

CITY LG – December 9- 10, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Our King of Peace (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Today's Bottom Line: You can have peace because God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us.* Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

WORSHIP

Oh What a Glorious Night

Silent Night

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everyone! Can you believe we're one week closer to Christmas? (*Pause for response.*) This month in the CITY we're talking about the reason we celebrate Christmas.

SLIDE: Virtue

Christmas is all about **celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift!**

SLIDE: Theme

Christmas is a time for giving gifts to the people we love. And that's definitely what God did by sending Jesus to be our Savior!

And speaking of Christmas gifts, we are going to play a game called "Are you Ready To Open Christmas Presents?" Take a look at the screen and he will tell you how to play...

VIDEO: Are You Ready to Open Christmas Presents

Great job, everyone! I'm really getting excited for Christmas!

Well, today, we're continuing to look at everything that led up to the birth of Jesus . . . because of course, that's what Christmas is all about.

When we look back at God's Big Story, we see how God chose the family of Abraham—the Israelites—and promised to bless the whole world through them. But over and over again, God's people turned away from God and did things their own way.

The Israelites were attacked by other nations. But God still had a plan. God used prophets who shared God's words with the people. Through these prophets, God promised to send a Savior. That's what we looked at last week, with the promises about the Savior that we can find in the books of Isaiah and Micah.

For hundreds of years, there was no recorded word from God. But when the time was right, God's promise came true! That's where we'll pick up the story today. Let's take a look....

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme

When Mary first heard that she was going to be the mother of Jesus, how did she feel? (*Pause for response.*) Right. She was afraid! It seems like that would be a pretty natural way for her to react.

But remember, the angel told her, 'Do not be afraid.' (Luke 1:30, NIV) Sure enough, Mary was able to be at peace because she trusted God. She believed that God had a good plan.

You can trust God, too—no matter what might be happening in your life or in the world around you. Take a look...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

You can have peace because God has a plan.

Remember, God sent Jesus to be Immanuel, which means 'God with us.' That's why Jesus is the greatest gift ever! It's like our verse for this month says,

SLIDE: Memory Verse

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

It was all part of God's plan to send Jesus to rescue us. When we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have a relationship with Him that will last forever.

One of the best things about following God is having peace, deep inside, because we know that God is good. God ALWAYS has a plan, no matter what's happening. And we can trust God with everything. Even when things happen that we don't quite understand, we can still put our faith in God and believe that God does have a good plan. God WILL make everything right in the end.

Raise your hand if you're thankful for the peace God gives us. (*Raise your hand.*) Me, too! Let's pray and thank God for being so good to us."

SLIDE: Theme

God, we are so glad to know that we can trust You no matter what. Thank You for giving us Your peace, no matter what might be happening around us. Even when life seems scary or confusing, we can trust that You have a good plan. You are always there, just like You were there with Mary. Help us learn more about You and trust You even more. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING:

[We have one more week to donate our offering to families in Kenya. The food baskets you have provided so far have helped families in this rural area of Turkana.](#)

Turkana video #1

[Missions of Hope will get the food baskets to those who need them and your offering is such a blessing. If you have any offering you can bring it up now.](#)

SLIDE: Theme

SLIDE: WINTERPALOOZA

I also want to tell you about an awesome event we will have the first weekend we are back in the New Year, January 6th and 7th called Winterpalooza! At every service we will have games, crafts, prizes and TONS OF FUN celebrating Winter and the New Year! Bring some friends back with you that weekend. We have postcards to give you as you leave so you can show your parents- and make sure they bring you and your friends back! Until, then- see you next weekend!