



Kindergarten-2nd

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/written on their Christmas trees!

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/Phrase ideas once they get the jingle bell:

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

TALK ABOUT IT

- How does your family celebrate Christmas?
- Why do we celebrate Christmas?

****Jingle bells must be re-used for subsequent services; 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?
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, and be with us? (to save us from all the wrong things and wrong choices, to be close to us, to be our king, to serve us)
4. What can you do to celebrate Jesus this week? (worship him with songs, pray to him, tell others about him/Christmas, be kind to others, show your joy to others)
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

- Tell everyone to remember some of the ways we've talked about today that we can celebrate Jesus. Things like...
 - Worshipping him through songs or dancing
 - Talking to him/Praying
 - Telling others about why he came to earth
 - Being joyful
 - Being kind to others
- Hand each kid a **Christmas tree template** and **markers**.
- Give everyone a few minutes to think about at least one way they can celebrate Jesus and share their joy this week.
- In the blank spaces on the tree template, tell them to draw a picture or write down the things they brainstormed.

(Continued on following page)

*Extra Time? Give kids a **coloring page**. After that, 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

Make sure to be enthusiastic and joyful today! The lesson is all about celebrating Jesus' birth, so be sure to model it for kids!

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!

If you're excited to eat yummy food at Christmas, give me a clap! (Let kids respond.) Okay, if you're excited to get a break from school, give me two claps! (Let kids respond.) All right, if you're excited to see snow at Christmas, give me three claps! (Let kids respond.)

Those things are all pretty fun, but there's actually one thing that's way more important than all of them. It's 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. Give me a thumbs up if you agree. (Let kids respond.) Over the last few weeks, we've talked about different parts of the Christmas story, and today, we're going to learn a little bit more.

We're going to watch a video about what 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.



script continued

Video: Retooning Christmas

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.)** Let's all stand up and pretend like we're really tired and worn out from walking, or riding a donkey all day! (Respond along with kids.) Okay, 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.)** Can you all pretend like it's really stink, because there's cows and goats and sheep everywhere? (Respond along with kids.)

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. Do you remember what animals shepherds take care of? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they take care of sheep! Let's pretend like we're all chasing our sheep and trying to get them to behave! (Respond along with kids.)

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 nowhere 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 for Jesus, 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,



script continued

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 Christmas parties and snow, 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 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!

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: Savior Coming

Music Video: Come With Me

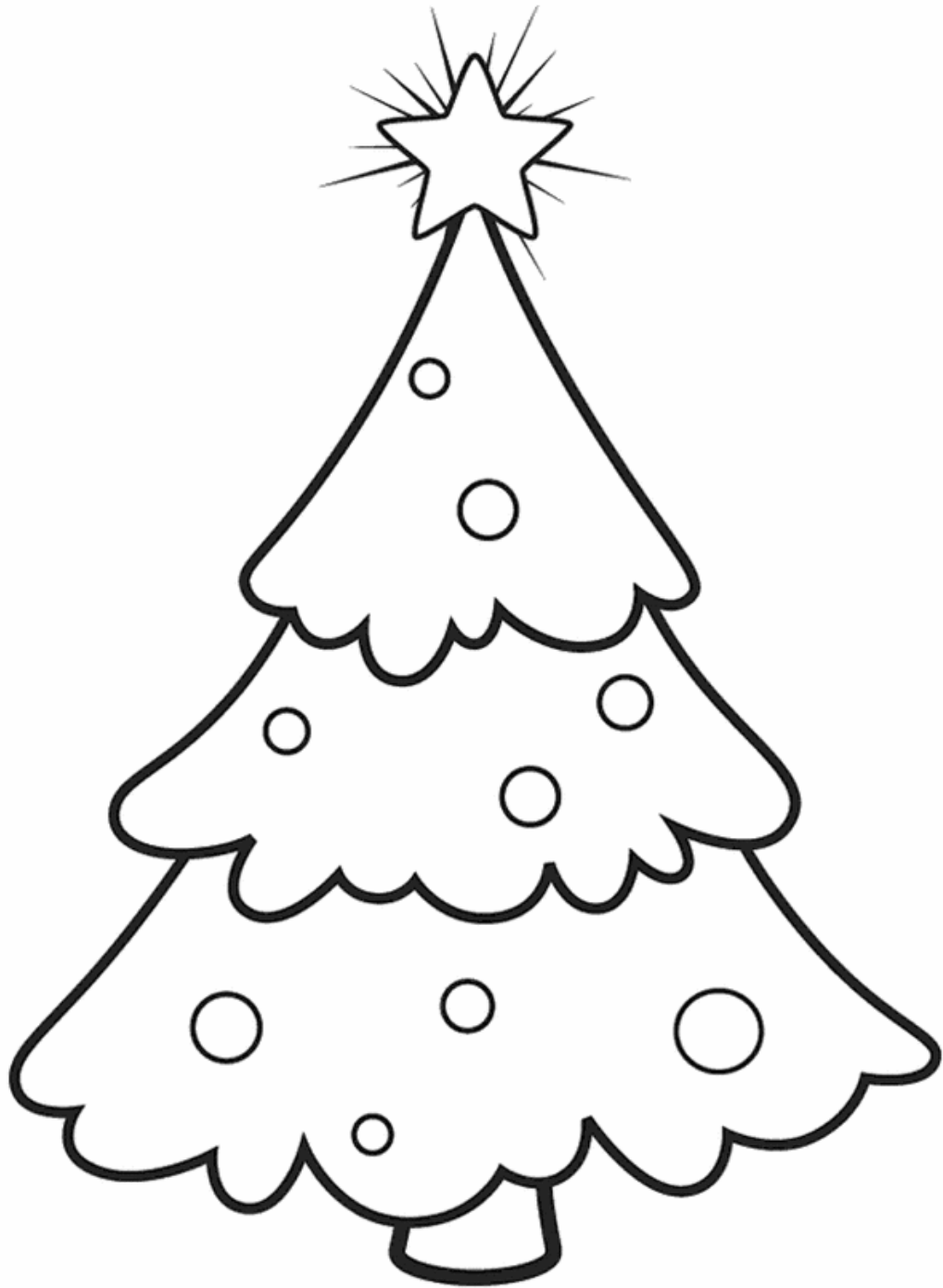
**Dismiss kids to small groups*



script continued

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group
Stop watch
Jingle bell

small group supplies

Per kid
1 Christmas tree template

Per group
1 Bible, markers

large group supplies

Bible

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: Savior Coming (<https://vimeo.com/109156876>)
10. Music Video: Come With Me (hand motions) (<https://vimeo.com/49923933>)

connect questions

What's the most important part of Christmas?
Why do we celebrate at Christmas?

parent page