

City LG—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.

Monthly 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)

ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY: Exploding Gingerbread Houses

CG: *Exploding Gingerbread Houses Volume 2 VIDEO*

NOTE: *Game will be an On-Screen Video. Kids will guess which Gingerbread House will explode. Get the kids guessing, and keep the energy high!*

WORSHIP: Feelin' Like Christmas and It's Christmas

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 9th. Invite a friend!"

"Ok, everyone! Welcome to The City! As many of you know, we have been having a competition to see which Campus could bring in the most completed God Time Cards, bring in the most Bibles, and who could invite the most friends to church! In October, we collected little Cupcakes to represent all of those things! You're probably wondering, which Campus collected the most Cupcakes? Let's watch this video to find out!"

CG: *God Time Cards Winner Video (Runtime: 1:30)*

Awesome job everyone! I definitely think we can do even better in 2022! What do you think?!?!"

Let's get started today with a question you'll talk through with your group. Here it is!"

SLIDE: *How are you celebrating Christmas this year?*

3 minutes on the clock! Talk with your groups!

CG: *Conversation Starting Video (Runtime: 3:00)*

"Hi, everybody! Today we start our Bible Story with a woman named Mary. Mary was going to have a baby VERY SOON! Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was also going to have

a baby. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, then she went home to Nazareth. Then the ruler of the land, Caesar Augustus, made a new law.

Pose like you're blowing a trumpet and make a trumpet noise. Then motion for the kids to mimic you.

"This law said that everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted. And when the ruler of the land makes a law, you have to follow it!"

"Does anyone know the name of Mary's husband? (*Pause for response.*) Right—Joseph.

"Joseph's family came from Bethlehem. So that's where Mary and Joseph had to go in order to be counted. There's a good chance that Mary and Joseph had heard the words God had spoken through the prophet Micah hundreds of years before.

Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NIRV) and read.

"Bethlehem . . . you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel.

"The journey to Bethlehem would have taken several days over rough roads. Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem . . . but it was so crowded that there was no place where they could stay! Eventually, Mary and Joseph ended up in a place where animals stayed. Right there, Mary had her baby boy. She wrapped Jesus, God's very own Son, in some large pieces of cloth. She laid Him in a manger, which was the place where the animals normally ate their food. Let's find out what happened next with the help of this week's video!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:00)

"The shepherds were so excited that they went and told EVERYONE that the Savior had been born. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said. But Mary kept everything that had happened in her heart, like a wonderful treasure. This is why we celebrate Christmas. Let's learn our Bottom Line for today!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"We [Bottom Line] celebrate because God sent a Savior!"

(Take some time to add your own moves to the Bottom Line and recite it with your Group)

"You see, God always had a plan to rescue all people from sin. And this plan came true when God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus is God's greatest gift. His birth brought good news of great joy for EVERYONE—including us today! Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus."

PRAY: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior! It's such an exciting time as we get ready to celebrate Christmas. In the middle of all the fun times with our family and friends, please help us remember what Christmas is really about. Remind us of what's most important: You sent Jesus to save us. Jesus really is the best gift we could ever receive. We are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

“That was such a fun way to tell the Christmas story! Maybe that’s your first time hearing how Jesus was born or maybe you’ve heard the story before. Either way, I hope you’ll never forget how amazing it is that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. As we celebrate Christmas this week, let’s remember what God has done for us.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

“It’s so cool because God always had a plan to rescue us . . . and God’s plan came true through Jesus! The angels announced good news that would be for everyone. God had sent a Savior, Jesus. And Jesus is God’s very own Son. Jesus would grow up to teach people a better way to live. He would perform miracles and heal people. He would give His life to save people who were lost and broken. Jesus is God’s greatest gift! It’s like we read in our memory verse, John 3:16. Say it with me.”

SLIDE: 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, NIV)

“When we put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever! Now THAT is something to celebrate! Now it’s time to have some more fun in Small Group. Merry Christmas, friends! See you next time!”

Dismiss kids after leading offering.

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!”

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