

## 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: Spoons, a few buckets/bowls and cotton wool balls.
- Illustration: An envelope and a JESUS IS HERE! card.
- Connect Groups: Simple biscuits, water and 'The Jesus Storybook Bible' by Sally Lloyd Jones.
- Craft: A wreath template (use the Week 9 template or [purchase here](#)), pom poms, sequins, glue, hole puncher, string/twine and colouring in pencils.

### THIS WEEKS KEY POINT: JESUS IS HERE!

## Mat Time

### 1. WELCOME & GAME: IT'S COLD IN HERE!

Divide the kids into two teams. The first player needs to use a plastic spoon to transfer cotton balls or 'snowballs' from the full bucket on one side of the room to the other side of the room. Each player takes a turn doing this. If their snowball falls on the floor they have to leave it there. The aim of the game is to be the team with the most snowballs in their bucket at the end! If your kids find this easy make it harder by making them hop, walk with one hand on their head etc.

### 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

Come on stage and explain to the children why you are so out of breath. Explain how you have just come from the post office. "Does everyone know what post is? Does anyone know what a letter is? Well I have a letter in this envelope and I'm so, so excited about it! You just know it is going to be good news! News you have been waiting for – for so long! Explain how that is what it was like for the people of God waiting for Jesus to be born. They had waited thousands of years for their Saviour to be born and he was now here! Just like your letter, the angels were the letters that God sent to the people in the story. Open up your envelope and read what it says – 'Jesus is here!' Explain to the children why this is good news.

## 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 a hanging wreath, because Christmas is a great time to remember that Jesus is here!

- Give each child a wreath, some pom poms, and sequins. Pre-cut your string and have glue/ scissors ready to use.
- Ask the kids to decorate their wreaths by colouring it in.
- Use the pom poms provided to decorate your wreath. You'll need to glue these onto the wreath.
- Tie string at the top of the wreath, so that you can tie it on your Christmas tree or around your home.