

# Alley Rundown - December 15-16, 2018

**Bible Story:** Simply the Best (Jesus is Born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

**Bottom Line:** God gave us the greatest gift.

**Key Question:** What are some ways you can give?

**Memory Verse:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

**CONNECT TIME:** This time is meant to engage your students, or “break the ice”, and develop relationships within your time together.

## **GAME: Candy Cane Catch**

**Supplies Needed:** Christmas Ribbon (2 6-foot lengths per group), chairs (3 per group), Packing Tape (one roll per group), and Plastic Candy Canes (10 per group)

**What You Do:** Place 3 chairs 6 feet apart. X-----X-----X

Tape both ribbons from the end chair to the center chair. Players must stand on top of the end chair and try to drop a candy cane onto their section of ribbon and get it to stay there. Play until every player has a turn, or see who can get the most in a minute.

*Begin Rundown...*

“Hey, everyone! Christmas is almost here, and I will tell you . . . I am really in the spirit! I love everything about this time of year . . . decorating the house, brainstorming presents to buy for my family and friends, singing Christmas carols, and eating lots of good holiday food. Now by show of hands, how many of your families send out a Christmas card with your family photo on it?”

“That’s great! So . . . did you ever have your photo session not go as planned? Maybe like some of these gems I found!”

## **CG: Awkward Family Christmas Photos**

*As you click through the pictures, make comments. Be sure that the comments are of a positive nature and in good fun.*

“Those are awesome, right? You just gotta laugh when you see those pictures. Like I said, I love everything about this season! Now as much as we get into the decorations and presents and food and pictures . . . Have you ever wondered if Christmas is more than just the Christmas season? What I mean is . . . is the story Jesus being born stuck in December only to be talked about once a year? Or is it a story that matters in March or July? For some of you, that may be a weird question. For others it may sound like an easy question to answer. Either way, it’s a good question for us to ask this time of year. Let’s take a look at this week’s episode to help us find some answers!”

## **CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:10)**

“When you’re at home with your family, does the birth of Jesus matter? Does God sending His Son into the world change the way we deal with the frustrations we have with our siblings or how we show

respect to our parents?”

“If the birth of Jesus mattered then, then it matters now, too!”

“Two thousand years ago God gave the greatest gift. But now we have the opportunity in ALL of these areas to show God’s love and give to others. We can show compassion for those who are hurting, just like God showed compassion for us. And this is not just something we do only in December. The birth of Jesus matters in March and July. It matters in your classroom, on the soccer field or basketball court, in your home, and with your friends.”

“As you go to small group today, brainstorm some other places in your life that the birth of Jesus matters. Talk about how God gave and then discuss this question:

**CG: Key Question Slide**

“**What are some ways you can give?** God gave us Jesus, a gift that means as much on April 14<sup>th</sup> as it does on December 25<sup>th</sup>. And as we respond to God’s gift, how can we have compassion toward others and give to them throughout the entire year. Think about how you can do that not just next week at Christmas but every day. Before we head to Small Group, let’s pray.”

**OFFERING TIME:**

**Homer Glen: Victor**

**New Lenox: Daniel**

**Orland Park: Michael and Valerie**

**CG: Picture of Child**

**CG: Distance between Chicago and Nairobi JPEG**

“Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at (*your campus*), we give our offering to help support (*your campus child*) in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of the distance between Chicago and Nairobi! That’s seems like forever away, but when we give our offering, it’s like we are reaching right into Nairobi to help out. If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (*point children to location of bin*)

**CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG**

...when the video plays. If not, that’s ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him...”

**CG: Offering Verse JPEG (Hebrews 13:16 NIV)**

*(Invite students to place their offerings in bin as Worship Experience Video plays)*

**CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)**

**NOTE: Students will write “Merry Christmas” Cards to our troops!**

*Dismiss to Small Groups*