group.
- Set out the coloring supplies, the writing materials, and the opened Bible where the kids can refer to it.
- On the front, read the phrase: “God always had a plan to send Jesus!”
- Instruct the kids to decorate the front of their postcard.
- On the back of the postcard, encourage each kid to write out Luke 2:11.
- Invite the kids to think of someone they’d like to give the postcard to, and write their name in the blanks.

**Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- For an option with less movement, encourage kids to make a “T” with their hands for “trust.”

**What You Say:**

“Your postcards look amazing! By writing out Luke 2:11, you’ve shared the exact good news the angel told the shepherds: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11 NIrV).*

“Instead of mailing this postcard, think of someone you can give it to to share the good news with them, like the angel shared with the shepherds. God loves that person so much that Jesus Himself came to pay for sin so that person could choose to be close with God again! **[Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus.**”

## **PRAYER TIME**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Explain that today they get to imagine they're being interviewed for the “Good News Network.”
- Hold your hand like a pretend microphone in front of each kid and ask:
  - “If you could thank God for one thing today, what would it be?”
  - “What’s one thing you’re glad God planned in your life?”
- After every kid answers, say a short prayer thanking God for what they shared.
- Close the activity by praying for the group as a whole, thanking God for always having a plan to send Jesus.

#### **What You Say:**

*“God, thank You that You love us so much that You worked for years and years to send Jesus to rescue us so we could be close friends with You again. Thank You that You always had a plan to send Jesus. Help us to share that good news all throughout this Christmas season and beyond—that You love everyone so much that You sent Jesus. We love You, God! We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”*

***[As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their Memory Verse postcards. Challenge the kids to recite Luke 2:11 to their grown-ups!]***