

# CITY LG – December 7- 8, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Send Me an Angel (An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph) • *Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate because God is with you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** “[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

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

## WORSHIP

Oh What a Glorious Night

Silent Night

**SLIDE: Theme**

Hi, friends! It’s great to see you. My name is [your name] and I’m so excited that we’re all here to celebrate Christmas together.

Christmas is SUCH a fun time of year, and the reason for all of the joy and celebration is because Jesus was born to be our Savior. Jesus is God’s greatest gift to us. He’s the best gift we could ever receive!

Before we get into it, I’ve got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: **What is your favorite Christmas tradition?** Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

*Large group leader should walk around listening to groups as they answer this.  
Give them a couple of minutes.*

We can find today’s part of the Christmas story in a couple of different places: the book of Luke, and the book of Matthew. The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are known as the Gospels. All four of these books share stories from the life of Jesus and help us see what Jesus did and said.

As we talked about last week, God’s plan to send Jesus started way before Jesus was born! The whole world was created through Jesus. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. God chose one man, Abraham, and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Let’s check out what happened next.

**VIDEO: Bible Story** (11:40)

Let’s look at our memory verse for this month again, Matthew 1:21. Let’s go ahead and say it together.

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

*Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21, NIRV)*

Mary’s and Joseph’s lives were about to change in a way they could never have imagined. But they both had peace because they knew that God was with them. God had chosen them to take care of the Savior, Jesus. And Mary and Joseph went on to welcome baby Jesus into the world.

Here’s what we need to remember today. Let’s all stand up...

**VIDEO: Bottom Line**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**Celebrate because God is with you.**

### **SLIDE: Theme**

This really IS something to celebrate! Even when things happen that we don't expect, we can have peace on the inside because we know that God is with us.

It's pretty cool to think that Mary and Joseph were the very first ones to get to celebrate Jesus. Because of the incredible news they'd heard from the angel, they knew that within just a few months, they would literally be holding God's own Son in their arms!

One of the names for Jesus is '*Immanuel*,' which means 'God with us.' Remember, that was the name the prophet Isaiah used for the Savior—'Immanuel.' God sent Jesus FOR us . . . and God is always WITH us.

When we choose to follow Jesus and discover more about Him, we can be friends with God. We can know that God is always with us . . . and that can give us true peace, no matter what's going on. When you know Jesus, you can always have peace.

That's a big reason to celebrate! Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus for us.

God, thank You for the way You showed Mary and Joseph that You were with them. Thank You for the way You chose them to welcome Jesus, our Savior, to the world. And God, thank You for reminding us today that You're always with US too. When we face things that we don't expect, or that seem confusing, help us to trust You and remember that You are always there. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.**

### **OFFERING:**

We are collecting money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It provides wheelchairs to people with physical challenges in Africa. But they provide a lot more than just wheelchairs. Check out this video.

### **VIDEO: Michael's Story 2**

Let's see how many wheelchairs we can buy!

### **SLIDE: Theme**