

# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



## Waiting for Jesus

DECEMBER 14, 2025

**WAITING FOR JESUS: LOVE**

ISAIAH 11; JOHN 1

## GOD'S BIG STORY

God loves His people and promised to send a Savior to rescue them. Jesus—God's Son—is the promised Savior. God sent Jesus because He loves us!

# LEADER DEVO

*So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

*-1 John 4:16, (emphasis ours)*

It's hard to have a single favorite attribute of God; they're all so good! But for me, His love is the thing I find myself grateful for over and over again. Not only grateful, but also in awe of how He can love a broken sinner like me. In His perfect love, God sent His one and only Son to pay the price for my sin and give me the eternal life I don't deserve. What a gift!

One of my favorite illustrations I've heard to help kids understand the magnitude of Jesus coming to earth in the form of a man goes like this:

Imagine you just drew a picture. This picture is of a field on a sunny day, with flowers all around and a stick figure in the middle. You've worked hard on this drawing, going so far as to find just the right shade of purple for those flowers. Now imagine that you, a full fledged human being, choose to enter into the drawing and become a stick figure. That's what Jesus did. He entered into His creation and became like us, and His whole reason for doing so is simply that He loves us.

God is not just a loving God. 1 John 4:16 tells us that God is love. The embodiment of love itself is Jesus Christ. Love is who God is and His nature cannot change. No matter how far gone we may think we are, no matter how many times we've chosen our own way and sin against Him, His love for us will never diminish. Not only that, but we can't do anything to make God love us more because He already loves us perfectly!

As we get closer to Christmas and talk about God's love this week, take some time to sit and reflect on the magnitude of Jesus coming to dwell with us. All because of a love so deep and lasting for His creation. All because He *is* love.

# ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

*Hebrews 11:1*



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

**DEC 21**

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

### THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, John 3:16 will look like:

F G S L T W T H G H O A O S T W B I H W N P B H E L

# LESSON

Even before there was an earth and before there was a heaven, Jesus was with God. Jesus is God. The Word, who is Jesus, has always existed. Nothing in the universe was created without Jesus. He made stars and planets, oceans and forests, animals and insects. He made everything!

God created humans in His own image. They were in charge of this creation, and because they walked with God, the whole earth would praise God for what He made! Sadly, humans disobeyed God and hid from Him. This is called sin, and because of sin, death and hardship entered into the world. Sin got in the way of humans being with God. But God did not stop loving His creation, or their children, or their children's children. God had a rescue plan in mind.

One day, God planned to send a Savior who would take on the consequence for all sin so that God's children could be in His presence again. Many years went by, but God never forgot His promise. He chose to carry out His plan through Abraham's family. God promised that one day the Savior would be born through a part of the family called the tribe of Judah. However, at one point in God's big story, things were not looking good for Judah. The people were surrounded by enemies on every side. Many of them were killed. It didn't look like the people of Judah would survive to carry out God's rescue plan for the world. But God was not finished. He spoke a promise to the people of Judah through a prophet, or messenger, named Isaiah.

God promised that the Savior would come from the line of Jesse, who was born from the tribe of Judah. Isaiah called the promised Savior a "Branch" that would grow from the root of Jesse's family tree. Even if the whole tree was cut down, the Branch would grow again. God promised through Isaiah that when the rescuer arrives, the creatures of the world will behave in a new way. The wolf would live with the lamb, the leopard would lie down with the goat, and the cow and the bear would eat together. Children would have nothing to fear, because all the earth would be safe at last.

About 700 years after God gave these words to Isaiah, a baby was born—the many-many-great-grandson of Jesse. This baby was not like any other. He was the Branch in Judah's family tree that Isaiah had prophesied about—the very promise God had spoken so many years before. This baby was Jesus. And on that night in Bethlehem, Jesus, the Word of God who was with God from the beginning, became a human and entered into the creation He had made. God loves His people—He loves us—so much that in Jesus, God left heaven to make His home with us.

# LESSON

During this season, we take time to remember that night when Jesus was born. For us, Christmas comes every year. But for God's people, the waiting was much, much longer. Perhaps that's why God sent prophets like Isaiah to remind the people of His love and His plan. At a time when God's people were discouraged, God spoke through Isaiah to help them understand His love for them.

Isaiah described a beautiful future when Jesus would be King and all creation would know God. Because God promised it, we know that this day will come. God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus that first Christmas day. And Jesus promised to return again... all because God loves us.

# SMALL GROUPS

## OUR GOAL

**To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.**

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Remind kids that next Sunday (December 21) is our Christmas Party! There will be games, hot chocolate, donuts, and more. If you want to do anything special for your small group, let Taylor know!



# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) How long has Jesus existed? (answer: always!)
- 2) How would you define true, godly love?
- 3) Jesus, who is God, became human and was born as a baby to live among us. How does this show God's love for us?
- 4) Read 1 John 4:16. What does it mean that God is love?
- 5) What some other ways that God shows His love to you?
- 6) How can you show God's love to other people?

If you have extra time, invite kids to share family Christmas traditions they may have, things they are looking forward to this Christmas, or anything else about the upcoming holiday.

### PRAYER

**Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.**

# PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

# CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!