



## Jesus is the Plan

Luke 2

### God Statement: Jesus is the Good News

**KEY VERSE:** "She 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

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: Jesus is the Plan**

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the plan!

**SAY:** What does it mean to have a plan? *Let kids respond.* When we make a plan, we create details and ways to make something happen. A plan is great for keeping track of a goal! Do you have any plans or goals? *Let a few kids respond.* Those plans sound pretty exciting.

Do you know what God's plan was for all of us? Who did He send to fulfill His plan? **Let kids respond – Save us from our sin. Jesus** God had a plan to save us from our sins. He sent His son, Jesus to die for us! Because of Jesus we get to have a relationship with God, and God forgives our sins. Jesus was and is God's plan!

God sent Jesus to earth and we get to learn more about this special moment today. Do you know what we celebrate on Jesus' birthday? **Let a few kids respond** Christmas! That's right! We get learn more about Jesus in our Christmas story today, but first, let's make a craft!

### **MAKE: Ornament Craft Kit**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**Supplies:** one craft kit per child

**Directions:** Pass out one ornament craft kit per child. Help them to create their special Christmas ornament.

**SAY:** Today we get to learn about God's great plan, Jesus! I can't wait to learn more about Christmas and Jesus. Let's create a special ornament to take with us to remind us of our story we get to hear about today.

**\*\*Make sure to send the craft home during pickup!\*\***



# LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

## WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

*Worship Leader & Host*

### WORSHIP

*While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!*

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

### TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Joy to The World
- Best Present Ever

### LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.\*\*\**

## MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

*Host*

### MAIL TIME!

*Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.*

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

*\*\*\*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.\*\*\**

***“She 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)***

## **WARDROBE OF WONDER**

*The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.*

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

### **What’s It: Stable**

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

**SAY:** What is this? What do you think this is? I see hay and a trough with animals. Who do you think lives here? What do you think it might be doing in our Wardrobe of Wonder? I wonder what this **stable** has to do with our lesson today. I can’t wait to learn more about this in our Bible story today. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**\*\*\* After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\***

## **BIBLE STORY**

### ***Lesson – Christmas Play***

Remind the group before starting to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### **THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Jesus is The Plan**

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the Big God Story as they participate in the Christmas story together.

***Before you start Large Group, assign the kids a specific role to play in the Nativity skit and have them put on their corresponding costume. If you have a large class, you can include as many angels, sheep and shepherds as you have costumes for.***

### **Character List (bolded are required; unbolded are optional)**

- Narrator (Large Group Host)
- **Mary**
- **Joseph**
- Innkeeper
- 1 Donkey

- Main Angel
- Angels
- Sheep
- star
- Shepherds

**If you don't have enough kids to act out the story, you can show this video in lieu of the skit:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3656G6tWuI>

**HOST:** Today, we are celebrating something really special! Who can raise their hand and tell me what we're celebrating? **(allow child to respond)** That's right! We're celebrating Christmas – the day that Jesus was born! But why is this so important?

Well, a long long time ago, God created the first man and woman. Do you remember their names? **(allow child to respond)** That's right! Adam and Eve. They lived in the Garden of Eden with God but they disobeyed Him and sin came into the world. Sin is when we make bad choices. Can you show me with your face how sin makes you feel? **(allow kids to frown or make sad face)**. Sin makes me feel really sad! And it makes God sad, too. It means we're separated from God and there's nothing we can do on our own to be connected to Him.

But guess what? Even though the story started sad, it doesn't end sad! Because God promised to send a Savior to die for our sins and help connect us back to Him! Can anyone guess who that Savior is? **(allow child to respond)** Jesus! And that's why Christmas is SO special!

Now, God didn't send Jesus right away. There were many many years from the time Adam and Eve sinned to the time Jesus was born. But God made covenants, or special promises, with different people that He would send this Savior – a King! God had a plan! And God kept his promise. Jesus was born on Christmas and He is the Savior they all waited for! Jesus was God's plan!

Alright, now that we understand how important Jesus is, let's look at what happened the day Jesus was born.

**SKIT (or video):**

**HOST:** We're going to act out our story today! Are you ready? You're each wearing a costume and you each get to play a special part in our story today.

**HOST:** Our story starts with Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus **(invite Mary and Joseph to come up on stage)**. Caesar Augustus wanted to make a list of all the people living in each town, so everyone had to go back to the town where they were from. At this time, Mary was pregnant and ready to have baby Jesus soon.

**HOST:** But Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth back to the town of Bethlehem. They had to go about 70 miles and it took a very long time since Mary's baby was going to be born soon. **(ask Mary and Joseph to walk a few laps around the room)**.

