



# 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

December 19-20, 2015

DATE

Celebrate Christmas!

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2. Isaiah 9:6

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus 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

There may be a lot of new kids this time of year, so make sure to maintain an atmosphere of celebration and excitement going for the whole hour! Welcome kids with enthusiasm and make sure they know that today is a time of celebrating Jesus.

## check-in/out

Ask kids what they've drawn on their paper, and what it will be used for!

## large group heads up

It's time to celebrate! We've been building up the Christmas story this whole month, and now it's time to spread our excitement about the birth of our rescuer!



## 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.*

### 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 while doing a funny action, and then have to pick the jingle bell 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.

### Examples of funny actions for kids to do while racing to the jingle bell:

- Hop on one leg
- Crab walk
- Crawl
- Jumping jacks
- Skip
- Pretend to fly

### Verse ideas once they get the jingle bell:

- 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

### TALK ABOUT IT

- How do you celebrate Christmas?
- Why do we celebrate Christmas?

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

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group 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 (2) celebrate the joy of Jesus' arrival as our long promised rescue and (3) identify ways they can spread the love and joy of Jesus's birth to others.

**Why?** Our joy comes from the real reason for Christmas, Jesus!

**Tip:** Encourage kids to share their joy with others! Celebrating Jesus isn't just a solitary activity; it's something we can do with other people.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. What did you learn from the story today that you didn't know before? What surprised you most?
2. What's the most important part of today's story? (that Jesus came to the earth to rescue us)
3. Why did Jesus come to earth to rescue us? (to save us from our sins, to rescue us from our wrong choices, to be close to us)
4. What can we do to accept Jesus' rescue? (Believe that he came to save us from our sins, and let him rescue us. Follow him and do what he tells us, celebrate him)
5. Sometimes, the best way to celebrate Jesus is to share him with others! How can you share him this week? (be nice to a friend who needs it, be nice to siblings even if they're not nice back, serve your family, give something away, make a gift for someone, etc.)

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Pass out the **small Isaiah 9:6 verse cards** to each kid, and read it together as a group (or have a volunteer read it by themselves).
- Next, tell everyone to think of the specific way they'll remember to celebrate Jesus on Christmas. It can be the thing they wrote/drew in large group, or something new.
- Hand out a **red or green paper rectangle** to each kid, along with **markers, glue sticks** and a **pipe cleaner**.
- Tell kids to glue the verse onto one side of the paper rectangle. On the other side, have kids write or draw the specific idea they came up with to celebrate Jesus.
- Once they're finished, have them punch two holes in the top of the paper, and twist each end of the pipe cleaner through the holes, so that it can hang (you may need to help kids do this).

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- Tell kids that this is a reminder of what Christmas is really about, and that they can hang this up somewhere to visibly remind them to celebrate Jesus.
- They could hang it on their tree, or a doorknob, etc. Anywhere they'll see it!

*Extra Time? Play the Connect Time relay race again! You could do it in teams, or have kids do it separately. Let them race side by side and time who can do it faster. Come up with more silly things for them to do as they race, like walking backwards, or acting like an animal.*

## special notes

It's easy for kids to get caught up in the temporary excitement of getting presents, and believing in Santa. This week, we want kids to leave with the everlasting excitement and permanent joy that comes with believing our rescuer has been born!

## presenter tips

Large Group requires 2 sheets of large tear off paper and markers. You may need more, or less, paper depending on the size of your group.

## script

**\*Click to play intro music**

### **WELCOME AND INTRO**

Welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so glad to spend time with you all today. You did a great job working together and racing to get to those jingle bells. That was something fun to help us get excited for a certain holiday coming up....anybody know what that is? (Let kids respond, "Christmas!") That's right, Christmas is almost here!

Can I have a few people volunteer and tell me what you're excited for at Christmas? (Let 3-4 kids share.) Thanks guys, those things sound awesome!

Those things are all pretty fun, but there's actually one thing that's way more important than all of them. It's actually the only reason that we have Christmas at all. What person do we celebrate for? (Let kids respond, "Jesus!") Good job, Jesus is the reason we have Christmas!

### **THE REAL STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH**

I know it's so fun and exciting to talk about presents and stuff, but Jesus is WAY more important. And even though we learn about the Christmas story every year, there's actually a lot that you might NOT know. Sometimes, things get added to the story that aren't supposed to be there.

We're going to watch a video about what really happened when Jesus was born. Some of it might be new to you, and that's ok! There are lots of things we can learn about Christmas that we never knew before. As you watch, pay attention to the things that surprise you, and the one thing that matters the most out of the whole Christmas story.

**Video: Retooning Christmas**



## script continued

Wow! I love hearing new things about a story that I think I know really well! What surprised you about this video? (Let several kids share.)

