

# 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. Love Here, There, Everywhere
2. Craft Stick Puzzles
3. You've Got Mail

### 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. Memory Verse with Motions
2. Ring the Bell
3. Color by Shape
4. God Gave Us Jesus
5. Angel 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](http://ParentCue.org)



### Today's Bible Story

## The Angel and Mary Luke 1:26-33,38

An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

### 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! My name is *[your name]*, and I am so happy to see you today.

"Did you know that God made every single person in this room? He did! And God loves you, and *[Basic Truth]* God loves me. God loves all of us! And God has given us so many good things ... like beautiful sunshine! Can you make a sun?

→ **Hold arms in a circle overhead.**

"Look at all those beautiful suns! Let's tell God thank you for the sun. Ready?

→ **Do the ASL sign for "Thank you": Move flat hand forward from chin.**

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Thank you, God!"

**LEADER:** "What else has God given us ... can you think of any food that God has given us? (*Listen.*) Like yummy blueberries or big red apples? Let's pretend to take a bite out of an apple.

→ **Pretend to take a bite out of an apple.**

"Mmmm, so yummy! Let's tell God thank you for the food He gives us. Ready?

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Thank you, God!"

**LEADER:** "God is SO good, He even gave us His Son Jesus! Let's tell God thank you for giving us Jesus. Ready?

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Thank you, God!"

**LEADER:** "Now let's stand up and celebrate our God and how He gave us 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!

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

→ **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 about the night Jesus was born.

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

"Thanks for celebrating God 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. It is in the book of Luke.

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

"The true story of Christmas begins with God's love for us.

**SLIDE → Story Image W1 01**

"Do you know that God loves you? He does! Give yourself a big hug!

→ **Hug yourself.**

"God loved you even before you were born! And because God loves you and God loves me SO much, God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever!

**SLIDE → Story Image W1 02**

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

"It all started a long time ago when God sent a special message to a young woman named Mary.

"Now, how do you think God sent this special message to Mary? Do you think God sent the special message with a letter in the mail?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No. Do you think God sent the special message with a video call?

→ **Shake your head 'no.'**

"No! God sent the message in an even more amazing way. God sent an angel!

**SLIDE → Story Image W1 03**

"Whoa! Look at Mary's face. How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel? Mary was afraid.

"Everyone, show me your afraid face.

→ **Make an afraid face.**

"Yes, Mary was afraid!

"But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary." (*Luke 1:30 NIV*)

"Can you say that with me?"

**CHILDREN and LEADER:** "Do not be afraid, Mary."

**LEADER:** "The angel had a very special message to tell Mary, and it was GREAT news!

**SLIDE → Story Image W1 04**

"The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. The angel said: "The baby will be God's Son, and you will call him Jesus."

"That was great news!

10 MINUTES

# Worship

10 MINUTES

# Bible Study Prayer

"God loves us so much He gave us His Son Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"

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

**LEADER:** "Yes, *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus, and that is what we celebrate at Christmas. *[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!"

## ③ Prayer

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank you for giving us Your Son, Jesus. Help us to celebrate Jesus every day. 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 W1 01
- ☐ Story Image W1 02
- ☐ Story Image W1 03
- ☐ Story Image W1 04

**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)