*(Invite Innkeeper to come up on stage).*

**HOST:** When they got there, they tried to find a place to stay. They went to an inn and asked for a room, but the Innkeeper said there was no room for them. **(Encourage Innkeeper to shake head “no”).** The only place that Mary and Joseph could find to stay was where the animals slept. *(Invite 1 sheep & 1 donkey to come up and lay down as if sleeping; Mary & Joseph join them).*

**HOST:** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born and she gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, the place where animals ate their hay from. **(Hand baby doll to Mary & have her wrap it in cloth and lay it in the manger).** Let’s all sing “Away in a Manger” to celebrate Jesus being born!

**Tech cue: “Away in a Manger” (all kids sing along)**

**HOST:** There were shepherds living in the hills and fields nearby, looking after their sheep. **(Invite shepherd & remaining sheep to come up).** As the new day began, suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. **Tech cue: flicker lights**

*(Invite main angel to come up on stage, holding a flashlight toward the shepherds).*

**HOST:** The shepherds were very scared **(tell shepherd to make a scared face)** but the angel said “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all of the people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

**HOST:** Suddenly many more angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” **(Invite other angels to come up).**

**HOST:** So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **(Have shepherds walk to Mary, Joseph and the manger).** When they saw him, they told everyone what the angel had said and everyone who heard the story were astonished. Then the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for sending his Son to be their Savior. Let’s sing “Joy to the World” to celebrate and thank God for sending Jesus!

**Tech cue: “Joy to the World” (all kids sing along)**

**HOST:** After Jesus was born, a new bright star appeared in the sky. Some Wise Men in faraway countries saw the star and set out to find the new king and bring him gifts. **(Invite star and Wise Men to come up and walk around the room with the star leading).**

**HOST:** They kept following the star until they found the place where Jesus was – it took them a long time! **(Have the star stop and Wise Men stop).**

**HOST:** When they got to the inn, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

**HOST:** Wow! What an amazing story. Thank you, everyone, for helping us act that out. This story is so powerful because it fulfilled God's plan to send a Savior! Jesus is the Plan!

***Have everyone take a bow and applaud the class for their participation. Encourage everyone to have a seat to transition into Worship Response time.***

***\*\*\*After the story, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\****

## WORSHIP RESPONSE

### *Host*

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Read the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids in this time.

**Supplies:** nativity ornament-(each child gets one from the set of 27)

**SAY:** Today, we talked about a very special story – the day Jesus was born! This story is so important because people waited a very long time for Him to come. God had a plan to send a Savior to the people – Jesus is the Savior! Eventually, Jesus grew up and died on the cross for our sins.

Today, we are going to celebrate that Jesus was born on Christmas! Let's sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and then we will each get an ornament to remind us of this special story!

***(Play "Happy Birthday" song and pass out one sticker to each child)***

***\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Blessing slide.\*\*\****

## OFFERING

### *Host*

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.***

*\*\*\*After Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Praying for One Another**

### **Host**

*Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.*

**SAY:** The Holiday season looks different for each and everyone of us. It's not always full of joy and laughter, some of our friends might be walking through something hard. This week, think of one person you can pray for. Take a couple minutes each day to pray for their situation and that they would find hope and peace in Jesus. If **you** are going through something hard, ask your leader or another grownup to pray for your situation!

***Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who might be going through a more difficult holiday season .***

*\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\**

## **BLESSING**

### **Host**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May you know that Jesus loves you so much that he sent Jesus for you!***



### **Classroom Teachers** **(10 minutes)**

*The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.*

#### **Younger Kids:**

If you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well, jump into the questions below. If kids need a break first, that's ok! Have them do some jumps or dances to get out some energy before doing the questions.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Plan).
2. **Recap today's story:**
  - a. **Can you name 3 people we learned about in today's Bible story?** (3 wise men, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Shepherd.)
  - b. **Who did God send that was all part of His plan?** (Jesus!)
  - c. **Do you think everyone was excited when baby Jesus was born?** (Yes!)
3. **God had an amazing plan to send Jesus to be the Savior. He knew we needed a Savior, and Jesus was apart of His plan! We are apart of God's plan as well! What do you think this means? How can we live our life out knowing the truth of being apart of His plan?**  
Spend a couple of minutes as a group discussing.

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: Find Baby Jesus**

**Supplies:** Laminated baby Jesus cut out

**Directions:** Pick one child to hide baby Jesus while all the other kids close their eyes. When the child is done hiding baby Jesus, allow the other kids to search for him. Repeat!

**SAY:** God made a covenant to send a Savior – Jesus. Jesus is the Plan! People waited a really long time for Jesus. He was really special! Jesus helps us all become a part of God’s family! We’re going to play a game to help us remember Jesus being born on Christmas.

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*