

LOVE

God Story:

Jesus' Birth | Luke 1:57-2:20

Big Idea:

When we listen to God, we discover his love for us.

Key Verse:

I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. | Psalm 85:8a (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Take time this week to listen to God and prepare well for this lesson. Pray for your group before the kids arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Kick off the lesson by talking with the kids about who loves them, who they love, and why we tell people we love them.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Lead into the God Story and get the kids moving as they perform fun angel, shepherd, Mary, and star actions.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 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.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review Jesus' birth by acting out the story with the kids playing some of the key characters.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**
Discuss this week's Big Idea, then create a Christmas tree ornament to take home as a reminder of God's love.

Os Our Story

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

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tips:

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the kids arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so you have enough time for it before the teaching video.
- Be prepared to share your own age-appropriate answers to the questions.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - Who was the last person to tell you that they love you?
 - Who was the last person you told that you love them?
 - Why do you think we tell people we love them?
 - How do you think God feels about you? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **When we listen to God, we discover his love for us.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- To simplify the elimination part of this activity for younger kids, modify it into a version of Simon Says (e.g., "Simon says be an angel"). The last person to do it is out of the game.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone in an open area.
- Demonstrate the following actions:
 - Angel: Slowly flap your arms
 - Shepherd: Pretend to carry a staff and hold your other hand at your brow as if you're looking at something
 - Mary: Pretend to rock a baby
 - Star: Stand with your legs apart, hold out your arms, and wiggle your fingers
- Practise doing each of the actions together.
- Once everyone knows them, mix up the order and lead the kids to do them faster.
- After a few rounds, begin playing an elimination-style game. Anyone who does an action incorrectly is out—but be sure to keep the tone fun.
- Play until there's only one person left. Celebrate the winner!
- Repeat if the kids are interested and time allows.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jesus' Birth | Luke 1:57-2:20)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Anna Lakatos discovers the love of God, the Father.)
- Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? (Psalm 85:8)
 - 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 (**When we listen to God, we discover his love for us**) connect?



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bible
- Character cards
- Blue fabric (Mary)
- Brown fabric (Joseph)
- Angel halos
- Toy sheep
- Baby doll
- Script

Leader Tips:

- If you have more kids in your group than character cards, double up some of them in the same role. If you have more cards than kids, take on the role(s) of whichever characters aren't chosen.
- If there's a strong reader in your group, invite them to narrate or co-narrate the story with you.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Let the kids know that they're going to act out part of today's God Story.
- Invite each of them to choose a card, which will assign them a character.
- Distribute the props.
- Take a moment to show everyone Luke 2:1-20 in your Bible. Tell the kids that the script comes from this passage.
- Read aloud from the script. Point to the kids as you say the names of their characters. Encourage them to act out what you're describing.
- When the story is finished, discuss:
 - What's your favourite part of this story?
 - How did the shepherds discover God's love?
 - How will you remember God's love this Christmas?
- Wrap up by praying for the kids in your group.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Christmas tree ornament kits

Leader Tip:

- If you run out of time, be sure to send the kits home with the kids.

Instructions:

- Ask if anyone remembers this week's Big Idea.
- Emphasize that **when we listen to God, we discover his love for us!**
- Encourage the kids to consider what God's love looks like.
- Explain that Jesus came to show us God's love. When Jesus was born, people really saw what God's love looked like!
- Give each person a craft kit.
- Help everyone follow the instructions that come with the kits.
- Encourage the kids to take home their crafts as a reminder of this week's Big Idea.

Os Our Story

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:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts..