

PARENT CORNER

weekly

TODAY: DECEMBER 14-15

Bible Story: An angel appears to both Mary and Joseph
Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Big Idea: Jesus is God's greatest gift

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)*

Focus: Jesus is God's greatest gift and God's perfect plan

Bible Story Summary:

Read and meditate on **Luke 1:26-38 & Matthew 1:18-25.**

In Luke 1, Mary and Joseph were ordinary people who were engaged to be married. An angel appeared to Mary, and she was told her life would be anything but ordinary. She would be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah.

When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he planned to quietly divorce her. But an angel appeared to him and told him Mary was pregnant with God's Son. Joseph obeyed the Lord and took Mary as his wife.

Jesus is God's greatest gift and His perfect plan. Jesus is the answer to our sin problem. He is God's love come to earth. Jesus is God with us! And that makes Him the greatest gift ever given. Mary and Joseph's life was used to bring Jesus to the world.

Jesus is still God's perfect plan for everyone!

He Question: What is God's perfect plan?

God's plan is to rescue His people, bring them back to a relationship with Him and to make all things new again one day. God is always working to accomplish His plan.

We Question: What makes Jesus the greatest gift?

Jesus is how we our brought into relationship with God, through His death and resurrection.

Me Question: What does this mean for my life?

God had the perfect plan for the world through Jesus. And I can trust Him to have the perfect plan in my life, too. That plan may not always be easy, but it is always for my good and God's glory.



Practice saying this month's memory verse together as a family, but replace the phrase "the world" with one person's name in your family. Repeat until you've included every family member in the verse. Remind each other that God loves each person so much!

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WEEK 3



DAY 1

READ "The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." *Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)*

Isaiah was a prophet, a person who spoke for God. He helped people know about God and how God wanted them to live. Isaiah spoke these words so that people would know that one day, God's only Son would be born. God wanted His people to know that a Messiah, a Savior was coming!

God had a plan from the very beginning. It was a plan to rescue us. God is perfect and holy. Our sin, the wrong things we do, breaks our relationship with God. But because God loves us, he made a way to fix that broken relationship! When we trust in Jesus because of what He did for us on the cross, we can have a relationship with God forever. Isn't that amazing?

God with Us Ornament

The name Immanuel means "God with us."

1. With the help of a parent, grab a piece of heavy paper and write the word, "Immanuel," in a cool font. You can decorate it any way you choose.
2. Flip the paper over and write "God with us."
3. Cut around the words to create a cool shape.
4. Punch a hole in the top and run some yarn through the hole to create an ornament to add to your Christmas Tree.

THANK God for His perfect plan that allows us to have a relationship with God forever

DAY 2

READ "The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel. His family line goes back to the early years of your nation. It goes all the way back to the days of long ago." *Micah 5:2 (NirV)*

About the same time Isaiah was telling people about God sending His son, God gave another prophet named Micah a special message. Micah told the people that a very special birth would take place in the town of Bethlehem. These messages from Isaiah and Micah helped the people know that one day, Jesus, God's only son, would be born.

The people waited and waited for a very long time for this promised Savior. God had a plan all along! And guess what? At just the right time, Micah's words given to him by God came true. Jesus was born in Bethlehem! We can celebrate Christmas because God had a plan!

Make a prophet puppet!

1. With the help of a parent, grab a paper bag.
2. Draw a face on the bottom.
3. Draw a mouth on the folded edge.
4. Place your hand inside the puppet and move his "mouth" to share Micah's special message saying, "God's son will be born in Bethlehem."

KNOW that God always has the perfect plan.

DAY 3

READ "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 (NIRV)

This is the memory verse for the month of December. All month long we are learning that **Jesus is God's greatest gift!** Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As you learn the memory verse this month, take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known, Jesus.

After a meal, gather the family together in a circle to play a game. To practice this month's memory verse, grab a wrapped present that can be passed around. Pass the present around the circle as you say the memory verse together.

Whoever is holding the present on the word "us" is out! Keep playing and saying the memory verse until there is a winner.

Before putting the present away, explain that the reason people give gifts at Christmas is because God gave Jesus to everyone, and Jesus is the greatest gift of all!

PRACTICE the memory verse as a reminder that Jesus is God's greatest gift.

HEY PARENTS SIGN HERE!

Have a parent sign your completed GodTime.

Parent signature

Date

Return for 5 Bible Bucks!

parent CUE:

These are some Christmas songs that the kids are going to be hearing and singing this month in UpTown!

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Zach Williams

Joy To the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Chris Tomlin

DAY 4

READ Luke 1:30-33

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she was terrified. After all, no one expects an angel to suddenly show up unannounced! And his message was even more confusing. Mary wasn't even married and now she's being told she's going to have a baby?

Remember, God had promised to send His Son. Years had passed as God's people waited and waited. And now, Gabriel is here to say, "Guess what, Mary? That promise is about to come true. God is with you, and He has chosen you!"

That's why Christmas is such a big deal. We celebrate because God has a plan!

With the help of a parent, get a piece of paper and write "CELEBRATE BECAUSE GOD HAS A PLAN" on it. Then, decorate the paper and hang it up.

As you finish the week, take some time to thank God for keeping His plan to send His son Jesus, just as He promised.

THANK God for His plan to send His son Jesus

at a GLANCE



Bibles-n-Bucks Shopping

January 4-5	Kindergarten
January 11-12	4th Grade
January 18-19	3rd Grade
January 25-26	2nd Grade
February 1-2	1st Grade

December 23 & 24: There is no Uptown. Enjoy celebrating Christmas as a family in the worship center.

