



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

December 7-8, 2012

DATE

Christmas

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2

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

Talk to kids about the "Awaited" show. Ask them if they are planning to go with their families. Encourage them to see it!

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they have two different pictures to describe the same thing.

## large group heads up

Today, we're talking about what it could look like to see Christmas with "fresh eyes." Sometimes we get so lost in tradition that we forget what's really important—and how truly exciting the Christmas story is to God's family.



## 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.*

### **NATIVITY SCENE**

- Give each kid a blank sheet of paper and markers
- What do you think of when you hear the word "Nativity"? Draw it. (In case they haven't heard that word, also use the phrase: "the Christmas story" or "Jesus' birth")
- Tell them not to look at their neighbor's picture
- Then compare and contrast pictures: What's similar? What's different?

**This is also a time for you to connect with kids: a few minutes before large group, gather your kids and ask 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) re-imagine the Nativity/Christmas story and (2) understand that the most important part of the story is that Jesus came to earth

**Why?** Jesus' arrival is the MOST exciting part of Christmas! Maybe seeing the season with fresh eyes will help them recognize that

**Tip:** There's a lot of drawing in this lesson. For kids who don't love drawing, let them write words or lists—or even use a pencil/pen vs. markers. It will give them some choice in the activity.

## small group

### DEBRIEF

1. Did anybody feel like they realized something new about the Christmas story today? Maybe God said something to you at the end of large group or you noticed something during the lesson? (Let kids respond. After each question, follow up with: What do you think you should do about it, now that God's allowed you to see Christmas this way?)

### REVIEW LARGE GROUP

2. Why were the Israelites (God's family) so excited for Jesus to arrive?
3. Why can WE be excited that Jesus came to earth?
4. Why do you think we have so many pictures of the Nativity or the Christmas story that aren't from the Bible?
5. Do you think it's OK that all of our pictures look different? Why or why not? (refer to pictures from Connect Time; assure kids that it's just important that we have Jesus!)

### ACTIVITY: REFRESH

So let's take out Nativity pictures and turn them over (if kids already wrote on the back, give them a new sheet of paper).

- Read Luke 1-2
- Have kids re-draw the scene the way they hear it (creativity is OK!)
- Share pictures
- Discuss:
  - How do you guys see your Christmas Eve and Christmas morning? What do you picture when you're excited about it?
  - How could you re-imagine that scene with fresh eyes? What might be different?

(Continue on the following page)

- Why do you think it's important to see something with "fresh eyes"?

**\*Pray with the kids, asking God to help us remember that the most important part of the season is the fact Jesus came to earth to rescue us.**

*Extra time? Make up a "crazy" Christmas story. Start with one sentence like, "Once, a cat almost ruined Christmas." Go around and let kids add one sentence at a time to see how crazy the story can get!*

## special notes

There are three videos today. Even though none of them are long, make sure you don't spend too much time on the intro or the song game, so you can get to the important stuff!

## presenter tips

Feel free to encourage kids to attend Awaited! Showing the trailer will help them recognize that it's not just for adults (because it's not!).

## script

*\*Play the Christmas music on the loop on the first slide of today's Keynote as kids enter the room.*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so glad to see you here. This is my favorite time of year! I love Christmas for so many reasons, and today I'm excited to celebrate it with you. One of my favorite things about Christmas is: (*\*\*insert personal story\*\**). Let's hear some of YOUR favorite things about Christmas. (Let 3-5 kids share)

### CHRISTMAS INTRO GAME

You know, I think I want to spend a little more time getting excited for Christmas. So we're going to play a little Christmas game—can you guys do that? I'm going to start to play a Christmas song. As SOON as you know what it is or maybe what a couple of the words are, stand up! Are you guys ready?

(**Click to play first song, "Silent Night"**; when kids are standing, stop the song by clicking forward to the blank slide) OK, what is it? (Let kids guess.) You got it! (Repeat for the next songs. Some songs may be harder for kids than others. Feel free to skip one or two that are difficult):

- **Song 2: Rejoice!**
- **Song 3: O Come**
- **Song 4: O Holy Night**
- **Song 5: Baby Love**

### JESUS WAS MUCH-ANTICIPATED!

Good job! Now you guys can sit down. Does anybody know what those songs have in common? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they are all a part of the Crossroads Christmas show, Awaited. If you're planning to go with your family, you're going to love it! It's all about how



## script continued

EXCITED people were for Christmas to get here! Let's watch a short trailer so you can get an idea of what it's about.

