

# The Greatest

Luke 2:21-40

## God Story

Baby Jesus at the Temple  
Luke 2:21-40

## Big Idea

Jesus is God's greatest promise.

## Key Verse

"We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."  
John 6:69

## Leader Tip

As your group returns from the holidays, welcome them and take some time to review your expectations for the students.

## My Story

### 1. Conversation Starter

7 MINUTES

Talk about times when the students made promises and what happened. Introduce this week's Big Idea.

### 2. Intro Activity

5 MINUTES\*

Play a word association game with "promise" as the starter word.

## God Story | Life Story

### 3. Weekly Video

12 MINUTES

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

## My Story

### 4. Application Activity

12 MINUTES\*

Review the Key Verse for this series. Work in groups to look up passages from Luke, then discuss what the students have learned from them.

### 5. Wrap-Up Activity

10 MINUTES

Make resolutions to God about getting to know Jesus better in the year ahead and come up with ideas for how to keep these promises.

## Our Story

### 6. Dismissal

2 MINUTES

\* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.

# My Story

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## 1. Conversation Starter

### Supplies

- None

### Leader Tip

Be prepared to kick-start the discussion by sharing your own age-appropriate answers. It's fun for the students to hear about your experiences and to get to know you.

### Instructions

- As the students arrive, greet them and gather everyone together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask: Think of a time when you made a promise. What was it? Did you keep it? Why or why not?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **Jesus is God's greatest promise.**

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## 2. Intro Activity

### Supplies

- None

### Instructions

- Gather everyone to sit in a circle.
  - Let the students know that you're going to play a word association game.
  - Start with the word "promise". Prompt the person sitting next to you to repeat "promise" and add a word that links to it (e.g., "promise, rainbow"). Tell everyone that they only have five seconds to come up with the next word!
  - Continue going around the circle and adding linking words until everyone gets a turn.
  - If you have time for another round, start with "Jesus".
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# God Story | Life Story

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## 3. Weekly Video **Instructions**

### Supplies

- Video file

- a. Play the video. It includes:
    - Host segment
    - God Story (Baby Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2:21-40)
    - Life Story (God promised to open doors for Natalie Burtch as she followed her heart to a career in stage management.)
  - b. Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
  - c. Ask:
    - What stood out to you in these stories?
    - How do they connect together and also to the Big Idea (**Jesus is God's greatest promise**)?
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# My Story

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## 4. Application **Activity**

### Supplies

- Bibles

### Instructions

- a. Discuss:
    - What is the Key Verse for this series? (John 6:69)
    - Who is it about? (Jesus)
    - What do you think Jesus was like as a baby?
  - b. Divide the students into three groups. If there are more than five students per group, form more groups and assign some of them the same passage (see below).
  - c. Give Bibles to each group.
  - d. Assign one of the following passages to each group: Luke 2:21-24; Luke 2:25-35; Luke 2:36-40.
  - e. Direct the group members to look up and read their verses together.
  - f. Recap and based on what each group read, ask:
    - How did Simeon know Jesus was coming? Why was Simeon waiting for him to arrive? (prophecies in the Old Testament, e.g., Isaiah 7:14; the Holy Spirit revealed it to him)
    - What do we know about Anna? What do you think it was like for her to meet baby Jesus?
    - Do you think people expected the Messiah to arrive like that? (most people expected a strong and powerful king, not a baby in a manger)
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- g. Explain that Jesus didn't arrive the way many people expected, but it was just as God planned! God made a promise to send the Messiah (Jesus) thousands of years earlier. God always keeps his promises!

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## 5. Wrap-Up Activity

### Supplies

- My Promise to Jesus activity pages
- Pens

### Leader Tip

Be prepared to give concrete examples of ways to get to know Jesus and ideas for how the students could get started this week.

### Instructions

- Discuss:
    - Many people make New Year's resolutions. What is a resolution? (a firm decision to do or not to do something)
    - What are some examples of common resolutions? (e.g., eating healthier; exercising more; staying on top of schoolwork)
  - Explain that the students are going to make their own, different kind of resolution. God made promises to them and now they're going to make a promise to him!
  - Discuss:
    - What's one way you want to get to know Jesus better this year?
    - How will you start this week? What will you do tomorrow?
  - Pray for the students as they consider their personal resolutions.
  - Give each person an activity page and a pen.
  - Quickly review the questions together.
  - Give the students time to write their thoughts.
  - To wrap up, invite them to share what they wrote with the rest of the group.
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# Our Story

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## 6. Dismissal

### Supplies

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

### Instructions

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
  - b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
  - c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
  - d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.
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