



3rd – 5th

December 7-8, 2013

DATE

Christmas

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2 (Pg.1121-1126); Matthew 2 (Pg.1053-1054)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Speaks to Us!

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Be intentional about welcoming kids by name right when they enter the room. For the ones who arrive before Connect Time, ask about what happened during the week or about their favorite part of Christmas.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents the significance of the ornament they created.

large group heads up

Christmas reminds us that God wants to be close to us: he sent his own son to live with us, rescue us, and show us how to follow him! Part of having a close relationship with God is asking: (1) What is God saying to me and (2) What am I going to do about it? Today, we're going to look at examples of people who listened and obeyed.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

**Play the Christmas loop on the first slide of the Keynote during Connect Time.*

CHRISTMAS BACK-TO-BACK DRAWINGS

- Have kids sit back-to-back in a row
- Tell kids: you cannot look behind you at your partner! And don't look at or listen to the person next to you.
- Give one side a **blank sheet of paper and marker**
- Give the other side a **paper with a picture** on it
- The person with the picture has to tell the person with the blank sheet what to draw **WITHOUT** saying the name of the image on the sheet. (I.e. Kids can say "Draw a square. Put a bow on top" NOT "Draw a Christmas present.")
 - *If your group is struggling, feel free to modify it. Try letting them say the name of the image and describing how to draw it.*
- After one round, see who did the best, and switch so that the speaker is now the artist.

This is also a time for you to connect with kids: a few minutes before large group, gather your kids, look at the pictures, and talk to kids about the best part of their week or remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recognize ways that God spoke to people in the Christmas story (2) understand that we should constantly be listening for God's voice and ready to obey!

Why? God *wants* to speak to us! He wants a relationship with us.

Tip: Plan the best way to create ornaments with your group. Systematically let them choose materials and share glue sticks. If you know this will be a challenge for your group, limit the amount of supplies you put in your bin.

small group

DEBRIEF FROM PRAYER TIME

1. At the end of large group, we asked God what he wants to say to us. We might not have all heard from God, and that's OK. But did anybody hear from God? Write it on this **card** and share it with us. (Remind kids that sometimes, God speaks through other people, so maybe he wants someone in this group to hear it too!)
2. OK, after we listen to God, what question should we ask ourselves? (What are we going to do about it?) So...those of you who have heard from God, what are you going to do about it?

REVIEW LARGE GROUP

3. How does Christmas show us that God wants to be close to us?
4. Everybody think of one person God spoke to during today's part of God's story. (have kids write the name of the person on the back of their **cards**, then set them out on the table—they can work in pairs if that's helpful)
5. Ask for each: What did God say to that person? What did that person do about it
6. Do you think it was hard for the people to wait? Why or why not?
7. Do you think it was hard for Joseph to marry Mary? Why or why not?
8. Who else might have had a hard time responding to what God said? (Have kids choose names from the **notecards** in the middle) Then ask why.
9. Why do you think those people followed God anyway?
10. Do you think God wants to speak to you too? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY: MAKE AN ORNAMENT

One way we can remember to listen to God is by reminding ourselves that he speaks! And what better reminder during the Christmas season than an ornament you can hang on the tree?! If you don't have a tree, that's OK. Just hang it next to your bed or on the refrigerator.

(Continued on the following page)

- Create the coolest-looking **ornament** you can think of. Anything goes—there’s no “right” way to do it. You just have to remember you made it in Kids’ Club as a reminder that God wants to speak to you. Here are some ideas if kids don’t know where to begin:
 - Draw a scene in which God is speaking (from today’s story)
 - Write down what God said to you in large group
 - Draw your favorite place to listen to God
- Then create and decorate! Use the materials provided in your small group bin.
- As kids create, **discuss**:
 - Why do you think it’s important that we ask “What am I going to do about it?” when God speaks?
 - How can we make time to stop and listen to God this Christmas?
- After you’ve created, have kids share their ornaments.

***Pray with the kids, asking God to speak to us this Christmas.**

Extra time? Do more back-to-back drawings, except this time make it a friendly contest for speed and accuracy! Or make up a “crazy” Christmas story. Start with one sentence like, “Once there was a kid who loved Christmas.” Go around and let kids add one sentence at a time to see how crazy the story can get!

special notes

The first video is a short clip about Joseph, which is a part of the Christmas story that's not included in "God's Story: Christmas." We don't own the clip, but you can preview it at <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/21288/Josephs-Dream>.

presenter tips

When you're talking about how God loves each of us enough to invite us into relationship, reflect excitement! That's amazing news!

script

*As kids enter the room, **play the Christmas music loop** (it might still be playing from Connect Time if kids are meeting in the same room).*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so glad to see you here. You guys have been doing some crazy drawings! Was it hard to draw by just listening to what your friend told you to do? (Let kids respond. Ask why or why not.)

INTRO: GOD SPEAKS TO US

You know, that game is pretty fun and I love seeing how funny some of the drawings turn out! But the truth is, even though we can't see our partner, we can listen carefully and draw a picture that looks pretty good. All we have to do is listen...and obey!

And Christmas reminds ME of how much God wants to speak to us and be close to us. Think about it: God sent his *own* son to be born as a human like us and show us how to follow God AND take the punishment for all the wrong things we've done—things that separate us from God. Hmmmm...God must really love us and want to be near us, huh!?

