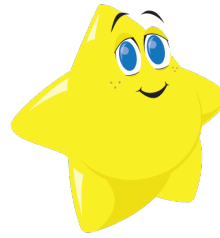


# Small Group Leader Guide



## Week 1

**Ages 4-K**  
**The First**  
**Christmas Gift**  
**Always With Us**

### Question

How do you know what God is like?

### Answer

I look at Jesus!

### Bible Verse

Matthew 1:23 NLT “... they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

### What To Do First

#### Review

1. **Introduce** yourself.
2. **Say** the **Question**, **Answer**, and **Verse** together.

#### Read

1. **Lay** Story Cards in order.
2. **Point** to the first card.
3. **Read** the caption.
4. **Ask** the **Review Question**.
5. **Do** the **Action** together.
6. **Repeat** steps 2-5 for Story Cards 2-5.

#### Remember

##### What Do You See?

1. **Hold up** Story Card 1.
2. **Ask**, “What do you see in this picture?” *Group answers.*
3. **Repeat** steps 1-2 for Story Cards 2-5.

### Review Questions & Actions

#### Story Card 1

#### Question

Who was going to have a baby? *Mary*

#### Action

Pretend to be surprised like Mary.

#### Story Card 2

#### Question

Who else did an angel visit? *Joseph*

#### Action

Pretend to be asleep like Joseph.

#### Story Card 3

#### Question

What lives in a stable? *Animals*

#### Action

Pretend to hold God’s Son, Jesus, and say, “Happy Birthday, Jesus!”

#### Story Card 4

#### Question

What kind of animal does a shepherd take care of? *Sheep*

#### Action

Pretend to be one of the angels flying in the sky.

#### Story Card 5

#### Question

Who hurried to find Jesus? *The shepherds*

#### Action

Pretend to run with the shepherd to go see baby Jesus!

### How To Wrap Up

#### Talk

God’s angel surprised Mary!  
What surprises do you like?

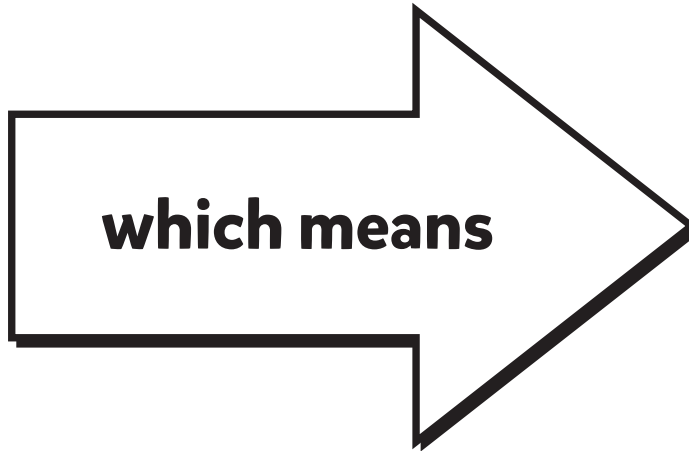
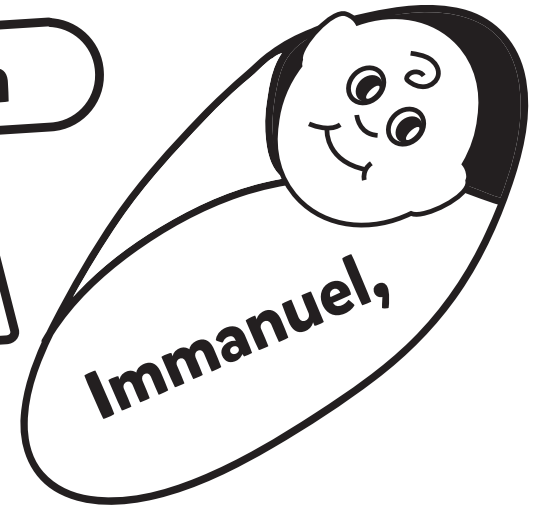
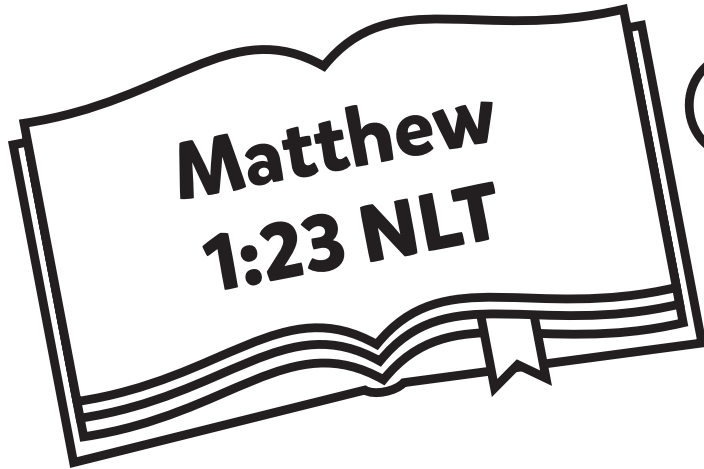
#### Pray

Ask kids what they want to talk to God about, and pray with them.

