

# The Greatest

Luke 2:21-40

## God Story

Baby Jesus at the Temple  
Luke 2:21-40

### Big Idea

Jesus is God's greatest promise.

### Key Verse

"We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."  
John 6:69

### Leader Tip:

As your group returns from the holidays, welcome them and take some time to review your expectations for the kids.

## Life Story

### 1. Conversation Starter

2 MINUTES

Chat about how it feels to wait a long time for something, then Introduce the Big Idea.

### 2. Intro Activity

5 MINUTES

Highlight examples of kept and broken promises to help the kids understand today's theme.

## God Story

## Circle Time!

### 3. Weekly Video

12 MINUTES

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

## My Story

### 4. Small Group Activity

12 MINUTES\*

Create a timeline to help the kids picture how long it took God to follow through on his greatest promise to us: Jesus!

### 5. Wrap-Up Activity

8 MINUTES

Work in groups to find the new Key Verse as well as several Other verses in the Bible.

## Our Story

### 5. Dismissal

Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

\*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities

# Life Story

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## 1. Conversation Starter

### Supplies

- None

### Leader Tip:

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the kids arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so that you have adequate time for it before watching the teaching video.

### Instructions:

- Welcome everyone and gather the kids together.
- Ask:
  - What's the longest you've ever had to wait for a meal? At a doctor's office? To go on a vacation?
  - Was the time you spent waiting really that long or did it just feel that way?
  - What made it seem like such a long wait? (e.g., I was hungry/nervous/excited)
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Explain that God had a plan when he promised people a rescuer, but it took hundreds and hundreds of years to fulfill!
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **Jesus is God's greatest promise.**

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## 2. Intro Activity

### Supplies

- A Promise Kept and A Promise Broken signs (contact paper attached to coloured paper)
- Wall-safe tape
- Pom-poms

### Before the Activity:

- Hang the signs close together at the kids' eye level in an area with enough floor space for them to line up (see instructions for more details).
- Remove the contact paper liners to reveal the sticky surfaces on the signs.

### Instructions:

- Line up the kids about 1.5 metres (5') from the signs.
  - Give each person a pom-pom.
  - Briefly review some examples of keeping and breaking promises (e.g., getting a promised treat after helping a parent; not sharing a toy after promising to). Ensure that kids understand the concepts before continuing.
  - Guide everyone to take turns throwing their pom-poms at the signs. Depending on which sign the pom-pom sticks to, the thrower will share an example of a kept or a broken promise. It could be from their own life or a more general situation. Help the kids with ideas as needed.
  - Repeat the activity if time allows.
  - To wrap up, explain that there will be plenty of times in the kids' lives when promises will be kept and broken. Today, we're learning about a BIG promise that God kept—but it took a really long time!
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# God Story

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## 3. Weekly Video

### Supplies

- Video file

### Instructions:

- a. Play the video. It includes:
    - Host segment
    - God Story (Baby Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2:21-40)
    - Key Verse segment
    - Life Story (God promised to open doors for Natalie Burtch as she followed her heart to a career in stage management.)
  - b. Discuss:
    - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
    - What was the God Story about?
    - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**Jesus is God's greatest promise**) connect?
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# Our Story

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## 4. Small Group Activity

### Supplies

- Measuring tape
- People cut-outs

### Instructions:

- a. Gather your small group to sit together in a line facing you.
  - b. Ask: How many years did people wait for Jesus, our rescuer?
  - c. Use the measuring tape and people cut-outs to create a timeline showing how long people waited for Jesus:
    - Explain that 30 cm (1') equals about 1,000 years.
    - Place Adam and Eve at one end of the line of kids.
    - Mark out 60 cm (2') and add Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
    - Roll out another 60 cm (2') and add Jesus.
    - About 30 years after Jesus' birth, add the disciples. (This is a tiny fraction of measuring tape, which is a good way to emphasize how much happened in 1,000 years!)
    - Roll out 60 cm (2') and add the people that represent us today.
  - d. Discuss:
    - How do you think people felt waiting so long for Jesus?
    - How do you think people felt when they found out Jesus had come to earth? (Hint: How did Anna and Simeon react?)
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## 5. Wrap-Up Activity

### Supplies

- Bibles
- Verse cards

### Leader Tip:

- Consider leading the kids to come up with a cheer or a fun handclap to encourage each group after they find and read a verse.

### Instructions:

- a. Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
  - b. Quickly show everyone how to look up verses. Start by finding the page number for the book in the table of contents. Explain that the first number in a scripture reference is the chapter. Show the kids the big chapter number on the page. Then let them know that the smaller numbers are the verses.
  - c. Divide the kids into four groups.
  - d. Direct the group members to work together to find John 6:69, the Key Verse for this series.
  - e. Invite the first group to find the verse to read it aloud.
  - f. Give each group a verse card with a scripture reference on it.
  - g. Encourage the groups to look up their verses.
  - h. Invite each group to read aloud their verse.
  - i. Challenge everyone to race to find John 6:69 again.
  - j. Read it together as a group.
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# My Story

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## 6. Dismissal

### Supplies

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

### Leader Tip:

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

### Instructions:

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
  - b. Give everyone a weekly take-home card as well as the monthly Key Verse card and colouring page.
  - c. Remind the kids to take their crafts.
  - d. Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.
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