



Kindergarten-2nd

December 7-8, 2013

DATE

Christmas

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2 (Pg.1192-1197 NIRV)

WHERE TO FIND IT

The Rescuer is Born!

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): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

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

As kids color, talk to them about the coloring image. Ask them what they think is happening in the picture. What is Mary thinking/doing? What is the angel doing? (They'll find out what's happening in large group!)

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to ask parents if they can hang their ornament up somewhere at home!

large group heads up

Today, we're going to hear the great news: the Rescuer we talk about every week...is here! This will prepare kids to celebrate his arrival this Christmas season.



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.*

**As kids decorate, play the Christmas music loop from the first slide in today's Keynote. If you don't have Keynote in your room, play some festive Kids' Club music using your DVD player.*

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

- Give each small group a large, green **Christmas tree cutout**.
- Give the **group** two sheets of **ornament stickers**
- Make sure to take **ONE nativity ornament (separate from the sheets of ornaments)**.
- Let kids decorate the tree by sticking ornaments on it.
- Let kids color the ornaments and draw lights and tinsel on the tree.
- As kids work, connect with them. Here are some discussion questions*:
 - What are you most excited about this Christmas? Why?
 - Why do you think we celebrate Christmas?
 - What's your favorite holiday? Why?
 - Have you seen any Christmas movies? What's your favorite one?
 - Are you planning to give a gift to anybody special?
- **Leaders should carry the Christmas trees to large group for the kids. Make sure to bring it back for small groups though! If you normally set up for small groups, please wait until this intro activity is finished!**

This is also a time for you to connect with kids: as you hang ornaments, talk to kids about the best/worst part of their week or even 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.

***If you do not have time to color the ornaments or would prefer to just stick them on the tree and then talk to the kids about their weeks, that's fine!**

Throughout this lesson, be careful not to ask too much about family traditions, so kids don't feel excluded. Also, steer them away from talking about gifts or comparing gifts (or even wish lists!) with each other.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand that Jesus, the Rescuer, was born and (2) be able to retell the story of his birth.

Why? As kids experience the Christmas season this year, we want them to remember *why* the holiday exists and be able to share it with their friends.

Tip: You are making two kinds of ornaments, but the materials are very different. Only give kids one at a time.

small group

***Set Christmas trees back on your small group tables!**

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What (Who) is Christmas Day all about?
2. Tell me about the Rescuer. Why was he such a big deal?

ACTIVITY #1 / STORY REVIEW: KEEP DECORATING THE TREE!

Remember, your trees only have ONE ornament reminding us about how Jesus was born. Let's make some more! But first, we have to remember the story:

- **(Hold up the picture.)** What are some of the other crazy things that happened when Jesus was born? (Review anything kids didn't share: 1. An angel announced he was coming, 2. John the Baptist jumped in his mom's belly, 3. angels appeared to shepherds, 4. a star appeared, 5. wise men began following the star, 6. God kept Jesus safe, 7. Joseph had dreams)
- Give each kid a **blank, colored circle of paper**
- Ask each kid to draw a picture to remind them of *their* favorite part of when baby Jesus was born (encourage them to think about all the things that happened in the video / they can copy from the picture you're holding). Ask **WHY** it was their favorite?
- Share their ornaments and then set them on the tree (don't use glue so kids can take them home).
- Discuss: Why did all these things happen when Jesus was born? Why did God even send the Rescuer? (He loves us!)
- Give them a challenge: See who can use all the ornaments on the tree to retell the Christmas story. You can have small groups "compete" against each other!

(Continued on the following page)

***Pray with kids, thanking God for sending Jesus, the Rescuer!**

Extra time? Here are some optional activities:

1. Use markers to add lights and tinsel to the Christmas trees you created. Have a “tree-decorating contest” between small groups.
2. Gather kids together to watch “God’s Story: Christmas” and “Baby Love” again.
3. Play a game of Christmas “Simon Says.” Line the kids up in a row. Stand a few feet away, facing them. Explain that you will give them a command. Before some commands, you will say, “Simon Says.” (“Simon says take two steps forward!”) If Simon says it, the kids should do it. If Simon doesn’t say it (“Jump backwards once!”) the kids should stand still. ****But for the Christmas version, add some flair! Say something like, “Pretend to deck the halls!” or “On the count of three, yell the name of the red-nosed reindeer.”** (Or, of course, just play the normal way.)

****SOME KIDS MAY NOT HAVE A TREE AT HOME. ENCOURAGE KIDS TO HANG THEIR ORNAMENT ANYWHERE!**

LARGE group

special notes

We want kids to be able to walk out the door and retell the story of Jesus' birth. If you have time to re-watch the God's Story video (20 minutes left until the service's end), go for it!

presenter tips

Show 'em the Word! Cut and tape parts of the script into the kids' Bible in the props box. This will allow you to show the kids where you're getting the lesson from - and remind you of your lines at the same time! We want kids to know these truths are grounded in the Bible.

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. It's so great to see you here today. I'm super excited...because it's my FAVORITE time of year. Can I have my "Christmas trees" stand up please? (Let kids stand.)

What time of year is it when you start to see Christmas trees everywhere? (Let kids say: Christmas!) That's right, Christmas! And we have a lot of fun celebrating Christmas. But there's ONE reason that we have Christmas. Only one! Let's have some fun talking about what the one reason is...

So let's have a contest: In a minute, I want you to gather around the Christmas tree you decorated. Your leader can help you. I'm going to ask you guys to find a certain ornament...and we're going to see who can find it the fastest. When you think you found it, sit down. OK, everybody stand up and gather around your Christmas tree. (Let kids gather

Ready? Find the ornament...that makes the most noise! GO! (Let kids find it and sit. Ask the group that sat down first which it is, but it doesn't really matter which one they say.)

Now stand up again (Let kids stand.) Find the ornament...that is something you can bake in the oven! GO! (Let kids find it and sit. The answer is the "gingerbread man.")

Good job! Let's do one more. Stand up! (Let kids stand.) Find the ornament...that shows us the REAL meaning of Christmas—the whole reason why we celebrate. GO! (Let kids find and sit.)



script continued

OK, great. Now *everybody* have a seat. (Let kids sit; turn to the group who sat down first): Will you guys come up here? Your leader can bring your tree. (Let kids come up with the leader holding the tree.) Which ornament shows us the real meaning of Christmas? (Let kids say: baby Jesus! **Click to show the picture**) That's right, the nativity ornament with the picture of baby Jesus. Christmas is all about the time Baby Jesus was born! Have a seat, and as your leaders take the trees back to small group, I'll tell you about it. (Let kids sit.)

**Leaders who need to set up for small group may do so now*

JESUS IS PROMISED

So Jesus wasn't just *any* baby. See, long before Jesus was born—like hundreds of years before Jesus was born—God promised to send someone to rescue people from all the sickness and sadness and meanness and death in the world. God's whole family was SO excited for this Rescuer. God told them a little bit about the Rescuer. He told them:

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 Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

Wow! A strong and amazing king was coming!?! The people couldn't *wait*. The problem was...they had to wait...and wait...and wait for this amazing Rescuer who would be the king and bring them peace. They had to wait for *hundreds and hundreds of years!*

Will you guys stand up for a minute? (Let kids stand.) Let's pretend to wait. Cross your arms (let kids follow). Tap your foot (let kids follow). Say "Arghhhh!" (let kids follow) Wow, waiting is no fun! Say, "When will the Rescuer be here?" (Let kids follow.) Great job! Go ahead and have a seat (let kids sit.)

JESUS IS ANNOUNCED

Finally, after hundreds of years...God sent an angel with a VERY special announcement. The angel appeared to a woman named Mary. (**Show picture of Mary.**) When Mary saw the angel, she was terrified! She didn't expect to see an angel! Everybody say, "Ahhh!" (Model a scared look).

But guess what? The angel had great news. He said, "Don't be afraid!" And then he made the great announcement that everyone had been waiting for! (Pick up the megaphone): the angel told Mary (**use the megaphone**): "Jesus, the Rescuer, is coming!"

JESUS IS BORN

The angel's announcement was TRUE. And God made sure everybody knew that this little baby was the special Rescuer. Lot's of CRAZY things happened around the time Jesus was born...things that just don't happen to any old baby. We've got a video to watch about it. As you watch, see if you can figure out one of the CRAZY things that happened!

Video: God's Story / Jesus Is Born



script continued

Wow, that's pretty amazing to see how the Rescuer is born! What are some of the crazy things that happened to show us that Jesus is the Rescuer? (**Show video review image** and let kids say: 1. An angel announced he was coming, 2. John the Baptist jumped in his mom's belly, 3. angels appeared to shepherds, 4. a star appeared, 5. wise men began following the star, 6. God kept Jesus safe, 7. Joseph had dreams)

Pretty cool, huh? God wanted everybody to know that the Rescuer was here. And now we celebrate the Rescuer every year on Christmas. Christmas is like Jesus' birthday. We're going to talk some more about how we can celebrate the Rescuer in small groups.

WORSHIP

For now, let's thank God for the Rescuer by singing to him! This first song is a Crossroads classic to remind us of the story of Baby Jesus coming to earth. We'll watch the video—and, as we do, sing along!

Music Video: Baby Love

Song: Jesus Loves Me

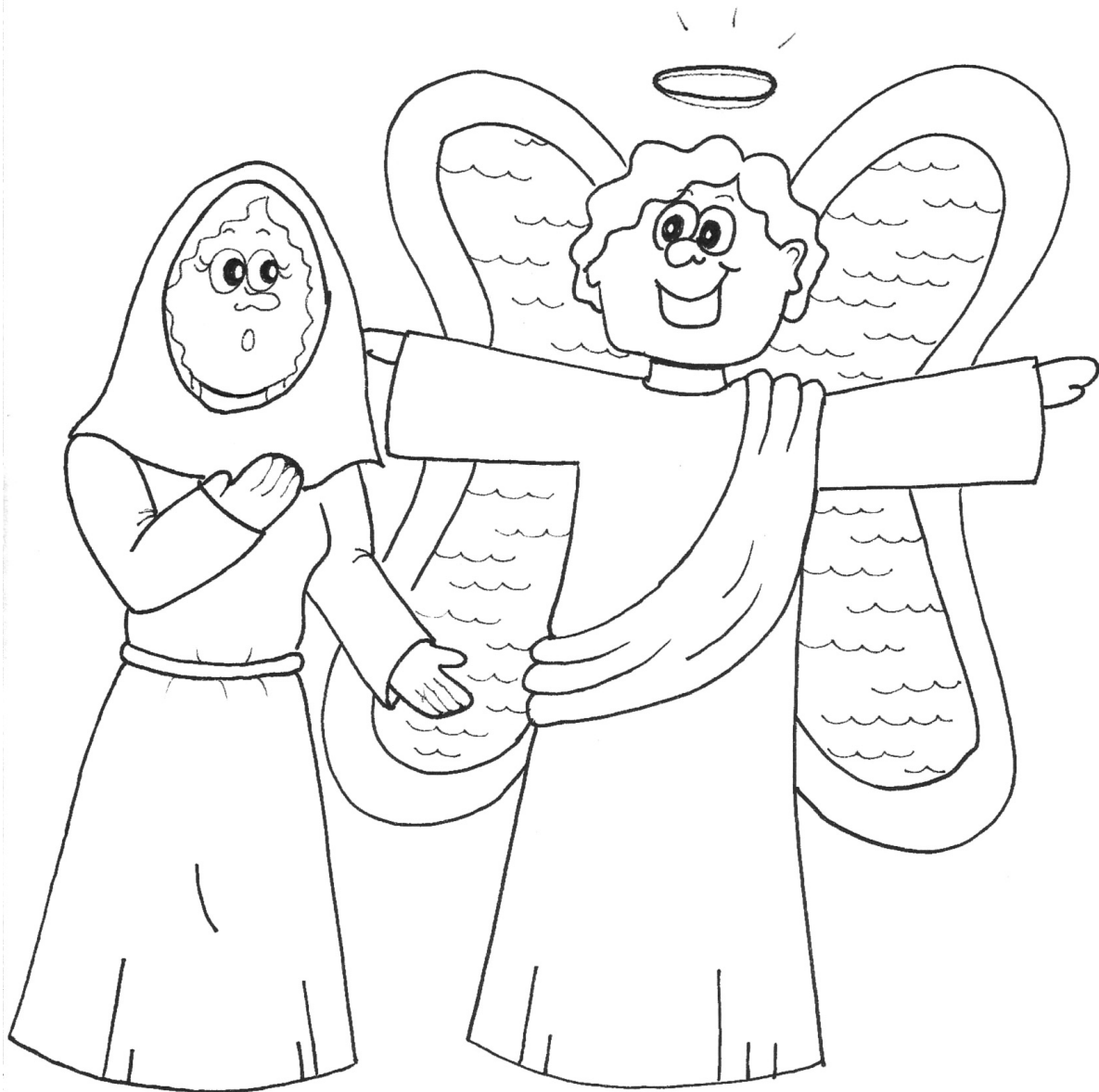
PRAY

Ask somebody to thank God for sending the Rescuer!



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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

1. Large cutout of a Christmas tree (per group)
2. Markers
3. Two sheets of variety ornaments per group (printed on Avery 5293)
4. 1 nativity ornament per small group/tree (please print the same way, but use the

nativity template, cut individually and place these in a separate Ziploc bag for small group leaders to add to their variety pack)

small group supplies

1. Bible (Pg. 1192 Adventure Bible for Early Readers)
2. Coloring Page: Angel visits Mary
3. Markers
4. 1 summary image from video printed in color on cardstock

5. 1 per kid: one circle of round, colored paper

large group supplies

Bible (Pg. 1192 Adventure Bible for Early Readers)
Megaphone

a/v needs

1. Image: nativity
2. Slide with this loop:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
3. 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 Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.
4. Image: frightened Mary
5. Video: God's Story / Christmas
6. Video review image
7. Music Video: Baby Love
8. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)

connect questions

Tell me what happened when the Rescuer was born.
What's your favorite part of today's story?

parent page

This week was all about why we celebrate Christmas: Jesus the Rescuer was born! Ask your kid to tell you about it! You can also read about Jesus' birth in Luke 1-2 or watch "God's Story: Christmas" on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.