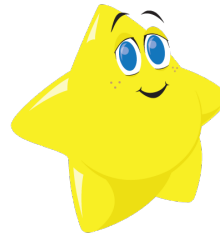
### Adventure Book

#### Begin at Check Out Time

1. If you need to help with check out, **combine** your Small Groups.
2. **Give** each kid an Adventure Book, six stickers, and some crayons.
3. **Help** kids do activities inside the book.
4. **Keep** kids busy coloring and talking during check out.
5. **Send** stickers home with kids who leave early.
6. When a kid leaves, **tell** the parents something positive about their kid.



# Small Group Leader Guide



## Week 2

**Ages 4-K**  
**The First Christmas Gift**  
**Always With Us**

### Question

How do you know what God is like?

### Answer

I look at Jesus!

### Bible Verse

Matthew 1:23 NLT "... they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

### What To Do First

#### Review

1. **Introduce** yourself.
2. **Say** the **Question**, **Answer**, and **Verse** together.

#### Read

1. **Lay** Story Cards in order.
2. **Point** to the first card.
3. **Read** the caption.
4. **Ask** the **Review Question**.
5. **Do** the **Action** together.
6. **Repeat** steps 2-5 for Story Cards 2-5.

#### Remember

##### Mix It Up

1. **Shuffle** Story Cards.
2. **Place** Story Cards in the wrong order.
3. **Say**, "This story's mixed up! Let's put it in order."
4. Group **helps** put Story Cards in order.

### Review Questions & Actions

#### Story Card 1

#### Question

Who told Mary she would have a baby? *The angel, Gabriel*

#### Action

Pretend to be surprised like Mary.

#### Story Card 2

#### Question

Who had a dream? *Joseph*

#### Action

Pretend to be asleep like Joseph.

#### Story Card 3

#### Question

Where did Mary and Joseph stay in the city of Bethlehem? *In a stable*

#### Action

Pretend to hold God's Son, Jesus, and say, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

#### Story Card 4

#### Question

Who was listening to God's angels? *The shepherds*

#### Action

Pretend to be one of the angels flying in the sky.

#### Story Card 5

#### Question

Where did the shepherds go? *To Bethlehem to see God's Son, Jesus*

#### Action

Pretend to run with the shepherd to go see baby Jesus!

### How To Wrap Up

#### Talk

Jesus was born in a stable with the animals. What's your favorite animal?

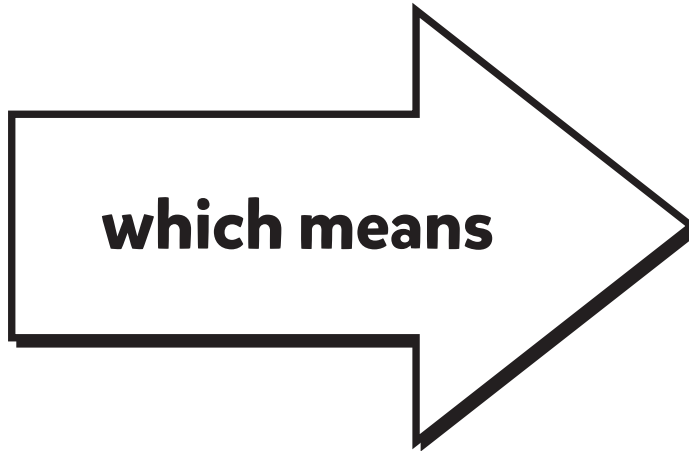
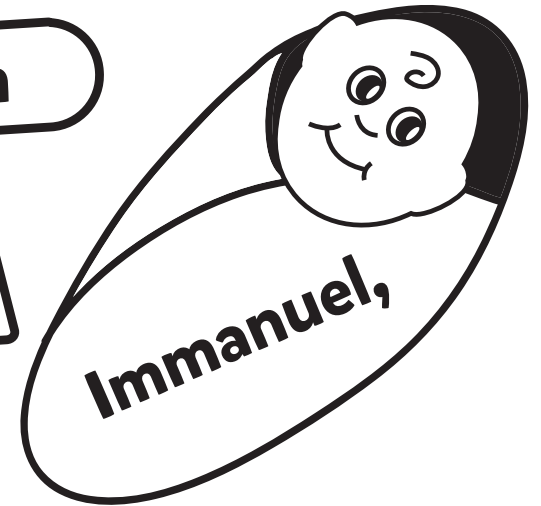
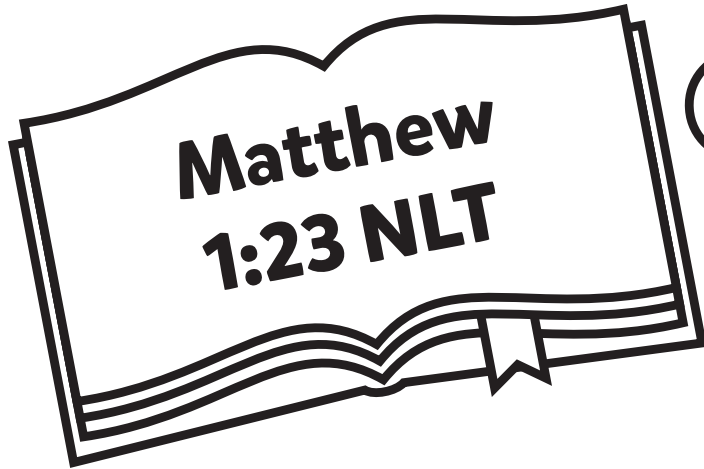
#### Pray

