

brite*

Volunteers

DECEMBER

This month's
BIBLICAL Theme

Jesus is our Savior

The theological truth that the God of the universe made Himself small is one of the most baffling and beautiful truths in all the world. The God who made everything willing humbled Himself and took on human flesh and entered the world He made.

This is baffling because it is so beneath His rightful place as Creator and Maker of all things. It's beautiful because we are moved that God would love us those who were His enemies. He would love us so much that He would send His one and only Son into the world not to condemn the world but that through Him the world might be saved. He lived and died for His enemies not just to make them friends but to make them sons and daughters. What love.

This is what makes Christmas special. The God of all, humbling Himself to show us the greatest love of all. Jesus is our Savior.

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH WE WILL BE LEARNING...

WEEK
1

The Genealogy of Jesus

(Matthew 1:1-17)

Brite Idea: Jesus brings hope.

WEEK
2

Joseph and the Angel

(Matthew 1:18-25)

Brite Idea: Jesus brings salvation.

WEEK
3

Jesus is Born

(Luke 2:1-7)

Brite Idea: Jesus brings love.

WEEK
4

Shepherds Share the Good News

(Luke 2:8-20)

Brite Idea: Jesus brings joy.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.*

(LUKE 2:11)





Sharing the Gospel

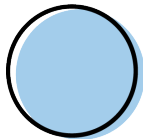
TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the good news. God wants everyone to know this good news and not miss out on this invitation! Here's the Gospel in five main words: God, Us, Jesus, Trust, Share.

LET'S DRAW IT!

Use this simple illustration as you explain the Gospel and teach kids to draw it too!

GOD



God is a loving God who is all-powerful and holy. He knows and sees everything, and rules over everything. God created all people in His image, and we are valuable to Him. (*Psalms 103:19, Genesis 1:27*)

US



But we have sinned, and our sin separates us from God. What is sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. The penalty for sin is death and separation from God forever. (*Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23*)

JESUS



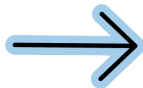
But because God loves us so much, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died in our place. But He did not stay dead—He rose again three days later. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God and we are offered the free gift of eternal life! (*John 3:16, Romans 5:8*)

TRUST



God gives salvation, rescuing us from our sin, to everyone who places their trust in Jesus as their Savior. What is trust? It means that we rely on what Jesus did. You cannot be saved from sin by doing good things, but only through what Jesus did for you. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

SHARE



We can choose to follow Him and share His love with others! The Holy Spirit helps us grow to be more like Jesus. He gives us the power and boldness to share God's good news with the world. (*Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 1:8*)

Connect with Families

Taking care of kids is a challenging job, and with the pressures of the world, it becomes even more demanding when you are following Jesus. Stress is on the rise, and church attendance is down, which in turn leads to various levels of caregiver involvement. As ministry leaders, we have the privilege of ministering to the many adults who care for kids. From parents and grandparents to foster parents, guardians, relatives, and other caregivers, God places a variety of people in kids' lives to love and guide them. Here are some practical ideas for connecting with them.

THE OVEREXTENDED FAMILY

Kids' schedules are as packed, if not more so, than the schedules of the adults caring for them, and some caregivers simply have more going on than they have time for each week. So instead of focusing on when they are absent, let's celebrate the wins when they make it to church.

1. **Celebrate Church Attendance.** Instead of texting when their kid misses church, text this caregiver on a day their kid attends and share what a privilege it is to have their family with you. Choose to celebrate their presence.
2. **Applaud the Progress.** Try to catch this caregiver at drop-off or pick-up and share with them ways you see God really working in their kid's life. Celebrate the important role their kid plays in your group, and what a joy it is to have them there.
3. **Meet them Where They Are.** If you know this caregiver is at the ball field three nights a week, grab a coffee/snack and go there to cheer them on, and connect with them.

THE QUIET FAMILY

Quiet doesn't mean uncaring. These caregivers can often be unintentionally overlooked, but we want to ensure they know we see and value them.