Well, guess what? He does! He wants to have a relationship with us. And he wants to tell us things! In fact, when we're following God, we should always be asking ourselves TWO big questions: 1. What is God saying to me? AND 2. What am I going to do about it?

Today, we're going to hear the Christmas story. God spoke A LOT in today's story. Through it, we'll see how some people heard from God—and what they did about it!

THE PEOPLE HEARD FROM GOD AND WAITED

So first of all, God wanted everybody to know that he was sending his son, Jesus, the Rescuer. To make sure nobody missed it, God sent a message through his prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was born. One of his messages was this:



script continued

Isaiah 9:6: A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

God was telling his family that the baby who would be born, the King, would be fully man but also fully God. That means GOD wanted to be with US so badly, he was going to join us on earth!

And what did his family do about it? This is kind of a hard question. Does anybody know? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they *waited* for the king! The message to Isaiah was written down...so they told their kids, who told *their* kids, who told *their* kids—and on and on until Jesus was born!

JOSEPH LISTENED AND OBEYED

Sometimes though, God doesn't tell us to wait. Sometimes, he wants us to obey right away by doing something! That's what happened one of the times God spoke to a guy named Joseph.

See, when an angel told Mary she would be pregnant with a child from the Holy Spirit, Mary was engaged to a guy named Joseph. But they weren't married yet. So it wasn't a good time for Mary to be pregnant. Joseph *could* have gotten incredibly angry and refused to marry her!

And in fact, Joseph DID want to divorce her. Back then, that would've meant that Mary was completely alone. Nobody else would have ever married her. But fortunately, God spoke to Joseph and Joseph obeyed. We're going to take a minute and watch a quick video about that. As you watch, see if you can figure out what God said to Joseph and what Joseph did about it! And if you already know what happened, just imagine what it would have been like for Joseph.

Video: Joseph's Dream (<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/21288/Josephs-Dream>)

Wow, what a cool story! God spoke to Joseph through a dream! And what did God say to Joseph? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he basically said, "Marry Mary." And what did Joseph do about it? (Let kids respond.) Yes—he obeyed! He married Mary!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS FILLED WITH GOD SPEAKING!

The coolest thing is, those are just two examples of ways God spoke to people about Jesus' birth. There are many, many other ways God spoke to people! We're going to watch another video that highlights a whole *bunch* of different ways that God spoke to people who were close to him—and they obeyed. As you watch, see if you can figure out ONE thing God said—and what that person did about it!

Show Video: God's Story / Christmas

Wow, pretty cool huh?! So who figured out one thing God said? (**Show review image** and let 1-2 kids respond: *They may refer to when...1. An angel told Mary she's pregnant, 2. Angels told shepherds Jesus was born, 3. A star appeared for the wise men, 4. The Holy Spirit told Simeon he would meet the Rescuer. 5. Wise men had dreams not to return to Herod, 6. Joseph had dreams to move his family. After whatever they say, follow up with "And what did that person do*



script continued

about it?" In each case, the person took action! If you want to prepare for possible answers, watch the video ahead of time at CrossroadsKidsClub.net. After one or two kids have shared, continue):

WE CAN LISTEN AND OBEY

Christmas reminds us that God invites us to be close to him! Maybe he doesn't speak to us through angels or stars or dreams—although He sometimes does!—but God is still speaking to us all the time when we stop and listen.

This Christmas, remember that God sent Jesus because he wants to be close to YOU. God wants to hear from you and talk to you, just like he talked to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the wise men. We're going to take some time right now to ask God what he wants to tell us this Christmas. It might feel strange to sit quietly, but we have to stop and listen if we want to hear from God.

PRAY

Lead kids in asking, "God, what do you want to say to me?" Then give them a few moments of silence. Let them know they'll have a chance to share what they heard in small groups.

WORSHIP

Now, let's sing a song about listening...and then we'll watch a cool music video of one of our favorite Crossroads Christmas songs!

Song: *Because You Love Me*

Music Video: *Love Crashed In*

(You've already prayed, so go ahead and dismiss kids.)



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

1. 2 blank ½-sheets of paper per kid
2. 2 sheets of paper with a Christmas image per kid (print template on regular-sized paper and cut in half)
3. Markers

small group supplies

1. Bible (pg. 1121, 1053)
2. Markers
3. Notecards (1 per kid)
4. 1 colored paper circle per kid
5. Glue sticks
6. Various supplies, such as: feathers, pipe cleaners, felt, construction paper, etc.

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Slide with this loop:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
2. SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6: A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who
3. Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.
4. Video: Joseph's Dream: please order from <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/21288/Josephs-Dream>
5. Review image
6. Video: God's Story / Christmas
7. Song: Because You Love Me (hand motions)
8. Music Video: Love Crashed In

connect questions

Tell me how God spoke at Christmas.
Why does God speak to us?

parent page

Christmas reminds us that God wants to be close to us: He sent his own son to live with us, rescue us, and show us how to follow him! Part of having a close relationship with God is asking: (1) What is God saying to me and (2) What am I going to do about it? Today, we looked at examples of people to whom God spoke in the Christmas story. Read about it in Luke 1-2 and Matthew 1-2. Or watch "God's Story: Christmas" on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.