### **EVERYONE CELEBRATES JESUS**

First, Mary and Joseph had to travel on a donkey, maybe with a cart! **(Click to show Mary and Joseph image.)** Next, they needed to find a place to stay! Did they find a fancy hotel room? (Let kids respond.) No, didn't. They did find a cave though, or maybe a stable, where animals slept! **(Click to show animal image.)**

Next, Jesus was finally born! Give me a big "Hooray!" (Let kids respond.) It was just Mary, and Joseph and Jesus and the animals. But then, a little while later, the shepherds came! **(Click to show shepherds image.)** God led them to Jesus, so they could celebrate and worship him.

Finally, God led some wise men, or magi, to bring gifts to Jesus, and worship him. **(Click to show wise men image.)** They were there to celebrate Jesus. There were also angels! **(Click to show angels image.)** Do you know why they were there? (Let kids respond.) They were celebrating and worshipping too!

### **A REASON TO CELEBRATE**

One thing that all those visitors had in common was this: they were celebrating Jesus! God had been telling his people for a long, long time that a rescuer was coming. A rescuer who would save the entire world! So the shepherds, and the wise men, and the angels all celebrated and worshipped Jesus when they finally met him.

Remember how we were talking about presents, and food, and all the fun stuff that we get excited about at Christmas? Well that stuff is great, but it's no where near as great as our rescuer being born! Instead of staying in heaven, Jesus came to the world to be close to us, and live among us. Why do you think he did that? (Let a few kids respond.) You're right, it's because he loves us, and wants us to know him. He wanted to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world.

Here's a verse that we've been learning for the past few weeks. God said these words a long time before Jesus was born. He prepared us, and told us how wonderful our rescuer would be. (Read the verse aloud, and then lead kids in repeating it along with you.)

**SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

When you all hear about Jesus, and how's he's wonderful, mighty, everlasting and a prince, how does it make you feel? (Let a few kids share with the group.) Thanks guys. I feel that way too. I feel huge, bright, wonderful JOY. Do you all know what joy is? (Let a few kids respond.) Good job. Joy is when we're completely satisfied and excited deep down in our hearts.

Regular happiness, like the kind we get from opening presents, just sticks around for a little while. But joy sticks around forever. It's much deeper than happiness. Joy is what we get from Jesus. It's what we get from celebrating him! If you're glad that Jesus has given us a reason to



### **script continued**

celebrate and have joy, then let's all say something special together. We're going to say, "Jesus is here!" and lift our hands in the air. On the count of three...one, two...three! "JESUS IS HERE!" Good job everybody!

### **RESPONSE TIME**

I want everyone to close your eyes. Take a minute, and think of one thing that you can do on Christmas day, to celebrate Jesus. Yeah, you might be eating Christmas dinner and candy, or playing with new toys. But I want you to picture one thing you could do to show Jesus you love him, even in the midst of everything else. (Give kids a minute to think, and get out the large tear off sheets of paper and markers.)

Okay, now that you've thought about it, I want everyone to come up and get a marker. Then, find a spot on the paper and draw or write down what you're going to do to celebrate Jesus on Christmas day. (Give kids several minutes to draw.)

Awesome job guys! (Hold up the paper.) Look at all this! Just think about how, when Christmas comes, we will be doing these things all over our city, in all our different homes. We'll be celebrating Jesus in lots of different ways, just like when the shepherds and wise men and angels all came to worship and celebrate Jesus when he was born.

We're going to pray now, so everyone bow your heads and close your eyes, so that we can spend time with Jesus.

### **PRAY**

God, we worship and celebrate Jesus today. We are so glad that he came down to earth and rescued us. Help us to share our joy with others. We love you so much, amen!

### **WORSHIP**

You know one of the best ways to celebrate Jesus? By worshipping through songs and dance! Everybody stand up, and let's all sing as loud as we can, and dance as hard as we can to let Jesus know how much we love him.

**Music Video: Joy to the World**

**Music Video: Savior Coming**

*\*Dismiss kids to small groups*



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group  
Stop watch  
Jingle bell

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## small group supplies

Per kid  
Verse card (Isaiah 9:6, quarter page size), red or green quarter page cardstock paper, pipe cleaner

Per group  
1 Bible, markers, glue sticks, hole puncher

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## large group supplies

Bible  
2 large tear off sheets of paper  
markers

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Retooning the Nativity (videos>misc)
3. Slide: Mary and Joseph
4. Slide: Animals
5. Slide: Shepherds
6. Slide: Wise men
7. Slide: Angels
8. Slide: Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
9. Music Video: Joy to the World

10. Music Video: Savior Coming (<https://vimeo.com/109156876>)

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## connect questions

What's the most important part of Christmas?  
How can you celebrate Jesus this Christmas?

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## parent page