



## WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**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:** Three prepared Christmas-themed gift bags with paper slips

### **What You Do:**

- Greet each kid by name with a high five, fist bump, or smile!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Show the kids the gift bags filled with tissue paper.
- Say: “There are *plans*’ hidden inside!”
- Choose a kid to pick a slip of paper from a bag, read it aloud, and follow the plan (for example: hop three times).
- Continue until all of the kids have had a turn.
- Encourage everyone to cheer when a plan is followed!
- If time allows, mix up the slips in the gift bags and play again.

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

- Place candy canes at a level and location that’s accessible for all children in your group.

### **What You Say:**

“Amazing job, everyone! Those were some silly plans, but you all followed them so well! You didn’t know what was inside the bag until you pulled it out, but you trusted the plan and followed it.

“In today’s true story from the Bible, we’ll hear about a young woman named Mary. God sent an angel to tell her about HIS big plan. It wasn’t a silly plan—it was the most important plan ever! God’s plan was to send Jesus to rescue the world. Mary trusted God’s plan, even though it felt surprising. We can trust God’s plan too, because God is good and ***[Bottom Line]*** **God always had a plan to send Jesus. *[Transition]*** **Let’s head to Large Group to hear more about it!”**

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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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### **PROMISE RELAY**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

**What You Need:** “Promise Relay Puzzles” Activity Page; zip-top baggies

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

- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Give each group a zip-top baggie with puzzle pieces.

- Invite the kids to race to put their puzzle together.
- Once all puzzles are complete, talk about how each picture shows part of God’s plan (Zechariah, John, Mary, Jesus).
- Remind kids: Just like a puzzle, you may not understand how the pieces go together, but God is always working toward something beautiful!

**Inclusive Pro-Tips:**

- Omit the “race” portion and encourage all children to work at their own pace and celebrate every accomplishment.

**What You Say:**

“Wow, you did such a great job putting your puzzles together! At first, all the pieces were separate and didn’t make much sense. But when you kept working, you could see the whole picture, and it was beautiful. That’s kind of like God’s plan.

“God is good and He is always, always working for something that’s good. For hundreds and hundreds of years, even though people didn’t understand their parts in God’s great rescue plan, God was working on His plan to send Jesus.

“In our Bible Story today, we read about some of the people who were in God’s great rescue plan! First, God sent the angel Gabriel to Zechariah to tell him about baby John, who would prepare the way. Then God sent Gabriel to Mary, a young woman from a small town, with the biggest news of all: She would have a baby, and that baby would be Jesus, God’s Son! Mary didn’t have all the answers, and she might have felt a little scared. But she trusted God. She knew that He was good, and so His plan would be good. She said yes, even when she didn’t know how everything would work out because she trusted God.

“There will be times in your life when you go through something hard or scary too. 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. He was working on a beautiful picture! He was working to send Jesus! **[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, toward something beautiful, in your life too!”

## TRUST MOVES

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

**What You Need:** N/A

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

- Invite kids to spread out in the room where they have space to move.
- Explain: “I’m going to say a statement. If you think it’s true, show me a *trust move!* That means take one big step forward, and then step back to your spot.”
- Practice together once with a fun statement like: “*Christmas cookies are so yummy!*”
- Read through statements one by one, giving kids time to respond with their “trust move.”
- Mix Christmas fun questions with Bible truth to keep it light and engaging.
- After the final statement, invite kids to sit down in a circle to talk

#### o **Trust Move Statements**

- Hot chocolate tastes better with marshmallows.
- God sent Gabriel to Mary with good news.
- Decorating a Christmas tree is fun.
- Mary trusted God’s plan, even when she didn’t understand it all, because she trusted God.
- Singing Christmas songs makes you happy.
- **[Bottom Line] God always had a plan to send Jesus**
- You’d rather get toys than socks for Christmas.

- For years and years, God worked on His good plan of sending Jesus, and God is working on something beautiful in your life too!

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

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

### **What You Say:**

“You all did such a great job with your trust moves, and I love your answers about Christmas too! It’s fun to think about things like hot chocolate, songs, and even Christmas trees! But even more than all those fun things, Christmas is about Jesus! Every decoration, every celebration is really about Him!

“In our Bible Story, we learned that Mary chose to trust God. She didn’t know how everything would work out, and she might have been nervous, but she said yes to God’s plan because she trusted God. That’s what trust looks like: choosing to follow God because you know He is good even when you don’t see the whole picture.

“God’s people had been waiting hundreds of years for a Rescuer, and then suddenly, God put another part of His plan into action through Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, and Mary. The whole time, God was working on His good plan to send Jesus. Every step shows us that *[Bottom Line]* **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**

“And here’s the good news: God is working for good in your life too. Just like Mary trusted God, you can trust Him when things feel confusing, or when you’re nervous, or when life feels uncertain. God is good, good, good, and He is always working toward something good.

“So this Christmas, when you see the lights, have winter break, or sing carols, remember: it’s all about Jesus. And you can always trust God, because He loves you so much that He sent Jesus for you.”

## **PRAYER TIME**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

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

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Say: “Today we learned that God had a plan to send Jesus, and He told Mary through the angel Gabriel. Mary didn’t have all the answers, and it might have felt a little scary, but she trusted God. He is good, so she knew He was working for good, so she trusted Him. We can do the same!”
- Invite kids to close their eyes and think about something in their life that feels hard to understand, something they need to trust God with.
- Share examples like: “*Maybe you feel nervous about a test, or you’re waiting for something, or you’re having trouble with a friend.*”
- Say: “Now let’s take a quiet moment to talk to God about it. You can tell Him what’s on your mind and ask Him to help you trust Him.”
- Give kids 30 seconds of silent prayer time.
- Close in prayer.

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

*“Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for having a plan to send Jesus at just the right time. Sometimes we don’t understand what You’re doing, but we know that You are always working towards something good. Help us to trust You. When life feels confusing or scary, remind us that You love us and we can trust You. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

***[As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share with their parents that God always had a plan to send Jesus. Encourage kids to give one example of something they can trust God with this week.]***