

City LG - December 15-16, 2018

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

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift.

Memory Verse: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16 (NirV)*

CG: 2-minute Countdown Video

Large Group Leader/Worship Leader enthusiastically greets children and invites them to stand for Worship.

WORSHIP: “It’s Christmas Time” and “Noel”

(Worship Leader Prays)

“Hi, everyone! I just love the Christmas season with all the lights and decorations, all the fun music, and all the beautifully wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree. Christmas is the most fun time of year, so that’s what we’re going to do today! Who want to play a Christmas game? Awesome! This game is called “ChristMESS Time”! Here’s how to play...”

GAME: ChristMESS Time!

ITEMS NEEDED: 2 Gift Bags of Random Christmas Items and 2 Christmas Box “Hoops”
(NL & OP have 4 boxes and 4 bags)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place 2 Christmas Box “Hoops” in the middle of your room, far enough apart so the items don’t get mixed up when they kids throw them.
- Split your group up into teams of about 10-13.
- Have children line up several feet away from their team’s box (use floor tape as a starting line if needed)
- Place gift bag of items next to the first person in line.
- Teams will compete against the clock (90 Second Timer), and one another, to be the team that has the most Christmas items in their box. A player grabs one item from the gift bag, quickly tries to make it into the box, then goes to the back of their line.
- Once all items are thrown, if there is still time, the player next in line can run up and grab any of their team’s items that missed the box, but they must go back to the starting line to throw it.
- Lift the box and count the items - the team with the most items in their box within the 90 seconds wins.

NOTE: If needed, play the game again, until everyone has a chance to throw an item.

CG: 90 Second Timer

After the Game, Say: “Wow! Great job everyone! Our game was a little messy, with random Christmas items flying everywhere. Today we’ll learn about how Jesus came down to Earth as the best gift ever, made our lives better, and cleaned up the mess we call sin in our lives. Let’s get started!”

“I love giving gifts, and I love receiving gifts. Don’t you? I’ve been given a lot of gifts over the years, but there’s one gift that stands out to me as the greatest gift EVER. And He is who our story is all about today. (*Hold up the Bible.*) Let’s pick up the story in the book of Luke, chapter 2.

Open the Bible to Luke 2:1-3 (NIV) and read.

“In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law.

“It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

“Let’s think about this for a second. Joseph and Mary were about to have a baby. They found out about this new law from Caesar Augustus. It said they had to travel all the way to BETHLEHEM to be counted. A trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem would have taken them almost a week! Let’s see if you can figure out what they did.

“Did they . . .

- a. Throw themselves on the ground and throw a temper tantrum?
- b. Pretend they didn’t hear about the new law?
- c. Obey the law and travel to Bethlehem to be counted?

“What do you think: A, B, or C?” (*Pause for response.*)

“That’s right! The answer is C! Let’s look at our Bible Story video today to see what happened next...”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:42)

“For hundreds of years, God’s people had been waiting for God to send a rescuer. They thought He might send a mighty warrior. No one imagined that the Savior of the world would be a baby. But that little baby would grow up and change the whole world.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**God gave us the greatest gift.** He gave us Jesus so we could have a relationship with Him that would last forever. It’s true—Jesus is the best gift EVER in the history of the world! We give gifts today as a way to remember how God gave US the greatest gift when He sent His Son for us. When you’re opening presents around the tree in just a few days, remember that the reason we give is because God gave us Jesus on that very first Christmas.”

“He knew that we needed a Savior because of our sin problem. We sin—we do wrong things. And since God is perfect, our sin separates us from Him. But God made a way for us to have a relationship with Him without sin being in the way. He sent His Son, Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He took care of our sin problem for good.

All we have to do is believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then we can have a personal relationship with God that will last forever!

“That’s what our Memory Verse says in John 3:16. If you know it, say it with me.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life (NirV).

“God showed compassion to us. We can show compassion to others, too. After all, presents don’t just come in boxes under the Christmas tree. We can give the gift of compassion anytime. We give not only to show others that we care, but also to reflect to others how God gave us Jesus, the best gift ever.

“Think about how you can make others your mission. Spend time with someone doing their favorite thing. Write a silly song to make someone laugh. Give your energy to help do chores around the house. Cleaning your room would be an awesome gift for your parents—believe me!

“It’s time to head to Small Group now so you can talk some more about God’s greatest gift. Before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Here’s how far away Nairobi is from Chicago!”

CG: Distance between Chicago and Nairobi JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while this funny video of kids telling the Christmas story plays! (*show offering container*).

CG: Christmas Story Video (Runtime: 3:16)

“Thank you for your kindness and generosity, City! Have fun in Small Groups!”

Dismiss kids to their Small Groups