TREE OF PROMISE

Memory Verse: ***"Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." John 1:1-2 (ICB)***

Big Idea: ***God's Promise: In the Flesh***

Bible Story: ***Jesus is SAVIOR | Luke 2***

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Echo Game

What you'll need: No supplies needed
How to Play: You say the verse in short phrases and the kids echo back.
Leader: "Before the world began…"
Kids: "Before the world began…"
Gradually increase the phrase length until they can say the whole verse.

Christmas Game – Candy Cane Scoop Relay

What you'll need: candy canes
How to Play: Kids race to pick up candy canes **using only another candy cane** as the hook.
They must carry them to a bucket on the other side without dropping any.

Christmas Game – Christmas Dress-up Relay

What you'll need: Christmas attire
How to Play: Create two bins filled with holiday items:
🎅 Santa hat
🧤 Gloves
🧣 Scarf
🎄 Garland
🕶️ Christmas glasses
Kids run to the bin, put on ALL items, run back, remove them, tag the next player.

Christmas Craft – Handprint Christmas Tree

What you'll need: green paper, brown paper, glue or tape, Christmas stickers, pom-poms, etc.
How to Play:
Kids trace their hands onto green paper. They will need several handprints.
Help them to cut out their traced handprints.
Arrange and layer them into a tree shape.
Add ornaments with stickers, pom-poms, etc.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.

Scouts Explorer Guide
Week 2 | December 14, 2025

Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"We are so glad you are here today for a Campfire Christmas! My name is _____. (*Take a second to introduce other leaders in the room with you.) *We have been studying the promises that God made to His people in the Old Testament and we have evidence that God has never made a promise that He didn't keep. Those same promises are meant for all believers, AND that includes us today."*

"Christmas is all about the fulfillment of God's greatest promise. God's promise to be with us and save us from sin came to earth as a baby named Jesus. Jesus is all of God's promises in the flesh, wrapped up as a human being."

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story before Sunday to prepare to guide hearts through God's Word.

Jesus is SAVIOR | Luke 2

I want you to close your eyes for just a few seconds and take a slow, deep breath. The story you are about to hear is the Best Story Ever told.
Let's jump into the reason we celebrate Christmas – the birth of Jesus!

We will read from Luke chapter 2 today. ***Luke 2:3 "And everyone went to their own town to register."*** The ruler of Rome made a law that everyone in the Roman land would go to his or her hometown to register. The ruler wanted to count all the people that lived in Rome.

To obey the Roman law, young Mary and her husband, Joseph, had to travel to Bethlehem. ***Luke 2:4 "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David."***

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem where Joseph's family was from. They didn't have cars or planes. They had to walk a long distance on foot or ride a donkey. Mary was almost ready to give birth to her baby, and the trip was probably uncomfortable for her. Mary and Joseph had to travel over 100 miles, and it took them more than five days.

***Ask:** Have you ever taken a very long trip? Did it seem to take forever before you got to your destination?
(Take a minute or two for the kids to talk to nearby leaders and friends about their responses.)

After a very long journey, Mary and Joseph finally made it to Bethlehem. They were probably very tired from traveling.

Luke 2:6-7 "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, And she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them."

All of the rooms were full because so many people were in town to be counted. Mary and Joseph weren't able to stay in a nice place. The only place Mary and Joseph could find to rest and wait for Mary to give birth was a barn. Their resting spot was with the animals.

Just as the angel told Mary months earlier, she gave birth to a son and they named Him, Jesus.
Jesus was born in a barn and Mary laid Him in a manger where the animals ate from.

What happened next was amazing!
God chose ordinary people just like you and me to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth.
God planned to use shepherds in His Big Story. Let's read on to see what happened.

Luke 2:8 "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

God sent an angel to speak to the shepherds. The shepherds were scared at first. They had no clue what was happening. They had never seen anything like it before. They were just ordinary shepherds tending their sheep, but the angel encouraged them and let them know everything was going to be okay.

***Ask:** Have you ever been in a situation where big things were happening and you felt a bit scared or confused?
(Take a minute or two for the kids to talk to nearby leaders and friends about their responses.)

Luke 2:10 "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger.'"

The angel told them the Good News that Jesus had been born! What God had promised had finally become true – a Savior was born to rescue all people. Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior they had been waiting for.
Then the angel told the shepherds they would know it was Jesus because he would be in a barn, laying in a manger, wrapped up in some warm clothes.
Luke 2:15-16 "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and their baby, who was lying in the manger."

The shepherds left their field and traveled to Bethlehem to find Jesus. They found Jesus in a barn, laying in a manger, wrapped up in clothes just like the angel said He would be. That is incredible! The story doesn't end there though.

Luke 2:17-18 "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

After the shepherds heard the Good News and saw Jesus, they told everyone they knew!

***Ask:** Who have you told about Jesus? Who else can you tell about Jesus' birth during this Christmas season?
(Take a minute or two for the kids to talk to nearby leaders and friends about their responses.)

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"Just like the shepherds we have a part in God's Big Story. When we hear good news, we want to share it, right? Well, the best news you could ever share is that Jesus was born and came to save all people who would believe in Him. That's Good News worth sharing every day!*

God's promise of a savior came in the flesh of a baby. Prophets told of the savior's birth many years earlier which is proof that God is a promise keeper. Jesus is the Savior of the world!"

"Jesus came to fulfill every promise God made!
He won't give up on you.
He has a purpose for you.
His plan is bigger than your mistakes.
He will always remember you.

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Joy to the world! The Lord has come!"

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

This will be a time of response for the kids. Allow space for quiet reflection.

Walk them through one of these prayer prompts.

- Pray for those who feel overlooked or forgotten. Ask God to show them that they are not alone.
- Pray that God's light will shine through you to be a blessing to others.

Say: *"It makes God so happy to hear from you in prayer. Talk to Him because He listens and hears every single word you say. Prayer is about so much more than asking God for things. You can share some exciting news, write a praise or answered prayer, share a request, or simply write down how you are feeling after hearing the Christmas story."*

Pass out the prayer cards. Ask the kids to write down their thoughts or draw pictures.

Say: *"If you finish quickly, please sit quietly while your friends and neighbors finish writing. You can pray or think about how much God loves you."*

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting for their parents.