



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
RUG

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give  
the world joy.

**SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS**  
LUKE 2:8-20

### MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news  
of great joy that will be  
for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

### KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Halo Launchers  
Gazing at the Stars  
The News

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

#### **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

"Best Friend"  
Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Memory Verse with Motions  
Start the Party!  
Find the Joy  
Joyful News  
Good News  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Memory Verse Card  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      **WORSHIP**      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

### BIBLE STORY

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**SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS**  
**LUKE 2:8-20**

### MEMORY VERSE

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**LUKE 2:10, ESV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

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Jesus gives me joy.

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Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

### WORSHIP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

**LEADER:** "Hi, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm SO excited to see you today! We are having SO much fun celebrating the good news about Jesus! So let's keep the party going because **Jesus gives me joy.**

"When I ask, '**Who gives you joy?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus gives me joy!** **Who gives you joy?**'"

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "**Jesus gives me joy.**"

**LEADER:** "Yes, **Jesus gives me joy.** Stand up and sing with me.

*Lead children in singing "Best Friend," this month's worship song.*

"In the Bible, we read that an angel said, 'I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,' (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) The good news was that Jesus was born!

"Let's learn our Memory Verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, and then you can do it with me!

*Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.*

"Great job, friends! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"



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HOME

10 MINUTES

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]. And I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible!

*Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.*

"Today's true story begins on a starry night in a field a long time ago. There were shepherds in the field taking care of sheep.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)*

"What sound does a sheep make? *(Pause.)* Yes, sheep say, 'Baa!'

"While the shepherds were taking care of their sheep, something amazing happened.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)*

"All of a sudden, an angel appeared in the sky! The shepherds were so surprised!

"Can you show me your surprised face?

*Make a surprised face.*

"Wow! You really look surprised!

"The angel spoke to the shepherds and said: 'I bring you good news that will give great joy to all people!' Good news? Great joy? All people? Wow! Let's celebrate! Do the sign for 'celebrate' with me.

*Do the ASL sign for "celebrate": hold hands in fists with index finger bent as a hook and twirl hands as if twirling cheerleading pom-poms.*

"Then the angel said: 'Jesus, God's Son, has been born! And Jesus has come to be EVERYONE'S friend forever!'

"Wow! That is good news! Because that means Jesus wants to be MY friend forever and YOUR friend forever! That IS good news worth celebrating!

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)*

"Then the whole sky filled with angels celebrating! They praised God and said: 'Glory to God in the highest!' *(Luke 2:14 ESV)*. Say that with me!"

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "'Glory to God in the highest!' 'Glory to God in the highest!'" *(Luke 2:14 ESV)*.

**LEADER:** "After the angels shared the good news, the shepherds had so much joy, they ran to see Jesus!"



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*(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)*

"Stand up and run in place like the shepherds.

*Run in place.*

"Run, run, run! Run, run, run! Run, run, run!

*Stop running.*

"Whew! You can sit back down now.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 05)*

"When the shepherds saw baby Jesus lying in the manger, the shepherds knew they needed to share the joy that Jesus gave them with EVERYONE because Jesus came to give everyone joy!

"Jesus gave the shepherds joy, and Jesus can give you joy, too, because Jesus came to give the whole world joy! THAT is the good news we are celebrating! Let's celebrate! Do the sign for 'celebrate' with me.

*Do the ASL sign for "celebrate": hold hands in fists with index finger bent as a hook and twirl hands as if twirling cheerleading pom-poms.*

"Yay! **Jesus gives me joy! Who gives you joy?"**

**CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus gives me joy!"**

**LEADER: "Who gives you joy?"**

**CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus gives me joy!"**

**LEADER: "Yay! Jesus gives me joy!" [Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

### **PRAYER**

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to give the world joy. Help us tell everyone the good news about Jesus, like the shepherds did, so they can have joy too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**[Transition]** "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Lead small group to the first activity.*



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible Story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible Story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

### WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

### 1. WORSHIP

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible

#### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files

#### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut apart.
- Place "Memory Verse Card" in Bible at Luke 2:10.
- Download the song and have it ready to use.

### 2. BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W1 01
- Story Image W1 02
- Story Image W1 03
- Story Image W1 04
- Story Image W1 05

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- *Option: Copy the Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.*

### SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

**WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY:** First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [bit.ly/FL\\_StartTheParty\\_July](https://bit.ly/FL_StartTheParty_July)