



3rd – 5th

December 6-7, 2014

DATE

Jesus is Born

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2; Matthew 1:21

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus came to earth to be with 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): 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

We're talking about the story of Christmas. As kids come in, ask them what they know about Christmas. You can spark discussions with questions like: Why do we celebrate Christmas? What have you heard about the Christmas story? (If they've never heard about Jesus, just ask them what about Christmas makes them most excited!)

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tell their parents what their paper is supposed to remind them of this week!

large group heads up

We're talking about the Christmas story and how Jesus came to be with us. In fact, one of his names was Immanuel, which means "God with us."



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.*

****The first slide of the Keynote has 13 minutes of Christmas music. Play it while kids make collages!***

CHRISTMAS COLLAGE

****Break into small groups, even if one leader is leading several groups***

- Give each group a **large, tear-off sheet** of paper and **markers**.
- Kids need to create a Christmas collage: their job is to draw pictures and write words that have to do with Christmas—anything goes!
- The goal is to come up with more words and pictures than any other small group.
- Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their week!

****Before you go to Large Group, choose one kid to bring the group's Christmas collage.***

If you have time, remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Jesus's birth including special ways God showed us that he was the rescuer and (2) understand that Jesus is God with us and that God wants to be with us each day.

Why? Hopefully kids will want to be with God when they realize how much he wants to be with us!

Tip: Kids have options regarding what they create today. If your group needs more direction, narrow it down to two options for them instead of offering the whole list.

small group

REVIEW/DIG DEEPER

1. What is Jesus's special name? What does it mean?
2. What special things did God do to let everyone know that Jesus was the rescuer the world was waiting for? (**Show image:** *An angel appeared to Mary, Elizabeth's baby John jumped for joy in her belly, angels announced Jesus, a new star appeared, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams.*)
3. Why do you think so many crazy things happened around Jesus' birth?
4. What does it mean that "God is with us"?
5. What can we do in our lives to connect with and be with God every day? (Have kids go around and share one example.)

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: MAKE A REMINDER

- Sometimes the best way to remember God is with us...is to find a really good way to remind ourselves!
- Give each kid a piece of **Christmas paper** (let them choose the design).
- Let them create! They can (1) draw Immanuel or "God with us" on the paper with **markers**, (2) draw a picture of baby Jesus in a manger, (3) draw a place where they really need God's help or want to talk to him this week or (4) fold it into a design. (5) They could even make another, individual Christmas collage.
 - As they create, ask: What's one thing that would be different in your life if you remembered that God is with us? Why?

***Pray with the kids, asking God to help them find ways to be with God this week.**

Extra time? Make up a crazy Christmas story. The beginning can be as simple as, "Once upon a time, there was a girl who wanted to fly." Then add to it, one person at a time.

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LARGE group



special notes

During Connect Time, each Small Group chose one kid to bring the collage to Large Group. That's who you're calling up to the front in the beginning.

presenter tips

We've got two brand new music videos today. You can preview them on CrossroadsKidsClub.net/weekend.

script

**Click to play intro slide.*

Hello everyone! It's great to see you. I am so glad each of you is here today! You've been drawing Christmas collages and they are getting me really excited for the holiday. If you are holding a collage, will you stand and show it to the group? *(Have kids stand and hold collages for the audience to see. Comment on them, calling out words and pictures. Remark on the group that seems to have come up with the most words and pictures, because that was the objective of the activity. Have everyone cheer for them. Kids can leave the collages in a pile on the side of the presentation area and have a seat.)*

To get into the Christmas mood, we're going to play a little game called "**Christmas Guess-It!**" I'm going to show you a little tiny piece of a big picture. If you think you know what the big picture is, even though you can only see part of it, JUMP up! Ready? *(Show first image—let kids respond. You can have all kids yell it out or choose one kid to answer—use the system that would work best in your environment. The answers are: ornament, Rudolph, Christmas tree.)*

Great job! And those things are really fun. I love Christmas decorations and Christmas movies and Christmas parties. But as you might imagine, today we're going to talk about WHY we celebrate. Does anybody know already? *(Let kids respond.)* That's right, it's when Jesus, God's Son, was born! And today we are going to talk a little bit about the very first Christmas, and some very exciting things that happened back then.

