



## CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Go Tell It | Luke 2:8-20*

**Bottom Line:** *Celebrate Jesus with others*

**Memory Verse:** “[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:21 (NIrV)*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what*

**Series Overview:** Have you ever stopped to listen to a group of carolers and then joined them to go spread some more Christmas cheer with others? Music is such a big part of Christmas, but it’s not the main reason we celebrate. That’s why this December, we’re singing loudly as we jam out to our Christmas Playlist to celebrate Jesus, God’s greatest gift! As we get in the mix this Christmas season, let’s take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.

**Bottom Line: Celebrate Jesus with others.** This story reminds us that Jesus didn’t just come for the powerful or most important people. Jesus came to show everyone that they can be part of what God is doing in the world. We pray that this Christmas kids will remember that Jesus came for them and for everyone around them, and that’s a good reason to celebrate!

---

## OPENING SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

---

### Christmas Mad Libs

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding*

**What You Need:** “Christmas Mad Libs” Activity Page; writing utensil

### What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Explain that kids will work together to write some silly Christmas songs by providing different words.
- Read the first song from the “Christmas Mad Libs” Activity Page aloud, pausing at each blank space to ask a kid to provide a word based on the clue provided.
  - For example: something that moves, a thing, an action, etc.
- Call on the kids to provide answers and fill in the blanks with their suggestions.
- After you fill in the blanks for the song, sing the new, silly lyrics to the group!
- Repeat for each song on the “Christmas Mad Libs” Activity Page.

---

## LARGE GROUP

---

**Large Group Overview:** For Week 4, we continue the story in Luke 2:8-20. Jesus was born, and it was now time to announce it to the world. Instead of heading to the wealthiest people, some angels visited the shepherds and announced Jesus’ birth to them first! The shepherds ran to see Jesus, and once they did, it was news they couldn’t keep to themselves. Jesus is worth celebrating with everyone!

---

## SMALL GROUP

---

### For Everyone

#### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Butcher paper (or other large paper), painter’s tape, and a device for playing upbeat Christmas music

#### What You Do:

- Place the five pieces of butcher paper (or other large paper) in various sizes on the floor and secure them using painter’s tape.
- Explain to the kids each piece of paper is like an island.
- Set the rules of the game:
  - When the music starts, start dancing.
  - When the music stops, find an island to stand on.
  - Multiple kids can stand on the same island at the same time.
- Explain that you’ll be removing an island after each round, and the goal of the game is for kids to find ways to help each other stand on the islands so no one is eliminated from the game.
- Play the music to start the first round.
- After a little while, stop the music, choose an island to remove (leave the largest island for the end), and remind kids to help each other get safely to other islands without touching the ground.
- For the final round, encourage kids to figure out how to stand or be on the remaining island together. (It should be the largest island.)

#### What You Say:

*“That was fun! Great job sharing the islands with your friends so everyone could stay in the game. Christmas is a great time to share how much God loves us with*

*others. Whether we feel important or not, whether we have a lot or a little, or whether we're famous or not, God's love is for all of us! Jesus' birth shows God's incredible love for each one of us.*

*“One way we can show God's love is when we **[Bottom Line]** celebrate Jesus with **others**. You do that every week when you come here and spend time with your friends. Can you think of other ways we can **[Bottom Line]** celebrate Jesus with **others**? (Invite responses.) Those are some great ideas! This week, let's find ways to do that!”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate example with your group about a time when you celebrated Jesus with others. Maybe you attended a worship service or concert with someone. Or maybe you shared a testimony with someone about how God brought you peace during a hard time. How did celebrating Jesus impact you and those you were with?)*

### **Pray + Dismiss**

#### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Encourage the kids to think of someone they want to share the love of Jesus with.
- Encourage the kids to ask God to give them the courage to share God's love with the person they thought about.
- Close the group time in prayer.

#### **What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, so we can be with You forever! You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer, and we are*

*SO grateful! Please help us to have the courage to share Your love with the people around us. Thank You for giving us such an amazing reason to **[Bottom Line]** celebrate Jesus with others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, make sure to hand out the Christmas family gift to each kid!*