



CHRISTMAS | WEEK 2 | DECEMBER 8, 2024

# Elementary Lesson Send Me an Angel

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

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

**Key Question:** What helps you remember that God is with you?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**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 (NIV)*

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Have you ever stopped to listen to a group of carolers and then joined them to go spread some more Christmas cheer with others? Music is such a big part of Christmas, but it’s not the main reason we celebrate. It’s easy to get distracted with all the lights, presents, and traditions that sometimes we forget it’s not about the things we do, but Who we do it for and why we do it. That’s why this December, we’re singing loudly as we jam out to our Christmas Playlist to celebrate Jesus, God’s greatest gift! The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it’s possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we get in the mix this Christmas season, let’s take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.*

**Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

**Morning Flow**

Doors Open 9:15/11:00	Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20	Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50
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**Key Question:** What helps you remember that God is with you? We start with this question to help preteens start thinking about all the times that God has been there for them in the past. When they focus on the things God has already done instead of their current circumstances, it makes it a little easier to face new troubles that may come up and helps them to remember that they are not alone!

In week two, we turn to *Luke 1:26-38* and *Matthew 1:18-25*. On both occasions, an angel visited Mary and Joseph to inform them that they would be the parents of the coming Savior of the world. They would call Him Immanuel, which means “God with us”. They could have said no and refused, but even though they were afraid, they trusted that God was with them through it all.



## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### Candy Cane Noser

(Candy Canes - 8)

It’s finally here...December! All this month we will be learning about the reason for the season - Jesus. This month is all about CHRISTMAS!

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** “Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

God promised that a Savior - called the Messiah - was coming, and He let His people know what to look for through different prophecies - which we are going to talk about today. But our memory verse for the month describes who Jesus was to be...

**(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)*

That’s good news and a reason to celebrate! Before we talk about that, let’s play a game.

**(SLIDE: CANDY CANE NOSER)**

#### HOW TO PLAY:

- CHOOSE CONTESTANTS. Choose 3-8 people to play at a time. Pass out a candy cane to each player.
- YELL “GO!” They will start with their candy canes in their mouth, and race to see



who can get it to hang from their nose first, by only using the muscles in their face. No hands!!

That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and we will sing some Christmas worship songs!

## **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: JOY TO THE WORLD, GLORY TO THE KING, SILENT NIGHT)**

## **BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**

**(No Supplies)**

The season of Christmas can be full of the unexpected. Like. . . surprise visits from family. Homemade gifts from loved ones that mean so much. Or even some not-so-great unexpected events like a meal burning in the oven or the Christmas tree falling over in the middle of the night. Unexpected things will happen, and how we handle them can make all the difference. Take this for example.

*LGL shares a personal story of a time they received unexpected news that made a big difference or potentially even changed the course of their life. Use the following story as an example or use as a hypothetical situation.*

“When I was about your age, my life revolved around music. I loved playing piano and singing in the school chorus, and I dreamed that one day I’d maybe even play music professionally. I had the best teachers around, and I was excited for the future. Then one afternoon, my parents called me into the living room. They seemed super serious. They cut right to the chase. We were moving to another state because my dad got this amazing job opportunity. I was gutted. I’d have to leave my chorus friends and my piano teacher. I had a ton of questions about how this would all work out. How would I find another great piano teacher? Would I make the school chorus? Would my school even have a chorus I could join? Everything felt up in the air.

“Thankfully, everything worked out. It wasn’t easy to move to a whole new part of the country. But I did end up finding another piano teacher, joined the chorus, and had a TON of great opportunities to play music. I ended up meeting lots of new friends, some of whom I’m still friends with. I also met some amazing teachers who saw other skills and talents in me. And who I am today might be different than what I thought it would be, but it’s way better than I could have ever imagined. Looking back, I had nothing to fear; God was with me and was working in my life the whole entire time

The truth is . . . when we get difficult news or experience something unexpected, it might not feel like God is with us. It might feel like God has forgotten us or is too busy worried about someone else to care about what we’re going through.

“When we feel like that, how can we remember that no matter how we feel about God, we can KNOW that God is ALWAYS with us? How can we trust God no matter what, even when the ‘no matter what’ feels pretty significant?