Ask kids what they want to talk to God about, and pray with them.

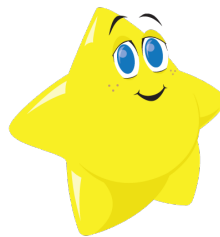
### Adventure Book

#### Begin at Check Out Time

1. If you need to help with check out, **combine** your Small Groups.
2. **Give** each kid an Adventure Book, six stickers, and some crayons.
3. **Help** kids do activities inside the book.
4. **Keep** kids busy coloring and talking during check out.
5. **Send** stickers home with kids who leave early.
6. When a kid leaves, **tell** the parents something positive about their kid.



# Small Group Leader Guide



## Week 3

**Ages 4-K**  
**The First**  
**Christmas Gift**  
**Always With Us**

### Question

How do you know what God is like?

### Answer

I look at Jesus!

### Bible Verse

Matthew 1:23 NLT “... they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

### What To Do First

#### Review

1. **Introduce** yourself.
2. **Say** the **Question**, **Answer**, and **Verse** together.

#### Read

1. **Lay** Story Cards in order.
2. **Point** to the first card.
3. **Read** the caption.
4. **Ask** the **Review Question**.
5. **Do** the **Action** together.
6. **Repeat** steps 2-5 for Story Cards 2-5.

#### Remember Now What?

1. **Lay** down Story Card 1.
2. **Read** the caption.
3. **Ask**, “Now what’s going to happen in the next picture?” *Group answers.*
4. **Repeat** steps 1-3 for Story Cards 2-5.

### Review Questions & Actions

#### Story Card 1

#### Question

Who do you think sent the angel to Mary? *God*

#### Action

Pretend to be surprised like Mary.

#### Story Card 2

#### Question

Who was talking in Joseph’s dream? *An angel*

#### Action

Pretend to be asleep like Joseph.

#### Story Card 3

#### Question

Who was born in a stable? *God’s Son, Jesus*

#### Action

Pretend to hold God’s Son, Jesus, and say, “Happy Birthday, Jesus!”

#### Story Card 4

#### Question

What did the angels say to the shepherds? *See Story Card 4.*

#### Action

Pretend to be one of the angels flying in the sky.

#### Story Card 5

#### Question

Where did the shepherds find Jesus? *In a stable lying on a bed of hay*

#### Action

Pretend to run with the shepherd to go see baby Jesus!

### How To Wrap Up

#### Talk

God gave us Jesus.

What do you want to give to God?

