

Prepare

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Written in the bible is a rich History of ordinary men and women whom God used in extra-ordinary ways. This program explores some of those people of faith and the lessons we can learn from them. We are believing your pre-schoolers will learn that God can use them in extraordinary ways as they keep loving and believing in Him.

Our repeated phrase is: "As we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary!"

Memory Verse: "For I can do everything through [Jesus] Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

RESOURCES

- Game: Pin the nose on Rudolph template, a blindfold, blutac /tape, a marker and a prize.
- Illustration: A present or gift box.
- Connect Groups: Simple biscuits, water and 'The Beginners Bible - Timeless Children Classics' by Zonderkidz.
- Craft: The Week 8 craft template (printed on cardstock), star stickers, colouring pens and pencils, paddlepop sticks, shredded paper and glue.

THIS WEEKS KEY POINT: JESUS IS HERE!

Mat Time

1. WELCOME & GAME: PIN THE NOSE ON RUDOLPH!

You'll need the Rudolph poster and cut-out noses. Write the name of each child on a nose. The aim of the game is to pin the nose on Rudolph! Blindfold each child and spin them around three times, before they must pin it their nose as closely as they can on Rudolph's nose. The child who gets the closest wins a prize! Print a few Rudolph posters and noses so kids aren't waiting too long to have a go!

2. WORSHIP AND OUR BIG THREE RULES

- **Have praise and worship time with the kids**, if they haven't already with the adults at the start of church.
- **Go through our three big rules:** We are kind, we listen, we obey. Give examples & explain any reward system.

3. THIS WEEKS TOPIC & MEMORY VERSE

- **Share today's topic:** We are learning all about how we can as we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary! **Today we're learning about Mary and Jesus and that Jesus is here!**
- **Go through the memory verse with the kids:** Have the kids repeat it loudly, quietly, with fun actions - be creative!

4. VIDEO AND VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

From the beginning of the bible, God promised us a Saviour! And everybody waited and waited, when would He finally come? God chose to send His son Jesus to be born as a baby, He put Jesus inside Mary's belly so she could give birth to Him and be His mum while he grew up. On a very special day, Mary finally gave birth to Jesus – our King and the Saviour of the world!

- Who did God send to the world to be our Saviour and King?
- Why is Jesus so special to us?
- On what day do we celebrate Jesus being born?

5. ILLUSTRATION IDEA

You'll need a present or gift box. Come on stage with your big gift. Pretend that it is really, really heavy. Ask them what the best gift that they have ever received is? How did it make them feel when they received it? Do you want to know what the best gift in the whole wide world is? (Children respond). Well the best gift in the whole wide world is – Jesus! Jesus is God's Great Gift to us. Why? He loves us! God sent Jesus to save us. He came all the way down from heaven and died on a cross so that we can be close to God! What are some things that make God and Jesus special?

Small Groups

6. CONNECT GROUP STORY TIME

Give the kids a simple biscuit as you read 'The Christmas Story' from the Beginners Bible 266-281. Then ask:

1. What was the name of the angel who came to visit Mary?
2. Why did Mary feel scared? What did the angel say to help her feel better?
3. Where was the little town that Mary and Joseph went to?
4. What did the innkeeper say to them? Where did baby Jesus end up sleeping?
5. Who is God's Great Gift to us?

Pray together and thank God for sending His son Jesus - the best gift we could ever receive!

7. CRAFT

Today we will be making the nativity scene because Christmas is a great time to remember that Jesus is here!

- Give each child the Week 8 template, colouring pens, 6 paddle pop sticks, some shredded paper, and a star sticker.
- Ask the kids to colour in baby Jesus & inside the lines of the stable, then help the kids stick their paddle pop sticks along the lines as a guide to create the stable and manger. Help them to glue down some shredded paper that will be placed under baby Jesus, to finish the manger. Lastly, stick the star on top of the stable!