

FOREVER

God Story:

Jesus' Birth | Matthew 1:18-25

Big Idea:

Jesus is the king who rules forever.

Key Verse:

And he was given authority, glory and a kingdom. People of all nations, no matter what language they spoke, worshiped him. His authority will last forever. | Daniel 7:14a (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

Preparing in advance will help you lead well during this season. Expect higher attendance than usual, and welcome any kids joining your group for the first time. Remind everyone about the expectations set at the beginning of the year.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Lead into today's lesson by talking about who the kids would make the ruler of their country and why. Then introduce this week's Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Describe Jesus as the greatest gift ever—and then have fun wrapping up a leader as a Christmas gift!

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes***
Review the video teaching and create a craft that shows baby Jesus in a manger.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Race in teams to put together the mixed up words of Daniel 7:14.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone in a group.
- Ask: If you could make anyone (other than yourself!) the ruler of your country, who would it be? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **Jesus is the king who rules forever.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- (Optional) Media player
- (Optional) Carols (e.g., "Joy to the World")
- Wrapping paper
- Bows
- Masking tape
- Big Idea sign

Before the Activity:

- (Optional) Cue up a Christmas carol to play during the activity.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone together in an open space.
- Explain that when we give gifts, it's a reminder of God's amazing gift to us: Jesus! He is the king who rules forever. Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever received.
- Let the kids know that they're a gift to you, too!
- Set out the wrapping supplies.
- Direct the kids to wrap up a leader like a present.

- Encourage everyone to participate.
- To finish, have the kids tape the Big Idea sign onto the leader and then read it aloud together.



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 (Jesus' Birth | Matthew 1:18-25)
 - Life Story (Kids and youth share what the Big Idea that **Jesus is the king who rules forever** means to them.)

Ms My Story

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Sample photo
- Envelopes
- Star stickers (small and medium sizes)
- Black markers
- Glue sticks
- Craft sticks cut in half
- Felt
- Googly eyes
- Cotton balls
- Raffia
- Big Idea labels

Leader Tip:

- Make sure everyone's names are on their crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Demonstrate how to look up Luke 1:32-33.
- Read the passage aloud.
- Ask:
 - Who's the "he" in these verses? (Jesus)
 - Who's going to make Jesus a king? (God)
 - How long will Jesus' kingdom last? (Forever—it will never end!)
 - Why is this a really good thing?
 - What does it look like or mean for Jesus to be our king? How do we live differently?
- Show everyone the photo of the sample craft.
- Give each person an envelope, four small star stickers, and one medium star sticker. Place the black markers and glue sticks where everyone can reach them easily.
- Direct the kids to colour in the inside triangular part of the envelope's flap so it looks like the night sky. Have them stick the stars on top of the black ink.
- Give each person half a craft stick, a piece of felt, and two googly eyes.
- Guide everyone to glue the googly eyes onto the

round end of the craft stick.

- Have the kids wrap their felt around their craft stick and glue it into place.
- Give each person about four cotton balls and a few strands of raffia. Ask the kids to stuff their cotton balls into their envelope to create a base.
- Direct them to place the raffia strands on top of the cotton balls.
- Place the craft-stick Jesus into the manger. If needed, glue it on to keep it in place.
- Give each person a label to stick on their craft. Note that baby Jesus was already our king!
- When everyone is finished, lead the kids in prayer.

Pray that as they celebrate Christmas they would remember **Jesus is the king who rules forever.**



5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse segments in envelopes
- Wall-safe tape

Instructions:

- Divide your small group into two teams.
- Give each team an envelope containing the Key Verse segments and some wall-safe tape.
- Assign a space on a wall to each team.
- Explain that they will race to put the Key Verse in the correct order on the wall.
- Encourage each team as they work together.
- Celebrate the fastest team!
- Read the completed verse as a group.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse colouring pages
- Key Verse cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place any crafts and take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with 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 everyone take-home cards.
- Offer Key Verse cards and colouring pages to anyone who has not gotten one yet this month.
- Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.