



Christmas Story – Jesus is the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9

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 Prince of Peace

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

Say: What does the word 'peace' mean? **Let kids respond.** Peace means freedom or tranquility. Peace can also mean 'calm'. Do you know what it means to feel peace? **Let a few kids respond.** Feeling peace, means we feel ok, calm, or content about things. No worrying or fighting. Just peace!

Did you know that God sent His son Jesus to bring peace? **Let kids respond.** God sent His son, Jesus to bring peace into a world full of sin. He gives us peace! When we feel

scared, sad, lonely, or confused, we can pray and ask for Jesus to bring us peace. He is the Prince of Peace!

MAKE: Joy Pom-Pom Ornament

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

Supplies: one joy ornament, pom poms, glue, crayons/markers

Directions: Pass out one joy ornament per child. Have them color their ornaments. Allow children to take red and green pom poms and glue them in a line to fill in the words.

SAY: Today we get to learn about Jesus and how He is the Prince of Peace! Jesus brings joy and peace. It is so exciting to know that Jesus died for our sins and brought peace into a sinful world. Let's make a special ornament before we jump into our lesson today.



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 video 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: Prince Crown

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. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. 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 do you guys see? It’s a crown. Who usually wears a crown? **Let kids respond.** Those are all great answers, usually those who are of royalty wear a crown. Do you know who is royalty? We often refer to Him as the prince of peace. **Let kids respond.** Yes Jesus! Jesus is royalty. He is the king of all kings. The prince of peace. Jesus is the good news and has come as a baby to save us from our sins. Let’s dive into God’s word to learn more about the Christmas story!

***** 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 Video

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

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Christmas Story – Jesus is the Prince of Peace

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*****After the video finishes, 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.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: WORSHIP & DRAWING – JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Supplies: worship song in PowerPoint (Peace Has Come), paper, markers/pens, wire/twine WR stations

SAY: Jesus is the Prince of Peace! God had a plan from the very start of the world for Jesus to bring peace into our broken and sinful world. It was all part of God's rescue mission – to save His people, you and me!

That's why we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus – because it was the start of God's big rescue plan! Jesus really is the Prince of Peace!

Let's take some time now to think about what that means to each of us.

DIRECTIONS: *Have leaders pass out a piece of paper and marker/pen to each kid.*

SAY: We're going to sit quietly and listen to a special song about Jesus! As you listen to the words in the song, think about Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Draw what comes to mind. Maybe it's Jesus as a baby or maybe it's Jesus sitting next to you in your room or maybe it's Jesus in Heaven. However you see Jesus when you think about Him right now, draw it.

DIRECTIONS: *Turn on worship song in PowerPoint (Peace Has Come). Then, remind kids this is an individual time to reflect and draw. When they finish, they can pin their drawing to the twine/wire boards around the room and finish listening to the song. After the song is over, wrap up the time.*

SAY: God sent His Son, Jesus, because He loves you and you and you and you! Who else does God love? **Everyone!** God loves the whole world. And He sent Jesus as the Prince of Peace to save us! That is such good news. Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus!

Close time in prayer.

*****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.*****

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 every one 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 see Jesus in a new way this week, remembering that He is the Prince of Peace who came to rescue us because God loves us!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

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 Prince of Peace.)

2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Isaiah 9:2-7**
 - What will the people who are living in darkness see?** (A great light.)

 - Who is the light that the book of Isaiah is referring to?** (Jesus.)

 - What will the child (Jesus) be called (V.6)?** (Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.)

3. **As a group reread verses 6-7. Jesus is the prince of peace. God has sent Jesus to save us from our sins. To bring council, and peace.**
 - What does it mean that Jesus is the prince of peace?**

 - What does it mean to live in peace?**

 - How can we live a life of peace each and every day even when life seems tough?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group.

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: What's in the box-acting/guessing game

Supplies: Christmas Box

Directions: Have children get into pairs and sit on the floor. Have one child from each pair come up and look in the Christmas box. Have them stand in the front of the room. One by one have each child give one motion to act out what they saw in the box. No using words! After all of the children up front have done their motions/acting have the other children guess what is in the box.

SAY: Today we got to learn about Jesus and how He brought peace to the world. Let's play a game and see if we can guess what is in this special box!

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.