



Leader Guide

A God with Us Story

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Big Idea:

The Christmas story is a story of God coming to earth to live with his people and save his people.

Scripture:

Luke 1-2

Memory Verse:

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’”
Matthew 1:23

It’s becoming Christmas time! Here at Kids’ City we are learning the next few weeks that the Christmas story isn’t just one story, but a number of stories within a story! The kids are going to experience four often untold stories and the meaning and impact they had on the birth of Jesus.

Leader Info: Story-Formed People

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.” *Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)*

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Goals of Telling the Story

-To understand, experience, and intersect with God’s story.

-To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God’s “Redemptive Arc” throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours’ and the kids’ stories with God’s Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God’s story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To “live in the gospel”, seeing the world differently, seeking to further God’s Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God’s story.

Introduction in Small Groups

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. What is your favorite thing to do in the snow?
4. What is the best present you have ever gotten?
5. What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? *Jesus being born, God dwelling with us, angels, Mary, etc.*

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

Song

Have the children practice the song *Go Tell it on the Mountain* with the CD that they will sing next week. Make sure that they each receive a CD and the lyrics to the song before they leave today.

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Story Time (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

Read from the Jesus Storybook Bible the story, He's Here! on pages 176-183.

Dialogue about the Story

How did God come in the story?

He could have made the mountains bow to him and the seas roar. But he came when no one was looking in the darkness.

Who was engaged to Joseph and who was Joseph's great, great, great, great, great grandpa?
Mary, and King David

Who appeared to Mary?

Gabriel, he was an very bright angel- which is a messenger from heaven

Was Mary frightened when she saw him?

Yes, he was very tall and bright

What did Gabriel say to Mary?

Don't be afraid, God is very happy with you!

He said, Mary- you are going to have a baby. A little baby boy! He is God's own Son.

He's the One! He's the Rescuer!

God is coming as a baby!

What did Mary say to Gabriel?

That is too wonderful! I'm God's servant. Whatever he says, I will do.

Where did Mary and Joseph head whenever Mary was about to have the baby?

To Bethlehem, the town King David was from.

Where did they stay?

Every room was full and every bed was taken. All of the innkeepers told them to go away! They had to stay where the cows and donkeys and horses stayed.

What happened in the middle of the night?

God's Son was born! The baby that would change the world.

What did Mary and Joseph name him?

Jesus, also Emmanuel which means, "God has come to live with us."

Jesus created everything in the universe! He wrote everything about life. Because of Adam and Eve, the world was no longer perfect like it was meant to be. Jesus had to come back to save his children and people though. He came back as a little baby with all of the cow poo and stinky animals even though he is the greatest King ever and the most powerful Warrior ever. He loves us so much that he wanted to save us and bring us back to him. If we follow Jesus and love him with everything we have everything is made right and the way it should be because he came to earth! God has come to live with us through Jesus and he made a way for us live with him forever! Jesus is the best present we could possibly imagine!

Activity

Show the video that has kids acting out the Christmas story. Now choose characters for the kids and have them act out the God with Us Story!! Have them act it out similarly to the kids in the video, but just let them have fun with it. Have them act it out as many times as they want to!

Extra Time Activity

Have the kids color the Merry Christmas sign if there is extra time after they act out the Christmas story.