



3rd - 5th

December 3-4, 2016

DATE

Preparing for Jesus

LESSON TITLE

Isaiah 9:6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God's prepares for a rescuer.

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

Get kids ready to talk about Christmas by asking them some relatable questions: What does your family do on Christmas? Why do we celebrate Christmas? What do you think is the most important part of this day?

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them what they wrote on their Christmas ornaments!

large group heads up

For the month of December we'll be talking about different aspects of the Christmas story. Today, we're focusing on how God prepared us for the promised Rescuer in lots of special ways!



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.*

CHRISTMAS TREE RELAY

- Before starting the activity, **tape large pieces of tear-off paper** on the walls of the room (They should be several feet tall, and one for each small group.)
- Split kids into **small groups** and assign them each a piece of paper. On the paper, the leader (or a kid) should draw a simple outline of a christmas tree.
- Next, tell kids that we're going to decorate our Christmas trees....but as a relay game!
- Have kids line up about 15 feet away from their group's tree (Depending on the size of your room, it can be more or less.) Have each leader stand by the tree with a **roll of masking tape** and a **bin of "decorations."**
- Kids will take turns and crab-walk (walking on hands and knees with your back toward the ground) to the christmas tree, grab a decoration from the bin and stick it on the tree (Each small group leader should tear off a small piece of tape to give kids as they approach the tree!)
- The first team to put up all of their decorations, wins!

****During the relay, play Christmas music from the keynote!***

TALK ABOUT IT

- What are some ways that you prepare for Christmas at home?
- What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

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) understand why we need a rescuer, (2) understand how God prepared for Jesus long before he was born and (3) recognize that we can thank and celebrate Jesus!

Why? What better reason is there to give thanks than the fact that God loves us so much, he sent a rescuer to bring us close to him again!

Tip: If you have a time, try to make an example of the ornament activity beforehand!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Why did people need to be rescued? (People disobeyed and were separated from God; they deserved to die.)
2. How did people pay for their wrong choices in the beginning? (They sacrificed a lamb/animal.)
3. What was the final part of God's rescue plan? (To send Jesus to the world to die in our place.)
4. How do think people felt while they were waiting for their rescuer?
5. How did Jesus come into the world? (He was born as a baby.)
6. How can we remember/thank/celebrate Jesus during the Christmas season? (Discuss different things like reading the Christmas story in the Bible, doing the daily advent calendar on crossroadskidsclub.net, worshipping Jesus with Christmas songs, praying, going to church/Kids' Club, etc.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

For this activity, you'll need **markers, colored paper strips, string, a hole puncher, and a stapler.*

- Kids will make a special **ornament** to hang on a Christmas tree, in a car, or give as a gift to someone!
- Give each child a **red paper strip** and set out **markers**. Point out Isaiah 9:6 (it's printed on half of the strip.) Read it together as a group: Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Next, fold the strip in half. On one side, you can see the verse. On the other side, tell kids to write one way they're going to prepare for/celebrate Jesus this December.

(Continued on next page.)

- Now, turn the folded strip into a christmas light bulb:
 - Pinch the two ends together and **staple** it, **hole punch** it, and put a piece of **string** through it. (You may have to go around and help kids do this as they write on their strips.)
 - Finally, while pinching the top of the folded strip, push it into your palm, then release, like this:



Extra time? Get out some tear-off paper and have kids make a Christmas collage! They can draw pictures of all their favorite things to do/make at Christmas.

special notes

Here's a link to God's Story: Preparing for Jesus!

<https://vimeo.com/92615711>

presenter tips

Do you have a favorite Christmas tradition you do every year, or a favorite decoration you always put up? Share it with kids as you introduce the lesson!

script

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

Notes:

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Say:** Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club, we're so glad to have you here! You guys put together some very creative Christmas trees, and now our room is starting to feel much more festive!
- **Ask:** Christmas trees are one thing a lot of us do to prepare for Christmas, right? What are some other things people do to get their homes ready for the holidays? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, maybe putting up stockings, watching Christmas movies, putting up decorations around the house, or shopping for Christmas presents! One of my favorite things to do is... (Share your favorite way to prepare for Christmas.) I bet there's even more things that people do all over the world, things we've never even heard of! Things like....
- **(Image: KFC)** In Japan, a lot of people eat KFC on Christmas Eve!
- **(Image: Roller skates)** In Venezuela, people roller skate to church for the Christmas service.
- **(Image: Pickle)** In Germany, families hide a real pickle in the Christmas tree, and the kid who finds it first, gets an extra present!

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Main Goal: Identify different ways that we prepare for Christmas, and see that preparations can take a lot of planning and preparation!

Notes:

- **Say:** People all over the world prepare for Christmas in different ways, but one place does something pretty spectacular for the Christmas season. Let's check it out!
- **Video: Star Wars Christmas Light Show**
- **Ask:** Those are some extreme Christmas lights! I bet you all know what music that was, right? (Let kids respond.) Yep, Star Wars! What do you think the person who puts up those lights has to do to prepare for that kind of a show? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, it takes a lot of planning and carefully crafted details to pull that off. In fact, some people who put on light shows have to start planning way back in the summer!
- **Ask:** Why do we spend time making all these preparations? What's the reason? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's all to celebrate Christmas. And today we're going to talk about how God prepared for the very *first* Christmas. He made special plans way in advance, so that Jesus, the Rescuer, could be born at just the right place, during the right time, and with the right people.

WHY GOD'S FAMILY NEEDED A RESCUE

Main Goal: Understand how and why we need a Rescuer, and why God took such special care in his rescue plan.

Notes:

- **Say:** Let's think back to a time *before* Jesus came. All the way back to when Adam and Eve were living in this perfect world that God created. What happened to ruin that perfect world? (Let kids respond.) Yep, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and that's when sin came into the picture, along with sadness, sickness, and death. People were separated from God.
- **Ask:** Now even though people disobeyed God...he planned a rescue. Why do you think He did that? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, it's because He loves us! He WANTS to be close to us. That's why He started preparing for Jesus WAY before Jesus was actually born. That's how important this plan was to God.
- **Say:** We're going to watch a video about how God's rescue plan took place over thousands of years. As you watch, try to figure out what was the final part of the rescue plan.
- **Video: God's Story / Preparing for Jesus**
- **Ask:** So what was the final part of God's plan to save us? (Let kids respond.) Yep, Jesus was born, and lived on earth among us. And then, He died, so WE didn't have to. He took our place.

WE ALL HAVE TO WAIT

Main Goal: Recognize that we have to wait all the time, and connect this to how God's family had to wait for Jesus.

Notes:

- **Say:** Before Jesus could come and do all of this though, God's family had to.....wait.
- **(Loop: Ticking Clock.)** Raise your hand if you love it when you have to wait for things! (Let kids respond.) Nope, not many of us!
- **Ask:** What are some things you have to wait a really long time for? (Let kids respond with varying answers, then move on to the images.)
 - **(Image: Roller coaster.)** How about waiting in line to go on a roller coaster? Those things take hours!
 - **(Image: Car.)** Or what about getting your driver's licence? I bet you guys are excited for that to happen. But you'll probably have to wait several more years before you can get behind the wheel!
 - **(Image: BIG)** Have you guys heard of BIG? It's a really cool night at Crossroads for 6th-12th graders. Some of you might have to wait a few years, but some of you will be old enough to go next year!
- **Say:** There's something that all those activities have in common. Do you know what it is? (Let kids respond.) They're all really special! They're fun, and exciting, and we really WANT to do them. And when something is really special or meaningful, it makes the wait worth it.

GOD'S FAMILY AWAITS JESUS

Main Goal: Understand how long God's family waited for a rescuer.

- **Say:** God's family went through the same thing, but they didn't just have to wait a few hours, or a few years, or even a few decades! They waited *thousands* of years for their rescuer to come (Click the following images in succession to add a new image to the timeline.)
- **(Image: Timeline/Adam and Eve)** So here, back in the beginning, we've got Adam and Eve.
- **(Image: Abraham)** And here we've got Abraham, whom God used to start his family.
- **(Image: Timeline/Jesus)** And here's when Jesus was born!
- **Ask:** But what was going on during all this time in between? How did God's family even know that a rescuer was coming? (Let kids respond.) It's because God made a promise to them! And when God promises that he'll do something...he always does it. So God's family had to trust him, even though the Rescuer didn't come right away.
- **Ask:** Now does anybody remember HOW God told people that Jesus was coming? (Let kids respond and speculate!)

PROPHETS POINT TO THE RESCUER

Main Goal: See how God prepared his family for the coming Rescuer through prophecies.

Notes:

- **(Image: Prophets)** Actually, He told them in a lot of different ways, and he used a lot of different people to do it! (Point to screen.) These are the prophets, and they played a big part in telling others about God’s rescue plan.
- **Say:** Let’s look at a verse from the prophet Isaiah. He talked about Jesus...hundreds of years before he was born!
- **Slide: Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- **Ask:** So what has Isaiah just told God’s family? (Let kids respond.) Yep, that a child will be born, and he will be a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God, an Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace!
- **Say:** Now, when you say something like “Prince of Peace” people might expect an actual prince. And many people in God’s family thought that’s who their rescuer would be; that he would appear as a powerful ruler! But that’s not exactly what happened, because God’s mind doesn’t work like human minds. He does things differently.

RESPONSE TIME AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Give kids a chance to actively respond to what they’ve heard today.

Notes:

- **Say:** We’re going to watch a music video about how Jesus came in the most unexpected way. As you watch, think about how people felt when Jesus finally arrived.
- **Music Video: Love Crashed into the World**
- **Ask:** How did the people in the video react to Jesus birth? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they were excited and overjoyed! They were dancing and singing and praising Jesus!
- **Say:** Let’s take a minute to thank Jesus for coming to the world as a baby, just like the rest of us, and dying for our sins, so that we don’t have to. Right now, think about one specific way you can show Jesus how glad you are that he was born, and that he’s the reason we have Christmas. (Give kids a minute to respond.) Now turn to someone next to you, and tell it to them! (Let kids respond.) All right, good job guys! Let’s pray.
- **Pray:** Jesus, you came to the world at just the right time, in just the right way. Thank you for being our rescuer, and for giving us a reason to celebrate you! Amen.
- **Say:** Let’s stand up and worship Jesus with a classic Christmas song that’s been revamped!
- **Music Video: Joy to the World**

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per small group: 1 bin, 1 large sheet of tear off paper, 1 roll of masking tape, 10 colored doilies (Discount School Supply: # DOILIES) 10 paint chip circles (OT:IN-13726728), 10 paper circles

small group supplies

Per group: markers, hole punchers, staplers, ball of yarn

Per kid: 1 Isaiah 9:6 red paper strip (print the Isaiah 9:6 asset on 8.5x11 red cardstock; each strip is 1.25x11, page 10)

large group supplies

Per Group: Bible

Per kid: none

a/v needs

1. Song: Background Christmas music (KC/SM media videos songs>christmas)(appx 13 min)
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Image: KFC
4. Image: Roller skates
5. Image: Pickle
6. Video: Star Wars Christmas Light Show (0:00-0:38; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5dfpe_-Lgg)
7. Video: God's Story / Preparing for Jesus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67HqiVGt6xI>)
8. Loop: Ticking Clock (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVTGGBLyU5I>)
9. Image: Roller coaster
10. Image: Car
11. Image: BIG
12. Image: Timeline/Adam and Eve
13. Image: Timeline/Abraham
14. Image: Timeline/Jesus
15. Image: Prophets
16. Slide: Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
17. Music Video: Love Crashed into the World (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRt8RGwLVDw>)
18. Music Video: Joy to the World (KC/SM media videos songs>christmas)

connect questions

What was God's rescue plan?

How did God prepare his family for Jesus?

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