



# Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup>

December 20-21, 2014

DATE

Celebrate Jesus' Birth!

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2; Matthew 1:21  
Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1192, 1123, 1122)

WHERE TO FIND IT

The promised rescuer is here!

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

Today, we're celebrating that Jesus is here! Welcome kids joyfully, as if we're in the midst of a party. Try to set an excited/upbeat tone in the room.

## check-in/out

Ask kids to show the cards they made to their parents. Hopefully, their parents will help facilitate an opportunity to give those away this week!

## large group heads up

Christmas is nearly here, so we're spending a lot of time focusing in on the main point: Jesus the Rescuer is here!



## 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—you can play it during Connect Time!***

### JINGLE BELL RELAY

- Divide up into teams of five or six.
- Teams will line up on one end of the room and a **jingle bell** will be placed on the other end of the room. Teams will race to their jingle bell, and will have to pick it up and shake it while saying a verse or phrase (see list below).
- Then they will race back and go to the end of the line.
- Teams will try to complete the task as quickly as possible. Have them race their own time (with **stopwatches**) rather than other teams so it remains fun and teams are able to encourage each other.
- After racing a few times against the clock, repeat the relay with different phrases.

Verse/Phrase ideas (select an appropriate level of challenge based on your group, or start with the easier phrases and then move on to the verses).

- Our savior is born!
- Jesus is God's son!

If your team wants a challenge, try these longer verses. They can be shared by two people running down together and each saying half. Practice the verse together first. *(There are **cue cards** for each of these longer prompts!)*

- Behold I bring you good tiding of great joy which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10
- Unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
- When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matthew 2:10
- Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

If you have extra time, sit in a circle and share. You can share plans for Christmas, what the kids already know about what Christmas means, or ways that they can share or spread joy this Christmas so that they are prepared for brainstorming later in the lesson.

**Before you head into Large Group, ask them about the best/worst parts of their week and remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**

***\*Jingle bells must be re-used per service; please don't let kids keep them.***



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) Retell the story of Jesus' birth, including details specifically included in the Bible, excluding extra added details, (2) understand the significance of Jesus's birth as our long promised rescuer and (3) identify ways they can spread the love and joy of Jesus' birth to others.

**Why?** Really, only one Christmas detail matters. We want to focus in on that today.

**Tips:** Question #3 invites you to share salvation with kids. There's no "right" way to explain this to kids. Just be open and honest and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say.

## small group

### REVIEW/DIG DEEPER

1. What are some new things we learned about what the Bible actually says happened when Jesus was born? Tell me some things we know for sure (refer to Matthew 1 and Luke 2 if you're not sure).
2. What is the most important part of this story?
3. How does it make you feel that Jesus was born and he is here to rescue you from all of your sins? Do you know what that means? Does anybody have questions?
4. Do you think we should tell other people what Christmas really means? Why?
5. What can you do this week to spread the joy, love, and excitement of Jesus's birth? (Give gifts, make cards, sing songs (carols), do something nice to surprise a friend, etc).

### JOY/GOOD NEWS CARDS

Explain that today we are going to do something fun to spread the joy of Jesus' birth. We are going to make good news cards to give away to someone else.

- Ask the kids if they know someone who would like to hear the good news about Jesus? Ask them to think about what they could tell this person about Christmas.
- Brainstorm ideas: What could we include on these cards? (verses from the Connect Time cue cards, pictures, hearts, words like JOY!, Kids may also want to include typical Christmas card greetings.)
- Review some verses/phrases they might choose. (See **cue cards** from Connect Time or allow kids to share other ideas.)
- Think of 2-3 people you would like to give cards to. Brainstorm possibilities together. (Family, friends, someone they want to cheer up, someone they want to surprise or encourage.)
- Pass out the **Christmas paper** and **markers**. Allow kids to make 2 cards each.

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**\*Pray with the kids, thanking God for sending Jesus, asking that he help us spread joy, and asking for any special prayers/needs kids in the group may request for the upcoming weeks.**

*Then pass out today's **coloring page**. If extra time remains after kids finish, you could play a game with the jingle bell. Pass it around and try to say the verse as a team like we did in large group. Race and see how quickly you can do it. Try saying it in different voices as you play additional rounds (robot voice, slow voice, high pitched voice, etc.).*

## special notes

Today, we want to focus on the one important detail about Christmas: Jesus the Rescuer was born. Nothing else matters.

## presenter tips

Today's video "Retooning Christmas" might be tough for some of the younger kids to understand. But for kids who have heard the Christmas story a lot, it might present a new perspective. Either way, the lesson brings all kids to the main focus on Matthew 1:21.

## script

### \*Click to play intro song

Welcome to Kids Club! We are so excited to have each of you here today! That was so much fun racing and playing with jingle bells! I just love this time of year! Who else loves it? (Let kids respond.) What are you guys MOST excited for? (Let kids share. Spend a couple minutes just being excited together.)

### **THE TRUE STORY OF JESUS'S BIRTH**

And I am guessing that some of you think you know the story of Jesus' birth, RIGHT? (Kids shout RIGHT!) (Shout back:) WRONG! Well, sort of wrong... The story of his birth that many of us know and that often gets told today isn't exactly right. There are parts of it that the Bible tells us are true, and there are parts that may have been guesses or may have been added over the years as the story continues to be told.

We are going to watch a video in just a moment that is going to set us straight. It is going to review the story of Jesus's birth and it will focus on what parts of that story actually came from the Bible. It will also help us to focus on what is truly important in this story and why it is such an important story that we continue to celebrate over two thousand years later!

*As you watch, pay close attention to what surprises you about what the Bible says really happened. Be ready to share any ideas that are new to you!*

### **Video: Retooning Christmas**

So what surprised you about that video? What was different about it than the story you are used to hearing? (Let kids share.)



## script continued

### WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Even though there are many parts of the story of Christmas often told today that are not actually from the Bible, we learned that the most *important* parts of the story can be found in the Bible. We know that God kept Mary and Joseph safe as they traveled to Bethlehem where Jesus the savior was born. So does it really matter how they got there? Whether they rode a donkey or a wagon? If they were in a stable or cave? Or how many wise men brought the three gifts? No! Because the most important parts of this wonderful story are right there in the Bible.

Think for a moment: What is the most important part of this story? Why is Christmas such an amazing and wonderful thing to celebrate? (Allow kids time to process quietly, then have them turn and whisper with a friend. Allow 2-3 kids to share out loud.) That's right, Jesus came! It doesn't matter exactly how, except that He was God's son and he came in the ways that God had promised.

Speaking of what the Bible really says, let's review our verse together:

**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.**

Why do you think that verse is so important? (Let kids respond.) Yes! It is important because it tells us that Jesus will be the rescuer everyone had been waiting for. He will save his people from their sins. This was such good news because everyone had been waiting for SO long for the rescuer to save them. This verse tells us how much God loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.

### VERSE MEMORY GAME

Now we are going to play a little game to help us remember the last part of this special verse. *(We will focus on only the underlined portion of the verse so that it is not too long for the game.)* I am going to say the first word of this verse; then I will toss this **jingle bell** to someone who would like to read the next word of the verse. *(If you have a really big group, call up a few volunteers instead of asking kids to toss the jingle bell through the crowd.)*

*\*\* (Have kids say the words, one by one, handing the jingle bell to a new person. Help them out if they forget/can't read it. Kids should continue to pass the bell to others who would like to read the next word of the verse. Play a couple of times, depending how the group does with the verse. You can try to read it again faster each time if they are experiencing success with the concept. If it is too challenging for the kids or you have a particularly un-focused group, adult leaders can try modeling the concept together first before allowing the kids to try it again.)*

### WAITING FOR THE KING

Great job, you guys! Let's listen to a song all about how everyone had been waiting so long for the rescuer to be born. God had promised he would come hundreds of years earlier—and that he would be a king. So what kind of king do you think everyone was expecting? (Let kids respond. They might say things like: big and powerful, lived in castle, rich, etc.) Is that what they got with Jesus? As you watch this video think about what people were expecting at that time and how they might have felt when Jesus came.



script continued

### **Music Video: Baby Love**

So even though they weren't expecting a king like Jesus, how do you think people felt when they found out that the rescuer who was promised was finally here, and he was going to save people from their sins and fulfill the promise that God made hundreds of years ago? That must have felt pretty amazing, huh?

Well now, we are going to listen to a song that celebrates joyfully the fact that Jesus, the rescuer has finally come. If you can't remember anything else about the Christmas story, just remember Jesus came to rescue us! As you watch this video, think about the joy that you have knowing that Jesus was born to rescue you. Also think about some ways you can spread that joy to others.

### **Music Video: Joy to the World**

#### **SPREADING JOY**

So while you were watching, did you come up with any idea of ways you could spread your love and joy about Jesus' birth to celebrate the savior finally coming? (Let a couple kids share.) How awesome that you all have so many different ideas! When you get into your small groups today, you will be talking more about this.

#### **PRAYER**

Before we go to small group, let's take a minute to pray. (You can call on a volunteer to lead a prayer, thanking God for fulfilling his promise and sending a rescuer or you can pray out loud with everyone.) *God, thank you so much for sending your son Jesus to be born on earth and to rescue us and be the savior you promised. Help us spread the love and joy of this amazing gift to those around us this Christmas. Amen!*



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

### Per Group

Stopwatch

4 cue cards (printed on cardstock)

1 jingle bell (something like OT: IN-4/699)

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## small group supplies

### Per Kid

- Coloring page: Nativity Scene
- 2 pieces of Christmas paper (OT: IN-65/61080)

### Per Group

- Markers
  - Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1192, 1123, 1122)
  - Use the verse cue cards from Connect Time
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## large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1192, 1123, 1122)

Jingle bell

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## a/v needs

1. CHRISTMAS intro music: Slide with this loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
  2. Video: Retooning Christmas
  3. 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. (underline the second half on the slide)
  4. Music Video: Baby Love (<http://vimeo.com/54176139>)
  5. Music Video: Joy to the World (Public>Kids Club>Kids Club\_Media Videos Songs>z\_ALL CHRISTMAS>Jelly Telly\_Joy to the World)
  6. Extra Music Video: We Wish You A Merry Christmas (Public>Kids Club>Kids Club\_Media Videos Songs>z\_ALL CHRISTMAS>Jelly Telly\_We Wish You a Merry Christmas)
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## connect questions

Tell me the Christmas story.

How can we share the story with others?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc.