



Kindergarten-2nd

December 14-15, 2013

DATE

Christmas

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus surprised the people!

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 arrive, ask them if they are going to attend the "Awaited" show with their family. Talk about how it's the story of Jesus being born!

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to retell the Christmas story at home to their friends and families.

large group heads up

Today, we're looking at the Christmas story again. But this time, we're focusing on how Jesus' birth surprised God's family. They expected a warrior in a palace; instead, they got a baby in a manger!



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.*

GET EXCITED!

- Tear off a large sheet of paper
- Ask kids to draw their favorite part of Christmas
- See if you can fill up the page!
- If you have extra time, walk around and look at what other kids drew

This is also a time for you to connect with kids: 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.

**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) retell the story of Jesus' birth and (2) celebrate their favorite parts of the story.

Why? Hopefully they'll be able to retell it to their family and friends.

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

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. (Give each kid/pair of kids a Christmas image): Ask kids to retell the Christmas story. Help them out if they get stuck!
 - a. Image 1: God's family is waiting
 - b. Image 2: an angel appears to Mary / then to Joseph
 - c. Image 3: Joseph marries Mary / they go to Bethlehem
 - d. Image 4: they arrive in Bethlehem / there's no place to stay
 - e. Image 5: Baby Jesus is born with the animals, in a manger
 - f. Image 6: The people had expected a warrior; they got a baby
 - g. Image 7: Angels told shepherds that Jesus was born
 - h. Image 8: Wise men saw the star that appeared when Jesus was born. They began a long journey to visit him.
 - i. Image 9: The people who heard the news worshiped the newborn king
2. Why did God send the king as a baby in a manger instead of a warrior in a palace?
3. Did the way Jesus was born surprise you? Why or why not?
4. Which part of the Christmas story surprises YOU the most? Why?

ACTIVITY

Give each pair a chunk of Play-Doh. Then play a sculptor's version of "Pictionary." Each pair chooses their favorite part of the story. They need to create a scene—or something from the scene—and the other groups guess what it is. (If they need direction, give them specific, concrete objects they can create.)

***Afterwards, pray with the kids and thank Jesus for surprising us and being a king who understands and loves us.**

Extra time? Walk around and look at other small groups' creations. Or give kids a blank sheet of paper and have them draw a picture of their favorite part.

LARGE group

special notes

Today we want to have some fun with Christmas. Adapt the Intro Game to make it really fun for your group!

presenter tips

There are several opportunities for a personal story today. Ask God what he wants you to share with the kids!

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. We are getting very, very close to a special holiday...anybody know what it is?! (Let kids say: CHRISTMAS). Yes, Christmas is coming! Christmas is a time that often makes us really excited. We put up Christmas decorations and listening to Christmas songs. Raise your hand if you're excited for Christmas (let kids respond).

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

Wow, those things make me really excited too! And you know what? I love Christmas so much that even hearing a Christmas song makes me excited. I want us ALL to be excited to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus today. 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



script continued

Good job! Now you guys can sit down. Does anybody know what those songs have in common? (Let kids respond.) 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 EXCITED people were for Christmas to get here!

Let's watch this last song together to remember the story. As you watch, feel free to sing along!

Music Video: Baby Love Crashed into the World

CHRISTMAS IS FULL OF SURPRISES

So the people in Israel were very excited, waiting for their newborn king! They had been waiting and waiting for him to arrive! And just like they were excited for Jesus to come, we get excited to celebrate the newborn king at Christmas. But you know what else happens at Christmas? We get excited, sure...but we also get SURPRISED.

My best Christmas surprise was: **insert a personal story. Give an example of a Christmas surprise that's not gift-oriented.* Raise your hands if you've ever had a Christmas surprise. (Let kids respond. Choose 2-4 kids to share.)

JESUS' BIRTH WAS FULL OF SURPRISES

Well, guess what? The king the people were waiting for was a BIG surprise. They expected a strong and mighty warrior. Maybe somebody like this: **(click to show a picture of a warrior)**. But instead... the one who arrived looked more like this: **(click to add a picture of a baby)**. Pretty different, huh?

They expected a newborn king to be born in a place like this: **(click to show a picture of the palace)**. Beautiful! But instead...the new king was born in a place like this: **(click to show a manger)**. That's a food dish for animals. Think in your head of a pet you have—or maybe a pet your friend has. Would you ever use your pet's food dish for a pillow? (Let kids respond: no!)

Yuck! No way! But baby Jesus' whole BED was a dirty, stinky animal dish....Now, why do you guys think God sent his son to be born this way? (Let kids guess. Affirm each guess, and tell them they might be right.)

Hmm those are some good guesses. For this one, let's get some help from our friend Shrimpola. See if you can figure out why God sent his son to be born as a baby in a manger:

Ask Shrimpola: Jesus Is Born

Wow, thanks, Shrimpola! That's really helpful. What's one reason God sent baby Jesus in a different way than we expected? What's one way he surprised us? (Let kids say: Jesus was a real person who had to go through hard things).

Yeah, Jesus was a real person who had to go through hard things. I mean, is anybody here a king—or a queen? (Let kids respond.) Was anybody born in a palace or a castle? (Let kids



script continued

respond.) Me neither...And God wanted the king to be somebody who could understand us—who knew what it was like to have a bad day.

CONCLUSION

Jesus came to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world. And he loved us enough to become a part of a broken world where wrong things happen. Christmas reminds us that God gave us the GREATEST gift of all. God sent a rescuer who loves and understands us!

That means the king who came as a baby...loves YOU (point to a kid). And YOU (point to another). And YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU (try to look each kid in the eye).

WORSHIP

Let's sing a couple Christmas songs together now! (Both are music videos. Feel free to let the kids watch and sing along—or set them free to make up dance moves. If you know your group will have trouble staying engaged for both, choose your favorite and show that one!)

Music Video: Silent Night

Music Video: Joy to the World

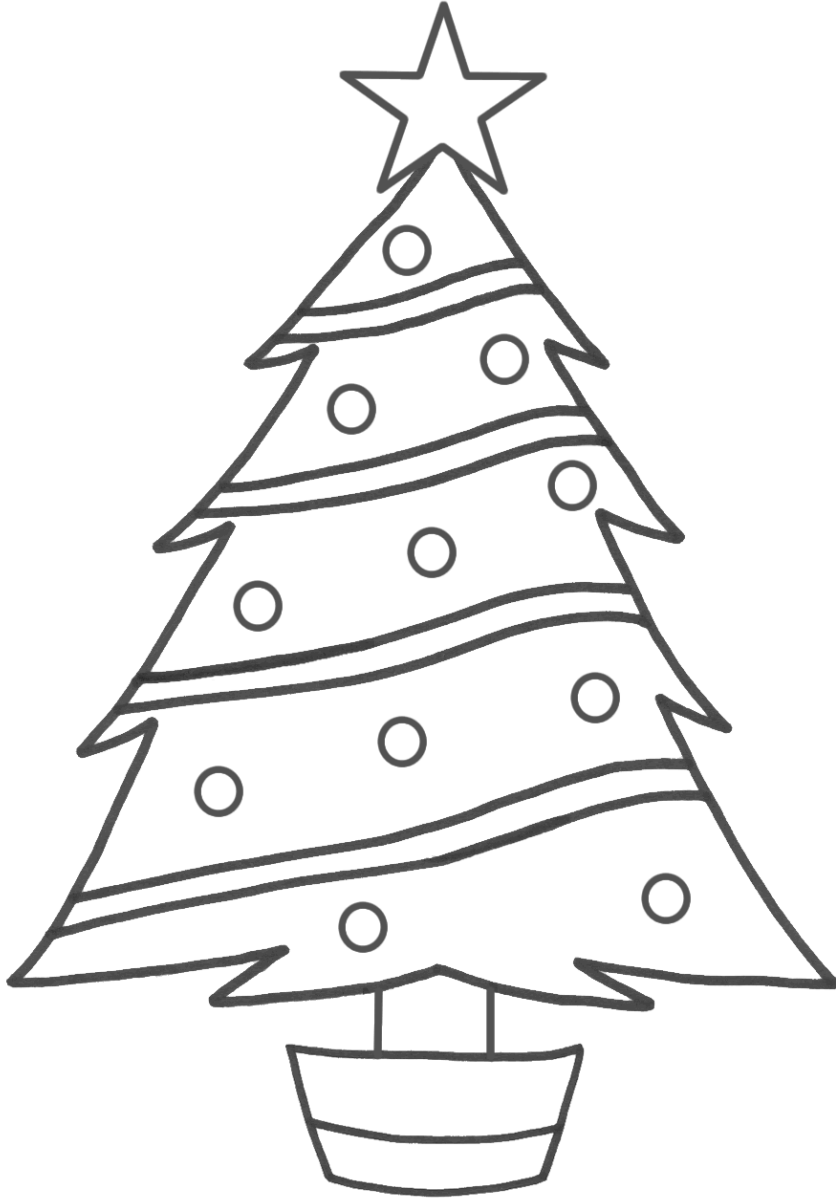
PRAY

Thank God that he loves us enough to send Jesus to Rescue us!



script continued

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Large tear-off sheet of paper per small group
markers

small group supplies

Bible
Markers
Play-Doh
Per small group: 9 images printed in color on white
cardstock (can be re-used at services)

large group supplies

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. Music Video: Baby Love
12. Image: people envisioning warriors
13. Slide with 2 images: people envisioning warriors (again) and baby
14. Image: palace
15. Slide with 2 images: palace (again) and manger
16. Music Video: Silent Night
17. Music Video: Joy to the World

connect questions

Tell me how Jesus' birth was a surprise.
Why did God send Jesus as a baby in a manger?

parent page

Jesus' birth was quite a surprise: God's family expected a warrior in a palace but God sent a baby in a manger. One thing that shows us is that Jesus loves us and understands us. He had struggles just like us. Read the Christmas story together in Luke 1-2 to find out more.