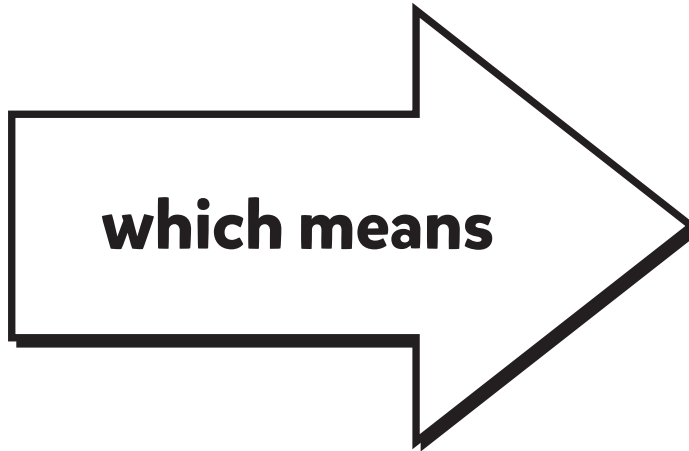
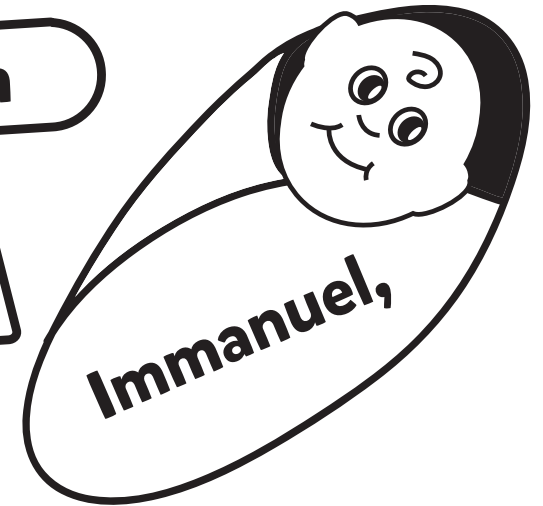
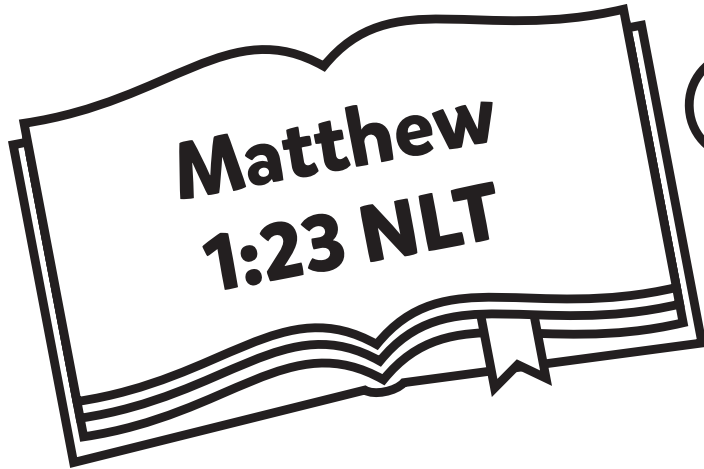
#### Pray

Ask kids what they want to talk to God about, and pray with them.

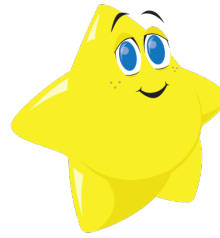
### Adventure Book

#### Begin at Check Out Time

1. If you need to help with check out, **combine** your Small Groups.
2. **Give** each kid an Adventure Book, six stickers, and some crayons.
3. **Help** kids do activities inside the book.
4. **Keep** kids busy coloring and talking during check out.
5. **Send** stickers home with kids who leave early.
6. When a kid leaves, **tell** the parents something positive about their kid.



# Small Group Leader Guide



## Week 4

**Ages 4-K**  
**The First**  
**Christmas Gift**  
**Always With Us**

### Question

How do you know what God is like?

### Answer

I look at Jesus!

### Bible Verse

Matthew 1:23 NLT "... they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

### What To Do First

#### Review

1. **Introduce** yourself.
2. **Say** the **Question**, **Answer**, and **Verse** together.

#### Read

1. **Lay** Story Cards in order.
2. **Point** to the first card.
3. **Read** the caption.
4. **Ask** the **Review Question**.
5. **Do** the **Action** together.
6. **Repeat** steps 2-5 for Story Cards 2-5.

#### Remember

##### *What's Missing?*

1. **Lay** out four Story Cards.
2. **Ask**, "Which picture is missing?" *Group answers.*
3. **Lay** Story Card in place.
4. **Repeat** steps 1-3, but **leave out** different card.

### Review Questions & Actions

#### Story Card 1

**Question**  
Who was Mary's baby going to be? *God's Son, Jesus*

**Action**  
Pretend to be surprised like Mary.

#### Story Card 2

**Question**  
What did the angel say in Joseph's dream? *See Story Card 2.*

**Action**  
Pretend to be asleep like Joseph.

#### Story Card 3

**Question**  
What city did Mary and Joseph go to? *Bethlehem*

**Action**  
Pretend to hold God's Son, Jesus, and say, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

#### Story Card 4

**Question**  
Who told the shepherds about Jesus? *God's angels*

**Action**  
Pretend to be one of the angels flying in the sky.

#### Story Card 5

**Question**  
What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? *They told everyone about it.*

**Action**  
Pretend to run with the shepherd to go see baby Jesus!

### How To Wrap Up

#### Talk

Christmas is Jesus' birthday. What do you like to do for Jesus' birthday?

#### Pray

Ask kids what they want to talk to God about, and pray with them.

### Adventure Book

#### Begin at Check Out Time

1. If you need to help with check out, **combine** your Small Groups.
2. **Give** each kid an Adventure Book, six stickers, and some crayons.
3. **Help** kids do activities inside the book.
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