

THE GREATEST

LUKE 2:21-40

God Story:

Baby Jesus at the temple | Luke 2:21-40

Big Idea:

Jesus is God's greatest promise.

Key Verse:

"We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:69

Leader Tip:

Pray for the kids in your group before they arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Use the discussion questions about waiting to set the tone for your group's time together and lead into today's lesson.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
In this pom-pom throwing game, kids share their real-life examples of promises that were kept or broken.

Gs God Story **Ls Life Story**

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes God Story, Life Story, and host segments along with a key verse game.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review the video teaching and then create a fun timeline to help the kids picture how long it took God to fulfil his greatest promise to us—Jesus!
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Show the kids how to look up passages in the Bible and then challenge them to find this month's new key verse and other verses related to today's lesson.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tips:

- Use the Conversation Starter to set the tone for your group's time together.
- Be prepared to share your own age-appropriate answers to the questions.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, gather them together in a group.
- DISCUSS:
 - What's the longest you've ever had to wait for dinner? A doctor's appointment? To go on vacation?
 - Was the time you spent waiting really that long or did it just *feel* that way?
 - What made it seem like such a long wait? [e.g., I was hungry; I was excited; I was nervous]
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- To wrap up, SAY: Sometimes we have to wait a while for a promise to be fulfilled. God had a plan when he promised a rescuer but that plan would take hundreds and hundreds of years. Today's Big Idea is that **Jesus is God's greatest promise!**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- A Promise Kept and A Promise Broken signs (contact paper stapled to coloured paper)
- Wall-safe tape
- Pom-poms

Before the Activity:

- Hang the signs close together at the kids' eye level in an area with enough floor space for them to line up (see instructions for details).
- Remove the contact paper covers to reveal the sticky surfaces on the signs.

Instructions:

- Line up the kids about 1.5 metres from the signs.
- Direct everyone except the person at the front of the line to sit down on the floor.
- Give each person a pom-pom.
- Have the kids take turns throwing their pom-poms at the signs. Depending on which sign the pom-pom sticks onto, the thrower will share "a promise kept" or "a promise broken" example from their own life.
- Continue until everyone has a turn and then repeat the activity if time allows.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Baby Jesus at the temple | Luke 2:21-40)
 - Life Story (God promised Natalie Burtch that he would open doors for her as she followed her heart to a career in stage management)



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Allergy alert sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Fruit by the Foot
- Sour Patch Kids

Before the Activity:

- Hang the allergy alert sign where the parents and kids will see it as they arrive.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- DISCUSS:
 - What was today's God Story about?
 - What was the Life Story about?
 - Can anyone remember the key verse? [John 6:69]
 - Do you know how many years people waited for Jesus, our rescuer?
- Place several paper towels on the floor so that the Fruit by the Foot and Sour Patch Kids do not touch the floor.
- Using the Fruit by the Foot and the Sour Patch Kids, create a timeline to show how long people waited for Jesus in comparison to the average length of our lives:
 - Explain that each foot of Fruit by the Foot equals about 1,000 years.
 - Add 2 Sour Patch Kids for Adam and Eve at the start.
 - Roll out 2 feet of Fruit by the Foot and add 3 Sour Patch Kids for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - Roll out 2 feet of Fruit by the Foot and add 1 Sour Patch Kid for Jesus' birth.
 - About 30 years after Jesus' birth, add 12 Sour Patch Kids for the disciples. This is a tiny fraction of a foot, which is a good way to emphasize how much happened in 1,000 years.
 - Roll out 2 feet of Fruit by the Foot and add the rest of the Sour Patch Kids to represent us today.
- ASK: How do you think people felt waiting so long for Jesus? How do you think people felt when they found out Jesus had come to earth? [Hint: How did Anna and Simeon react?]

- f. Divide up the treats and before you snack, thank God for his greatest promise being Jesus, and that He always keeps his promises.

5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- (Optional) Allergy alert sign
- (Optional) Wall-safe tape
- Bibles
- Prizes

Before the Activity:

- If your prizes are candies, hang the allergy alert sign where parents and kids will see it as they arrive.

Leader Tip:

- You could also reward anyone who helps others look up verses during this activity.

Instructions:

- Give each person a Bible.
- Quickly show everyone how to look up verses. Start by finding the page number for the book in the table of contents. Explain that the 1st number in a scripture reference is the chapter. Show the kids the big chapter number on the page. Then let them know that the smaller numbers are the verses.
- Tell the kids that you are going to play a game in which they will look up verses in their Bibles. The 1st person to find the verse wins 2 prizes—but anyone who looks it up wins a prize.
- Start and end with John 6:69, this month's key verse. Have someone read it after everyone finds it.
- As time allows, also look up Luke 2:38, 1 John 4:15-16, John 3:16, and 2 Corinthians 1:20.



6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Take home cards
- Key verse cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place all take home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Briefly tell parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- Give take home and key verse cards to parents.
- Remind kids to take any crafts with them.
- Make sure the kids' security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave.