



CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

Shepherds + Angels

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible marked at Luke 2:8-20, and floor tape

What You Do:

- Use the floor tape to mark a line on the floor down the center of your group space.
 - At the top of the left-hand side of the line, use the tape to make an “S” for shepherds.
 - At the top of the right-hand side of the line, use the tape to make an “A” for angels.
- Point out the two letters and explain that the left side of the tape is for “shepherds” and the right side is for “angels.”
- Guide the kids to line up on the tapeline, one kid behind the other, facing forward towards the tape letters.
- Explain to the kids that you’re going to read today’s Bible Story, and as you do, encourage them to jump to the “S” side when they hear “shepherd(s)” and to the right when they hear “angel(s).”
- Open the marked Bible and read Luke 2:8-20.
- Pause to give kids time to respond after hearing “shepherds” and “angels”.
- After you finish reading the Bible Story, instruct the kids to stay on the line, and jump back and forth again as you read the “What You Say” section below.

What You Say:

“Great job, friends! God chose to first tell the good news to the humble and overlooked SHEPHERDS. The SHEPHERDS listened to the ANGEL and ran to visit a very special baby, Jesus—the Savior of the whole world!”

*“Jesus came for everyone because God’s love is for ALL of us. So friends, If there’s ever a day you don’t feel important, remember God loves you more than you can imagine! And remember that God’s love is for each one of us—that’s why Christmas is SO special. Because God loves everyone, we should **[Bottom Line]** celebrate Jesus with others.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Tell your few about one of your favorite family Christmas traditions. How do you celebrate Jesus’ birth with others?)*

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:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Encourage the groups to spread out in your group space.
- Share that during group time, we celebrate how wonderful God is and all that God has done for us—especially the truth that God gave us Jesus!
- Remind the kids that one way we can celebrate is by talking to God.
- Encourage the groups to pray together (silently or aloud) following the steps below:
 - Thank God for sending Jesus for everyone. *(Pause and give the kids a moment to pray.)*
 - Ask God to help you and your group celebrate Jesus with those around you. *(Pause and give the kids a moment to pray.)*
- Once everyone is finished, close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Dear God, You are awesome! You proved Your love for us by sending us Your only Son, Jesus. I’m so grateful that because of Jesus, me and all my friends here today and everyone who chooses to follow Jesus can have a relationship with You forever! Thank You for being our friend. That’s why Christmas is so special. Thank You that we can **[Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus with others**, including our friends here at church today. 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!