

# Alley SG - 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)

## 1. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Gift bag filled with bells (1 per group)

**What You Do:**

- **Invite** students to take some jingle bells from the bag, but don't tell them why.
- For each bell, **ask** them to share one way to give to others—not only at Christmas, but also all year long.
- If they run out of ideas, **remind** them that there are more ways to give than by simply buying stuff.
- **Challenge** them to think of ways we can give our time, attention, talents, energy, and skills to meet other's needs.

**Wrap Up and Say:**

"It's amazing how many ways there are to give. Even if we don't have a lot of money, we can give some amazing gifts to others by sharing our time with them in some way. Everyone gets into the giving mood at Christmas, but true compassion is all about keeping the giving going all year long in many different ways."

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bible, 11x17 Card Stock (5 sheets per group, per service), markers, scissors, sticky notes (3 stacks per bin), pens

**What You Do:**

- **Divide** your group into two teams.
- **Give** each team 2 sheets of 11x17 Card Stock, markers, and scissors.
- **Assign** them a nativity figure (Team 1: Mary, Manger) (Team 2: Joseph, the Shepherds) then **ask** them to cut their paper into a life-size figure. Suggest that they outline the shape before cutting it out.
- **Ask** the groups to arrange the paper nativity scene on the floor or tape it to a wall when finished.
  - **Ask** the group what is missing in their Nativity.
    - Hopefully they will come to the conclusion that baby Jesus is missing. If not, you can clue them in.
    - NOTE: At this time, take another sheet of 11x17 Card Stock and cut out a Baby Jesus and set Him on the Manger.
    - **Invite** someone to look up and read 2 Corinthians 9:15.
- **Say** something like, "Even though this verse says it's impossible to tell how wonderful God's gift of Jesus is, let's try anyway."
- **Set out** sticky notes and pens.
- **Ask** students to write single words on individual sticky notes that express the awesome gift of Christ then attach the note to the manger. (*Note: Save these to be used again during "Make it Personal with Prayer."*)
- To encourage creativity, **suggest** they write words that follow ONE (not all) of the following rules:
  - Begins with "S"
  - Ends with "T"
  - Includes the letter "M"
  - Has only one vowel (A, E, I, O, or U)

- **Discuss:**
  - What makes God’s gift of Jesus the greatest gift ever given?
  - If someone is genuinely thankful for the gift of a Savior, how will it show up in his or her life?
  - How does God’s gift to you encourage you to give to others?

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### Ask:

- What are some ways to show compassion to someone who doesn’t believe in Jesus?
- Who do you know that would be totally blown away if you gave him or her a gift? For example, a kid who’s hard to like or someone you don’t know very well such as your bus driver or the person who delivers your mail. What could you give that person or do for them throughout the year ahead?
- Share about a time when you had to give something up in order to show compassion to someone.
- What advice about showing compassion would you give someone a year younger than you?

### 4. Verse to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, jingle bell (1 per pair of students)

#### What You Do:

- **Pair** boys with boys and girls with girls.
- **Give** one partner the jingle bell and ask him or her to clench it tightly in his or her fist.
- **Challenge** the other partner to try to pry the coin out of his or her partner’s hand.
- **Hand out** Bibles to look up Proverbs 3:27 and read it.
- **Discuss:**
  - Why should we not hold back compassion from others?
  - What do you have that’s within your power to do for or share with someone?
  - Why do you think it’s often easier for people to give at Christmas then throughout the rest of the year?
  - What are some fun or creative ideas for giving gifts to others—not just during the Christmas season but at other times, too?

### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Note Cards, pens, sticky notes from “Bible Story Extension”

#### What You Do:

- **Give** each person a note card.
- **Ask** them to write a prayer of praise and thanks to God for giving us the greatest gift.
- **Encourage** the students to use some of the words on the sticky notes from the “Bible Story Extension” activity.
- **Invite** those who are willing to pray their prayers aloud to do so when everyone is finished.
- **Suggest** that they take their notes home to show their parents/guardians.

#### What You Say:

*“Dear God, You always have been and forever will be the greatest gift-giver of all. We need Your help to be givers as well. Show us ways that we can share compassion this week before Christmas. Then keep opening our eyes to the needs of others all year long. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*

**NO “GOD TIME” SHEETS THIS WEEKEND DUE TO CHRISTMAS BREAK**