1. **Mail Matters.** Take a moment to send these caregivers notes in the mail, sharing the ways you see God working in their kid's life. Include your phone number and ask them to text you with any ways you can pray for their kid or support their family better.
2. **One-on-One.** Find a way to get one-on-one with the caregiver in hopes they will be more comfortable talking. You can invite them to coffee, sit near them at church, or try to catch them in the hallway after church to build a relationship.
3. **Get the Kid to Share.** At pick-up, ask their kid to share one thing they learned with the adult picking them up.
4. **Invite them In.** Invite them to be an extra set of hands (once they are fully background checked and approved) during a week when you are making a craft or having a special Sunday. Through serving together, get to know the caregiver and encourage them.

Connect with Families

THE ANGRY FAMILY

Let's be honest, this caregiver could be angry at you, the church, a family member, or the hand that life dealt them, but that doesn't mean we can ignore them and hope they go away. We have an excellent opportunity to minister to them. Let's make it count!

1. **Pray First.** Only God truly knows what is going on in their heart, life, or home. Commit to pray for them weekly, asking God to give you wisdom and discernment as you interact with them. Ask God to also provide an opportunity for you to get to know them and what is behind their anger.
2. **Remain Positive.** Just because the caregiver is angry doesn't mean the kid is, so don't allow it to affect the way you interact with them. Greet this kid and caregiver just as you would anyone else, and when you have something great to share, be sure to share it with that caregiver. It might be the only positive thing they have heard all week.

THE STRUGGLING FAMILY

We often don't know what's happening behind closed doors in the lives of the families we serve, so when we encounter a struggling caregiver, let's be prepared to minister to them.

1. **Photo Happy.** Take a picture of their kid during group time and write a note on the back about all the things they are learning. Either hand it to their caregiver at pick-up or mail it to them.
2. **Anonymous Gift.** Get them a gift card/flower/card with scripture and send it to them anonymously. Let them know they are seen and you are praying for them. Don't give pat Christianese advice; genuinely share with them that they are loved and seen by God.
3. **Offer to Pray.** Text this caregiver and offer to pray for them. Don't ask for details; allow them to share if they feel comfortable, but be committed to praying for them.

brite* *Ministry* LEADERS

DECEMBER

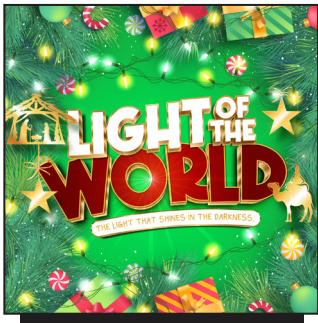
THIS MONTH'S ATTRIBUTE OF GOD IS: *Jesus is our Savior*

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THIS MONTH'S UNIT THEME IS: *Light of the World*

This month, we celebrate the wonder of Christmas and the beautiful truth that Jesus is our Savior. The God of the universe humbled Himself to come into the world as a baby, bringing hope, salvation, love and joy to all people. Just as Christmas lights shine brightly in the darkness, Jesus came to shine His light into a broken world and show us the greatest love of all.

Check out our Pinterest page for decorating ideas:

<https://www.pinterest.com/britecurriculum/light-of-the-world/>

BRITE in Action

Invite families to help shine the light of Jesus by participating in a Christmas giving drive. Provide simple options like donating new toys, books or supplies to fill shoeboxes, donate to a shelter or selecting tags from an Angel Tree to shop for specific kids. Create a warm, festive collection area filled with Christmas lights and reminders that every gift represents the hope, love, joy and salvation Jesus brings.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:

Thank your team this month for being shining lights in your ministry! Give each volunteer a Christmas ornament that ties into the Christmas story like stars, light bulbs or nativity scenes. Consider adding a scripture like John 8:12 or Luke 2:11 to remind them that Jesus is the true light of the world. This small gift becomes something they can hang on their tree year after year and remember the impact they've made.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PRINTABLE: *Light of the World*

PREP: Print the printable page on cardstock and cut out.

*For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas!
Thank you for shining the love of Jesus!



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