### Video: Awaited Trailer

Do you guys ever feel like you're waiting excitedly for Christmas to come? (Let kids respond.) Why? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, we get to be with our family and celebrate—we get time off school. It's usually pretty fun, right?

But imagine that you were going through a hard time—and maybe some of you are. That's what was happening to God's family. Other people hadn't treated them nicely. People had hated them just because they were Israelites. They couldn't help that! (Pause)

But then imagine you knew that GOD himself had promised a king who would bring you peace and rescue you from all the wrong things in your life—the things you did wrong and the things that happened to you or that others did to you. *Think about how excited you would be!*

### SEEING SOMETHING WITH NEW EYES

For us, sometimes the thing we get most excited about is finding what's in our presents or getting time off school (refer to the more shallow "favorite" things kids listed in the beginning). But you know what? That king who came so many years ago...is OUR rescuer too! And even though we may have already heard the story, we can discover it with new eyes this year.

OK, that's a big phrase: "discover it with new eyes." Does anybody know what that means? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it basically means seeing something as if you're seeing it for the first time. Let's watch a clip about one of our favorite Christmas characters—Buddy the Elf—discovering New York City for the first time. As we watch, see if you can find one thing he discovers with new eyes.

### Video Clip: Elf

I love that movie and seeing how excited Buddy the Elf is about everything! So what's one thing he discovered with new eyes? (Let kids respond. They may say: people waving to a taxi, getting his shoes polished, getting a brochure for free, tasting the "world's best cup of coffee," jumping across a crosswalk, a revolving drawer, or others.)

Yes, all those things were things Buddy was doing for the first time! So was he more or less excited about them? (Let kids say: more.) Yep! Everything seemed more special and fun and meaningful.

### SEEING CHRISTMAS WITH NEW EYES

Christmas is still exciting—even though we DO have all sorts of pictures in our head of how the Christmas story happened. Think about what you guys drew during Connect Time. (Let kids think.) You all have a "picture" of how you see the Christmas story in your mind, right? Well, now we're going to watch a video that'll help us see it with fresh eyes! As you watch, see if you can see ONE thing in a NEW way.



script continued

### **Video: Retooning Christmas**

OK, so what's one thing you saw in a new way? (Let kids share: they might say: they might have used a wagon instead of a donkey, perhaps there was no innkeeper, the Bible doesn't talk about a stable, the Bible doesn't say "three kings," the wise men weren't at the birth, etc.)

Yeah, isn't that crazy to think about? But the cool part of the video is that it reminds us of the most important part of Christmas—the part we KNOW is true. And what was that? (Let kids say: the promised King Jesus was born, just as was prophesied!)

This year, see if you can pretend that every part of the Christmas season is new. Pretend you're experiencing Christmas for the very first time. What will make you excited? What might change for you? What does God want you to see about the way he sent his Son Jesus, the Rescuer?

### **PRAY**

Before we worship together today, let's pray. (Lead the kids in prayer, asking God to help them see Christmas with new eyes. Then give them a few moments of silence to hear from God.)

### **WORSHIP**

If you heard from God, you'll get a chance to share it in small groups. But let's keep listening to him with a worshipful Christmas song: Silent Night.

### **Music Video: Silent Night**

**Song: Joy to the World**



**script continued**



# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

1 blank sheet of paper per kid  
markers

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## small group supplies

Bible  
Markers  
1 blank sheet of paper per kid

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## large group supplies

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### a/v needs

1. Slide with this loop:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
2. Slide with mp3: Silent Night
3. Blank slide
4. Slide with mp3: Rejoice!
5. Blank slide
6. Slide with mp3: O Come
7. Blank slide
8. Slide with mp3: O Holy Night
9. Blank slide
10. Slide with mp3: Baby Love
11. Video: Awaited Trailer
12. Video: Elf Clip (Public>KC>Videos and Media>All Christmas)
13. Video: Retooning the Nativity (Public>KC>Videos and Media>All Christmas)
14. Music Video: Silent Night
15. Music Video: Joy to the World

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### connect questions

Tell me about the Nativity.  
What's the most important part of the Christmas story?

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### parent page

Sometimes we get so lost in tradition that we forget how truly exciting the Christmas story is for God's family. So today, we talked about what it would be like to see Christmas with "fresh eyes"—to rediscover the joy of the Nativity and even the way we celebrate throughout the season. Ask your kids to help you see Luke 1-2 with fresh eyes by comparing and contrasting the two pictures they drew.