GOD WANTS TO BE WITH US

Before we get into the details of the first Christmas, I have a question for you. Any ideas WHY God sent Jesus to be born on Earth? *(Take a few ideas.)* Yes, God sent Jesus to be born on the earth to rescue us, because he loves us SO very much!



script continued

Take a minute to think about all the people and things you love—your family, friends, pets, even all your favorite foods or movies. (Allow kids time to think; you can think out loud to help them.) Guess what? All that love that you have is *nothing* compared to how much God loves us! He loves us more than we can *imagine*! God loves us SO much he wanted to be with us on Earth. When God gave Jesus Christ to the world to be our savior, he showed us how much he loves us and wants to be with us. In fact, Jesus has a special name that proves this.

IMMANUEL

Let's stop for a second and think of all the names we know about Jesus. Everybody, stand up. (Let kids stand.) In your head, think of ONE name you've heard for Jesus. And if you haven't, that's OK. (Give kids time to think.) **Now find one person, give them a high five and tell them another name you've heard for "Jesus."** (Let kids high five and share names; then have them sit and ask 3-5 kids to share.) Great job, you guys!

Isaiah 7:14 is a verse where hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told us what the rescuer would be like, and even how he would come. Here's what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

SLIDE: Isaiah 7:14 The LORD himself will give you a miraculous sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.

So what's one of Jesus' names? (Let kids say: Immanuel.) That's right. You know, sometimes, we have a name because it sounds cool. But sometimes, names have very special meaning to them. Does anyone know a special meaning your name has? (Let 1-2 kids share.) That's awesome! Well, the name Immanuel means something pretty cool.

(Click to show Immanuel slide.) Immanuel actually means "God with us" in Hebrew. So the special meaning of Immanuel is that God is with us. He came to be with us by sending his own son Jesus to be born and live here on earth with us.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Now that we know what *Immanuel* means, we are ready to talk about the first Christmas. See, when God sent Jesus to be with us, he didn't want it to be a secret. For hundreds of years, he told us what to expect. And then, when Jesus was born, some crazy things happened to show us that Jesus wasn't any ordinary baby.

Even if you've heard this story before, it's exciting to look at it every Christmas. Just like we celebrate our own birthdays every year and like it when people make us feel special, it's important to celebrate Jesus' birthday by remembering how special he is. So we are going to watch a video that tells the story of Jesus's birth. **While you watch, look for some of the crazy things God did to let the world know that Jesus was that rescuer.**

Video: God's Story: Christmas

THE RESCUER

Alright, so what were some of the clues that Jesus was the rescuer that the world was waiting



script continued

for? (**Click to show a slide with images to help kids remember:** *An angel told Mary she would be Jesus's mom, Elizabeth's baby John jumped for joy in her belly, Jesus was announced by angels, A new star appeared when Jesus was born, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams.*) And why do we call Jesus the rescuer? Let's take a minute to look in the Bible for an answer to that:

SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

To "save" means to rescue. And "sins" are all the wrong things we do. So the Bible tells us Jesus was going to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world! That's pretty amazing.

GOD IS WITH US

So God wanted us to know FOR SURE that he had sent his son Jesus. Why do you think he wanted us to know for sure that Jesus was his son? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he wanted us to know that he was with us...because he loves us SO much. You know, being loved by God is pretty amazing. He wants to be with us, even though we mess up.

WORSHIP

Let's spend some time just telling him we love him back. That's called worship, and this song is all about loving God.

Music Video: You Are (Dance moves will be on screen)

Now we'll watch a brand new Kids' Club Christmas music video about waiting for Jesus' birth, just like we're waiting to celebrate it right now!!

Music Video: Savior Coming (Video for kids to watch)

PRAYER

Let's thank God that Jesus is *God with us*! Because of Jesus, we can pray to God any time we want. He is always near! Now we will pray together and thank God for sending Jesus down to earth so that He could always be near to us.



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group:

1 large, tear-off sheet of paper
markers

small group supplies

Per kid

1 piece of Christmas paper: OT: IN-65/61080

Per group

Markers
Bible
Image from God's Story (printed in color)

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. CHRISTMAS intro music: Slide with this loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AZA-MwsSmM>
2. 7 SLIDES: Copy and paste from the ppt. slides called "Christmas Guess It" in the Keynote Images file
3. SLIDE: Isaiah 7:14 The LORD himself will give you a miraculous sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.
4. Image: God with us
5. Video: God's Story / Christmas (<http://vimeo.com/70354897>)
6. SLIDE: Clues that Jesus was the Rescuer (*An angel told Mary she would be Jesus's mom, Elizabeth's baby John jumped for joy in her belly, Jesus was announced by angels, A new star appeared when Jesus was born, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams*)
7. SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
8. Music Video: You Are (Mae will have file)
9. Music Video: Savior Coming (Mae or Dave will have file)

connect questions

Tell me about when Jesus was born.
What does the name Immanuel mean?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc