

City SG—December 11th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: The Greatest Gift (Jesus Is Born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus is the greatest gift.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (*NirV*)

1. Gift Relay

What You Need: "Memory Verse" cards inside gift boxes (2 sets per Group); painter's tape; and Bible

What You Do:

- Tape a start line and finish line.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Look up Luke 2:11 and read it aloud once to refresh their memory.
- Direct each team to line up behind the start line.
- Give the first kid on each team an open gift box with the cards from the "Memory Verse" Activity Page inside.
- When you say, "Go," direct the first kid on each team to run to the finish line with the gift box, take a card out, and start the verse on the floor.
- Then each kid runs back with the gift box and hands it to the next kid in line who will run to the finish line, take a card out, and continue assembling the verse.
- Continue playing until the verse is completely assembled. (Kids may have to run down without placing a card on the floor, but instead move one at a time to get the verse in order.)
- The first team to assemble the verse successfully, wins!

What You Say:

"What's one thing you'd go nuts over if you got it this Christmas? (*Invite responses.*) Why do you think I had you run back and forth with a gift box in your hand? (*Invite responses.*) Well yes, because you needed the memory verse cards, but also because the greatest gift any of us can ever receive is Jesus.

"Jesus, the baby born where the animals stayed, who grew up with His family, and went on to die and rise again as God's rescue plan for all people, is the greatest gift anyone has ever gotten. And God gave Him to everyone! So, no matter what's waiting under the tree for you next week, don't forget that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift.**"

2. Nativity

What You Need: "Room" Activity Page (1 per kid), "Animals" Activity Page (1 per kid), "Instructions" Page (1 per group), markers, resealable plastic bags (1 per kid), glue sticks, and Bible

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Room" Page and an "Animals" Page.
- Set out the markers.
- Invite the kids to color both pages.
- Referring to the "Instructions" Page, demonstrate how to fold the "Room" Activity Page and fold and glue the "Animals."
- Ask the kids to follow your lead and do the same.
- Look up Luke 2:1-7 in the Bible.
- Invite the kids to set up their nativities up as you read Luke 2:1-7 aloud.
- Give each kid a resealable bag and encourage them to place their nativity pieces in them.

What You Say:

“Wow! Your nativities look beautiful! Who do you see in the nativity? (*Invite responses.*) What was their part in the Christmas story? (*Invite responses.*) What’s your favorite part of the Christmas story? (*Invite responses.*)

“God showed you how much you are loved by sending Jesus. No one understood it then, but this tiny baby would grow up to teach and heal and show people what God is like. Then Jesus would choose to lay down His life for you and me and the whole world to defeat sin and death itself.

“If you look closely, you’ll find a heart in the nativity. That’s to remind you that Jesus is the ultimate example of God’s love for you. Take this nativity home and place it in your room to remind you that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift.** On Christmas day when you open gifts, eat lots of food and candy, and have fun with family, remember to take the time to think about how much God loves you and celebrate the greatest gift you’ve ever been given—Jesus.”

3. Best Gift Ever!

What You Need: Whiteboard, dry erase marker, and eraser (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Set out the whiteboard.
- Invite a volunteer to stand in the front.
- Ask them three questions.
- Invite the volunteer to either act-out or draw their answer.
- Direct the rest of the group to watch and try to guess the answer.
- Repeat the same questions for each kid. (If time is short, cycle through the entire group asking each kid the same question before moving on to the next question.)
 - What’s the most memorable Christmas gift you ever received?
 - What’s the most memorable Christmas gift you ever gave?
 - What are you hoping to get this Christmas?

What You Say:

“It’s exciting to get gifts. Some of you have received or are expecting some fun and surprising gifts! **[Transition] In Large Group today, we heard about the best, most surprising gift ever given in the whole history of the world! Jesus! Jesus is the best gift EVER!**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Nativity scenes from “Nativity” activity

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has the nativity scene they made.
- Ask the kids to hold their nativity scene and silently reflect on how much God loves them.
- Close your group time in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus as a gift of love.

What You Say:

“Thank You, God, for giving us the greatest gift. You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer—to save us so we could be part of Your family forever. Thank You for giving us such an amazing reason to celebrate at Christmas. In the middle of our busy day on Christmas, remind us to take a moment to thank You for all You have given us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift.**”