

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 ***
Create a spinner game that the kids can play together.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**
Discuss ways the Holy Spirit communicates with people, then pray that your group would listen to God and discover his 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

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:

- Spinner activity pages
- Paper clips
- Jingle bell brads
- Markers
- Christmas stickers
- Bibles

Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Give each person an activity page, a paper clip, and a brad.
- Place the markers and stickers where everyone can reach them.
- Instruct the kids to fill in the blanks on their pages to create their games.
- Show them how to stick a brad through the dot in the centre of the page.
- Attach the paper clip to the brad to act as a spinner.
- Encourage everyone to decorate their games.
- When they're finished, guide the kids to pair up.
- Make sure each set of partners has a Bible.
- Direct them to take turns playing their games.
- Let the kids know that the first person to get 10 points wins.
- Ask everyone to keep track of their own points.
- If time allows, encourage the kids to play again with new partners.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Be prepared to share a brief, age-appropriate story of a time when you listened to God.

Instructions:

- Let the kids know that Jesus-followers have the Holy Spirit living in us. The Holy Spirit is creative in communicating with people!
- Discuss: Do you feel as if God has ever given you (or someone you know) a message? If so, how?
- Guide the kids with ideas (e.g., an inner nudge; listening prayers; through other people; Bible passages; a kind of whisper or an actual voice).
- Emphasize that we need to listen to what God wants to say to us!
- Pray that the kids would take the time to listen to God, so they can discover his love for them.

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.