“Wow, those are some big questions, aren’t they? Thankfully, we have a great place to discover some answers. In the Bible we can find all sorts of people who experienced moments just like that. Okay, maybe they didn’t have to find a new piano teacher or basketball coach, but many of them did have to move, start new jobs, and even receive some unexpected news that completely changed the course of their lives. We have them written down for us because God inspired people to capture their stories so others could learn how they can trust God with their situations. Let’s head there now.

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 6 MIN)**

For both Mary and Joseph, it certainly must have been hard for them to believe that God was with them when their world seemed like it was turning upside down. Surely this was not what either of them had planned! There were certainly moments of fear and uncertainty. But think about what came from this moment...

“This moment did not end in fear or anxiety. This very moment was the beginning of God sending JOY to the world. Hope to the world. Peace to the world!

“What at first looked like God’s absence was actually the greatest sign of God’s presence we have ever seen...God with us!

“What God was doing through Mary and Joseph would meet the needs of the world—the need for a Rescuer. The need for a Savior. But meeting this need would cost Mary and Joseph. It would cost them their plans. They would both go through hard things as Jesus’ parents. And yet, God would use them both in a powerful way to meet the needs of the whole world.

“Sometimes what God wants to do in us and through us can be uncomfortable. Sometimes it can be inconvenient. But if God is in it, we can trust that God is good, and God will be with us through it all.

Our Basic Truth says it this way...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Ok, let’s turn to the person next to us and answer our Key Question for today.

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘What helps you remember that God is with you?’

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...”

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.



Dear God, thank you for sending us your son, Jesus. He really is the best gift. Thank you for giving us good gifts. I pray that we worship you with our lives and come to know you better. Amen.

## DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



### SMALL GROUP

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

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

Key Question: What helps you remember that God is with you?

*(Answers will vary: seeing good things in my life, having rhythms of remembering – like praying before bed and reading my Bible, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

Look Up: **Isaiah 9:6**

Say: “The book of Isaiah is in the Old Testament. It written by a prophet before Jesus was born.”

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(Sheet Protector – 1 per kid [can be cut in half], Dry Erase Markers, Bibles)*

What You Do:

- Read Isaiah 9:6 again.
- Inform kids that Isaiah 9:6 was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.
- Repeat the verse as a group.
- Ask:
  - After hearing this verse, what do you think the people in the Old Testament expected Jesus to be like?
  - How does Jesus show us that He is with us as a:
    - *Wonderful Adviser (or Counselor) (He gives us wise advice. He’s like*





a teacher or a coach.)

- *Mighty God*
  - *Father Who Lives Forever (or Everlasting Father)*
  - *Prince Who Brings Peace (or Prince of Peace) (Even when the world is full of chaos, Jesus helps end arguments and bring peace between ourselves and between us and God.)*
- How does believing that Jesus is all these things give us peace when we're worried?
- Give each kid a dry-erase marker and a sheet protector.
  - Assign each kid one of the names that describe Jesus in the last half of the verse.
    - It's okay to assign some kids the same name.
  - Challenge each kid to illustrate their part of the verse with a picture, words, or a design that reminds them of that name.
  - When everyone is finished, give kids the opportunity to display their drawings and share why they chose to draw what they did.
  - Collect all the drawings and stack them on top of each other.
  - Hold up the stack so everyone can see the drawings layered together.
  - Point out that when we trust that God is with us, we can see all the different ways God shows up for us.
  - At the end, the sheets can be wiped clean and used for the next service (or returned to small group bins).
  - *K/1 Adaption: Give some more context on what each of the names mean and suggestions on how each name could be illustrated. If needed, you can sketch out a couple of ideas and have kids copy onto their sheets.*

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Bibles, "Names of God" Activity Page - 4 per group, Supplies from Previous Activity)

What You Do:

- Pass out the activity pages so everyone can see them. Talk about how the Bible gives many different names to Jesus to describe his relationship to us and to God.
- Pass out Bibles and look up the different verses.
- Use the names that are found to redo the above activity.

## PRAYER

"God, please help us to be generous with what we DO have because we know that every good and perfect gift comes from you. Amen.

