

# CITY SG – November 30 - December 1, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** The Word (In the Beginning Was the Word) • *John 1:1-5, 14*

**Today's Bottom Line:** God always had a plan to send Jesus.

**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

## PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** blank sheets of paper (one per kid) and markers

**What You Do:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Welcome kids with a high five!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to draw a picture of one of their favorite Christmas traditions.
- Ask the following questions to spark conversation as kids decide what they want to draw.
  - How do you celebrate Christmas with your family?
  - Will you travel over the holiday break? If so, who do you visit and where do you go?
  - What kinds of foods do you eat when you celebrate Christmas?
  - When the kids are finished drawing, invite them to share their drawings with the rest of the group.
- Before you start large group, say **"Today we're going to discover when the best gift we could ever receive really began!"**

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### **1. The Best Plan Ever**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** "Timeline Cards" Activity Page (one set per group), butcher paper, markers, and pens

**What You Do:**

- Explain that kids will work together in groups to create pictures and descriptions to review different parts of today's Bible Story.
- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Give each group a large piece of butcher paper, markers, and a card from the "Timeline Cards" Activity Page.
- Encourage each group to use the supplies to draw pictures and write descriptions for their timeline card.
  - Kids can copy the titles and descriptions from their "Timeline Cards" Activity Page card, or put them in their own words.
- Once groups are finished, bring everyone together.
- Inform the groups that they will be creating a timeline to understand the story of Jesus as told by John.
- In order, give each group a chance to explain the illustrations and descriptions.
- Ask, "When did the plan for Christmas really begin?" (*Invite responses.*) That's right! The plan for Christmas began in the very beginning, before the world was created. It's easy to think Christmas began when Jesus was born as a baby, right? But Jesus has always been there! He was with God when God made the world since He IS God. God made everything through Jesus! Without Jesus, we wouldn't exist because all life comes through Him.

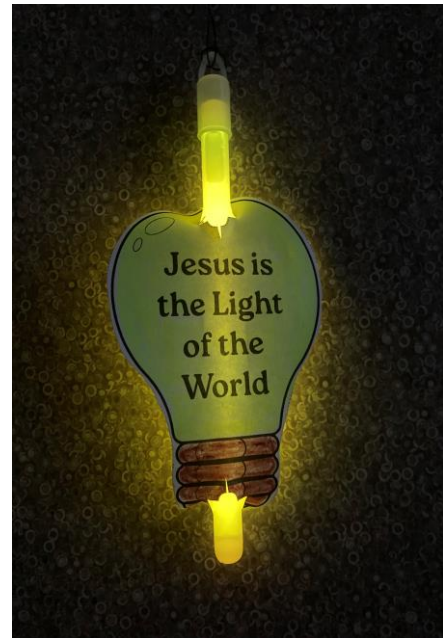
## 2. Light of the World

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** “Lightbulb” Cut Out (one per kid), glow sticks (one per kid), markers, yellow highlighters, tape

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a lightbulb cut out and put out the yellow highlighters and markers.
- Instruct the kids to use the yellow highlighter to color the filament inside the lightbulb.
- Invite the kids to decorate/color the rest of their lightbulbs.
- When the kids are done coloring, give each kid a glow stick.
- Ask the kids to activate their glow stick by bending and shaking it until it glows.
- Demonstrate how to weave the glow stick through the front of the bottom hole and then through the back of the top hole. They may use a cap and string on the top to hang it in their room at home.
- Give each kid a piece of tape to secure the glow stick on the back of the lightbulb.
- Instruct each kid to write their name on the back of the lightbulb with a pen.
- Set the lightbulbs aside to take home.
- Say, “God’s greatest gift came as the Light of the World to rescue us—to make a way for us to be friends with God again.”



### 3. Verse in Motion

#### Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Bibles, and “Verse Cards” (2 sets per group)

**What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
  - *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*
- Read the verse together aloud several times.
- Place the cards from the “Verse Cards” in the center of your group in the correct order.
- Explain to the kids that they will be replacing each part of the verse with a motion.
- Begin by reading the words on the first card, and asking the kids to come up with motions they think best represents those words.
- Flip the first card over (so it's face down) and invite the group to do the motions to that card and recite those missing words from memory.
- Then, instruct the kids to come up with motions for the next card.
- Flip that card over (so it's face down) and direct the group to do the motions to the first and second card while reciting those words from memory.
- Continue this for each of the cards until all the words have been replaced with motions.
- Repeat the Memory Verse motions together a few times while reciting the Memory Verse.

### AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

#### PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, we are so thankful that You always had a plan to send Jesus to rescue us so that we could have a relationship with You. We know You love us so much because You gave us the best gift ever! Help us to remember that You are always with us no matter what we're going through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their lightbulbs from the Light of the World Activity.