

# Large Group (Rug)

## Leader Guide

### Today's Suggested Schedule

#### 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 minutes)

#### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Hunt for the Gift
2. Mary and Joseph Travel
3. Where Do You Sleep?

### Large Group (20 minutes)

#### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

#### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship  
("Happy Birthday Jesus" and "It's a Holy Night")
- Bible Story
- Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. The Gift of Verse
2. What's Missing?
3. Manger Builders
4. Pass the Gift
5. Best Gift Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

#### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



#### Today's Bible Story

### Jesus is Born Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the best gift.

#### Key Question

### How do we know God loves us?

#### Bottom Line

### God gave us Jesus.

#### Memory Verse

### God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. John 3:16 GNT



#### Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

## Bible Study Prayer

### ① Worship

**LEADER:** "Hi, friends! I am SO happy to see you today! My name is *[your name]*, and I have a question for you.

"If you could give someone a really great gift, what would it be? *(Pause.)* Would you give someone a really fun toy car? Everybody, say: *(pretend to tap a car horn)* 'Beep-beep! *(pretend to turn a steering wheel)* Vroooooom!"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** *(pretend to tap a car horn)* "Beep-beep! *(pretend to turn a steering wheel)* Vroooooom!"

**LEADER:** "Or what about a puppy—woof, woof! Or a cat—meow! Can you bark or meow with me?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Woof-woof! Meow! Woof-woof! Meow!"

**LEADER:** "Those would be really great gifts, but I know someone who has already given you the best gift ever. *(Point up.)* God gave you Jesus. And we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas. So, let's stand up and celebrate Jesus!

→ **Lead children in singing "Happy Birthday Jesus."**

"Great singing, friends! Now let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. *(Open hands like a book.)* Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

→ **Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.**

"God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* loved the world so much *(cross arms over chest)* that he gave his only Son," *(rock arms like a baby)* John 3:16. *(Open hands like a book.)*

"Can you do that with me?"

→ **Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.**

"Great job, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

→ **Lead children in singing "It's a Holy Night."**

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (**spin around**) ... sit down (**sit down**) ... shake the wiggles out (**wiggle hands**) ... so we can hear (**cup hands behind ears**) what the story's all about!"

## ② Bible Story

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm **[your name]**, and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

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

"Today's true story from the Bible is found in the book of Luke, and it begins with Mary and Joseph.

**SLIDE → Story Image W2 01**

"Mary and Joseph loved God. They were part of God's people. One day, Mary and Joseph had to go to a town called Bethlehem, but they had to travel a LONG way to get there. And Mary was going to have a baby!

**SLIDE → Story Image W2 02**

"Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem. Or maybe Mary rode on an animal—like a donkey!

"Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. A manger is a box that animals eat out of. So, that means Mary and Joseph stayed in a place that might have had some animals.

**SLIDE → Story Image W2 03**

"Look at this picture. Do you see any animals?

→ **Point to the chicken in the Story Image.**

"I see a chicken. Can you cluck like a chicken?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Cluck, cluck, cluck. Cluck, cluck, cluck."

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

**LEADER:** "Do you see a donkey?"

→ **Point to the donkey in the Story Image.**

"There it is. Can you hee-haw like a donkey?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw."

**LEADER:** "I also see a sheep."

→ **Point to the sheep in the Story Image.**

"Can you baa like a sheep?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Baa. Baa. Baa."

**LEADER:** "Wow! You are so good at making animal sounds."

"Mary and Joseph didn't stay some place fancy, but that didn't matter. God gave us something very special there. A very special baby was born there, and that baby was God's Son, Jesus!"

"Jesus was born! Everyone, say "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

**LEADER:** "Let's pretend we're holding baby Jesus."

→ **Rock arms like you're holding a baby.**

"The Bible teaches us that:

"Mary took baby Jesus in her arms, wrapped Him in strips of cloth, and laid Him in a manger. (**Luke 2:7**)

"Wow! Jesus is the best gift ever because He shows us how much God loves us. God loves us SO much that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus. Tell me: How do we know God loves us?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** **[Bottom Line]** "God gave us Jesus!"

**LEADER:** "Yes, **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.

→ **Pick up and close Bible.**

**Transition** → "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

## ③ Prayer

**LEADER:** "Dear God, you gave us the best gift ever. You gave us Jesus! Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Your Son. We pray 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.

## PLANNING

# Getting Ready: Worship

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.

## What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

## Music and Sound Effects

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"
- ☐ "It's a Holy Night"

## Optional Videos

Available through

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://store.thinkorange.com)

- ☐ "Happy Birthday Jesus"  
Dance Moves Music Video
- ☐ "It's a Holy Night"  
Dance Moves Music Video

## What You Do:

1. Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
2. Visit [Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://Store.ThinkOrange.com) for Music Scope and Cycle purchases.  
→ [store.thinkorange.com/collections/music-first-look-scope-cycle-2025-2026](https://store.thinkorange.com/collections/music-first-look-scope-cycle-2025-2026)
3. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

## Suggestions

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

## APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** [JoinAPlay.com](https://JoinAPlay.com) is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

**APlay is free** with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

## PLANNING

# Getting Ready: Bible Story

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**What You Need**

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Option: Cardstock

**Large Group Visuals**

- ☐ Story Image W2 01
- ☐ Story Image W2 02
- ☐ Story Image W2 03

**What You Do:**

1. Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

**Suggestions**

1. 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." Advance preparation is necessary.

**Supplemental Resources****WONDER! LOOK AT GOD'S STORY**

First Look offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God's story. Available in your media files and APlay.

[Store.ThinkOrange.com](https://Store.ThinkOrange.com)

**First Look Pinterest Page**

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

[bit.ly/FL\\_ChristmasShapes](https://bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes)