

## Alley Rundown—December 12th, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** Because of Christmas Day (Jesus Is Born/Shepherds Visit) • *Luke 2:1-20*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

**Today's Key Question:** How are you celebrating Christmas this year?

**Monthly 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)

*CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos*

### ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY: Rock, Paper, Scissors Christmas Edition

"Hey, everyone! So good to see you here today! I am excited to get started and play a fun game, and this one is an all play!

*SLIDE: Rock Paper Scissors: Christmas Edition*

"So, on the screen you see the different levels."

*SLIDE: Rock Paper Scissors Levels*

"Level Five on the bottom is the lowest. The goal is to make it up to Level One at the top. All of these levels are things that are associated with Christmas songs."

"Level 5, everybody in the room starts out as a 'Figgy Pudding'—you know, (*singing*) 'So bring us some figgy pudding, bring us some figgy pudding.' You will then find someone to go against. Play Rock Paper Scissors."

"If you win, you move up to Level 4: 'Boughs of Holly.' If you lose, you stay at your current level. You must then go find a new opponent, but you can only play the same level. If you win, you move up a level. If you lose, you stay at the same level."

"Level 3 is 'Silver Bells.'"

"Level 2 is 'Jingle Bells.'"

"And finally, Level 1 is 'O' Christmas Tree.'"

"The first person to become 'O Christmas Tree' has to run up on stage and tell me. When I say 'go,' the game starts, and you play against as many opponents as you can, one at a time, until we have a winner. Ready, set, go!"

*Provide commentary along the way and call out to find those who have reached Level 1.*

*"(After the game, find all those who have made it to Level 1 and give them some Alley Cash)  
That was so much fun!*

**CG: Winterpalooza SLIDE**

**“I’m so excited to announce to you all that Winterpalooza is coming back in 2022! What does that mean? I’m glad you asked! That means that we’ll have plenty of FUN planned for you with: Games, Prizes, Competitions, and a simple Lesson...all centered around the theme of Winter! All the FUN takes place on the weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup>. Invite a friend!”**

“Hey, friends! Glad to see you all here today. Can you believe that it is Christmas time already?! It’s the most wonderful time of the year—hey, I should write a song about that—*(beat)* anyway! You know what I want to hear? I want to hear from some of you. What are some of the ways that your family celebrates this time of year? In other words, what are some of your Christmas traditions? For instance . . .”

*Note: The following is an example of a quick personal Christmas tradition. You can share your own or make this a hypothetical example.*

“Growing up our extended family would gather every Christmas Eve at my grandparents’ house. My grandmother had knitted a stocking for every single one of us! She’d fill these with all sorts of fun little gifts and snacks. We’d eat dinner together. Then after dinner, we’d get to open our stocking presents as a teaser for Christmas morning. Those times were the best!”

“That’s about me, but what about you? Let’s hear a few of your Christmas traditions!”

*Call on kids to share examples.*

“Nice! Those are great! You know, it’s crazy to think how we have so many different ways that we can celebrate Christmas!”

“We know we celebrate, but have you ever wondered WHY we make such a big deal about Christmas? The presents and traditions. All the church services. The stores decorated in November. The TV specials and movies. The countless books people have written. People have been making a big deal about Christmas for a really long time. But I mean, it happens every year, right? Why go through it all EVERY single year? And why does each year seem to have bigger and bigger moments of celebration? I mean presents are great and all, but why go through all the fuss? We even know that Jesus is important and the reason for the season, but do we really need all the celebration?”

“You know, even though we might have an idea of how to answer these questions, it’s important to take time and remember why something we celebrate is still important to celebrate. Christmas is one of those times. It’s too easy to take our traditions for granted and just go through the motions without really thinking about why those traditions matter. Let’s take a moment today to remember and celebrate.”

“Today we head into the VERY heart of the Christmas story to remind us WHY we celebrate every year.

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:30)**

“Now, our Episode did an awesome job. But don’t miss this . . . what you just heard . . . THIS was how Jesus entered the world! This was how God chose to send Jesus to us to save us. It

may not have been what was expected. It may not have been what most people were looking for. And yet, God did the most amazing thing. God gave us Jesus!”

“We don’t celebrate this first Christmas because every detail was perfect or because the most perfect people showed up. We celebrate this first Christmas because God gave us Jesus. And the whole moment gives us hope and reminds us that God continues to do amazing things in this world and in our lives.”

“Today as you go to groups, think about this question:

**SLIDE: Key Question Slide**

**“How are you celebrating Christmas this year?** Sure, your answer may include traditions and decorations. And those are great. But in the middle of the presents and the food, how can you remember to take time and celebrate Jesus? How can you celebrate Him this year? You’ll get a chance to chat more about all of this in Small Group and come up with some great ideas. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to save us! Let’s pray.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.*

**OFFERING:**

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor