



WEEK ONE – DECEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Jesus is Promised* | Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2

Conversation Starter: *What's the best news you've ever heard?*

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!

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

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 your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Invite God to prepare every preteen’s heart to hear the truth that Jesus is good news for everyone—including them! Pray for any new kids who might be curious or unsure that they would feel welcomed and included. Thank God for the promises He made long ago, and for keeping every single one through Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to help preteens see that following Jesus isn’t about having it all together; it’s about trusting the One who came to save us all.**
- *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 :
 - ***“What is the best non-material gift you have ever received or given? (e.g., a great memory, someone's help, a kind action).***

- *What is one thing that usually happens in December that fills you with pure joy?*
- *When you think about the Christmas story, what is one thing about the birth of Jesus that gives you hope?*
- *Would you rather have a never-ending supply of your favorite Christmas cookie or have a personal snow machine that only works in your yard?*
- *If you could instantly be really good at singing or really good at cooking (for a feast!), which would you choose?*
- *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

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

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: “Clues” Activity Page; masking tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Before you begin, tape the “Clues” Activity Page cards around your group area.
- Divide the kids into small teams.
- Invite the teams to spread out.
- Explain how to play:
 - When you say “Go,” one kid from each team runs to a clue, grabs a card, brings it back, and tags the next teammate.

- The teams are to collect as many clues as they can before the time is up in one minute.
- Once all the clues have been collected, the teams will sit together and try to find the answer the clues point to. (Jesus!)
- Set a timer for 60 seconds.
- Signal the first kids to begin.
- Stop the timer after 60 seconds.
- Encourage the kids’ teams to sit together, go through their clues, and see if they can name Who the clues are about. (Jesus!)
- When the game is over, instruct the kids to gather together.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, place the cards on a table and let the kids collect them from a seated position as they try to guess the answer. .

What You Say:

“Awesome job collecting all of the clues, friends! These clues might not tell us the whole story, but they point to something really important that happened in our true story from the Bible today. *[Transition]* **Just like these clues, God gave His people promises a long time ago about something amazing He was going to do ... and He had the whole plan in motion even before anyone could see it! Let’s go discover more!”**

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

To start off the month, though, we’re hopping back in time to look at the most important prophecies of Jesus’ birth. Isaiah lived in a tumultuous time as the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed and enemies closed in on Judah. But God gave Isaiah words of hope and peace for God’s people then... and for the whole world. “A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. His rule will be

based on what is fair and right. It will last forever.” That news makes me want to cheer! Then Micah points to a ruler who would be born in Bethlehem. More incredible news.

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

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: “Prophecies Fulfilled” Activity Page; floor tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, mark three taped lines on one side of your group area.
- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Instruct each group to stand behind a taped line.
- Place the two “Fulfillment Cards” from the “Prophecies Fulfilled” Activity Page a few feet away from each group.
- Give each group the two “Prophecy Cards” from the “Prophecy Fulfilled” Activity Page.
- Explain the goal:
 - One at a time, a kid from each team will travel to retrieve a “Prophecy Fulfilled” card. Once both “Prophecy Fulfilled” cards are collected, the teams is to work together to match each prophecy with its fulfillment.
- Once the matches are made, quickly review each pair, pointing out how God’s plan in the Old Testament came true in the New Testament.
- Ask: “Which prophecy from today’s activity amazed you the most? Why?”
- Share with the group:
 - “The Old Testament is before Jesus was born, and the New Testament tells what happened when He came and after. Even though they were

written at different times, both parts are telling one big story: God’s plan to save us through Jesus.”

- “These prophecies from Isaiah and Micah were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born, and yet they happened exactly like God said. That’s not just a good guess; that’s God proving His Word is true and God always keeps His promises!”
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share about what Jesus means to you! Who taught you about Jesus? How does knowing Jesus still change your life today? Share age-appropriately.)***

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- To adjust to the mobility of your group, let the kids match the cards from a seated position.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Give every two kids a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Luke 2:11 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they’re looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it’s in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they’re looking for. If it’s in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they’re looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they’re looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they’ve already found.
- Repeat the verse together several times.

- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids, like ‘Messiah’:
 - “Messiah” is a special title that means: “Anointed One” or “Chosen One.”
 - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
 - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: “This is the One God promised! He’s the Rescuer, the forever King, the one we’ve all been waiting for to make us right with God again!”
- Set the Bibles aside and teach the kids this month’s verse motions. (The NIrV and NIV for Luke 2:11 are very similar, except for punctuation.)
 - “Today” – *Point straight down with both hands like you’re marking right now.*
 - “in the town of David” – *Make a “roof” over your head with your hands.*
 - “a Savior” – *Spread your arms wide like you’re about to hug.*
 - “has been born” – *Rock your arms like you’re holding a baby.*
 - “to you.” – *Point to a friend or the group.*
 - “He is the Messiah,” – *Pretend like you’re putting on a crown with your hands.*
 - “the Lord.” – *Point both hands up to the sky.*
 - “Luke 2:11” – *Open the palms of your hands together like you’re opening a Bible.*
- Repeat the motions until the kids have learned them.
- Call on several kids to try the motions on their own while they say the Memory Verse!
- Ask:
 - If you were one of the shepherds hearing this news for the first time, what would you do next?

- How can you remember that Jesus is the reason for the season this Christmas?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Consider performing the motions from a seated position to adjust to the mobility needs in your group.
- Use the dry-erase marker and board to write the verse for visual learners to see.

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
- Invite the kids to close their eyes, take a deep breath, and silently think about the truth that God worked for years and years to send Jesus to rescue them, so that they could be His close friend.
- Encourage them to listen in their hearts for anything they might want to say to God.
- Ask the kids if they'd like to share any prayer requests with the group.
- Close in prayer.