



DECEMBER THEME

THE BIG GIVE

Think Outside the Box

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-18

Miracle from Heaven | Jesus is Born
Spark Story Bible | 212-217 + 218-223
Jesus is Born | Wise Men

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share”
1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

LIFE APP

Generosity | Making someone’s day by giving something away

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **GENEROSITY** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

Key Question: What does Christmas mean to you? The Christmas story is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible—even if you didn’t grow up in church. At some point, kids need to decide for themselves if they believe it’s true; that Christmas is more than the presents and time with family. We pray this will be the Christmas many kids will see Jesus in a new way and decide to put their faith in him.

It’s Christmas! We head to the familiar story in **Luke 2:1-18**. While people expected a new king born in a palace, God had other plans in mind. Jesus was born in a place where they kept the animals. No royal robes, not much public fanfare, just Mary and Joseph cuddling Jesus for the first time. God announced God’s gift to shepherds, helping us realize that Jesus was a gift for everyone.

Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus. Kids and their families will get the chance to celebrate Jesus, God’s most generous gift. They’ll discover why God sent Jesus for us, and what that means for how they show generosity to the people in their life.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for such a wonderful season of celebrating the Son God sent to us so many years ago. Praise God for seeing and meeting our need for a Savior. Pray that your time with your few today would be fun and celebratory!

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk to kids about their plans for Christmas Eve. Ask:
 - Are you doing something special for dinner?
 - Are you having people over to your house?
 - Do you exchange gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?
 - What are you most looking forward to on Christmas Day?

•• **READ ME A STORY**

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical



application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Mortimer’s Christmas Manger” activity page

What You Do:

- Ask kids what their favorite book to read at Christmastime is.
- Read “Mortimer’s Christmas Manger” to your group.
- Be sure to talk about the story as you go.

What You Say: “Mortimer was a pretty funny mouse, huh? What was your favorite part of the story? It’s fun to read stories together, especially at Christmastime. **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard a true story about what it was like on the night Jesus came to earth.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

- **WRITE IT DOWN** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Copy paper, markers, stapler (*a few to share will be available on top of the leader bin cabinet*)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a few pieces of paper. Tell them they are going to be making books for younger kids.
- Show kids how to stack the papers and fold them in half width-wise, like a book.
- Help them staple along the outside edge to make a book.
- Then, give the group a few minutes to write and illustrate the story of Jesus’ birth.
- Encourage kids to take their books home to finish writing and illustrating as needed. Suggest that they share their story with their family and, if possible, with younger siblings/cousins/neighbors.

What You Say: “These books are about the most important story we could ever tell anyone: **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus. You may have heard the Christmas story a hundred times by now, but that doesn’t make it any less amazing. We should keep telling everyone we know about the story of Jesus’ birth because it was the most incredible thing that ever happened—when God came to earth as a baby.” **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell kids about your favorite part of the Christmas story.*)

- **I CAN USE THAT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Go around the group and engage kids in a conversation about how common household items could be used to help others. For example,



- A marker could be used to draw someone a picture or write them a nice note.
- A spool of thread could be used to sew some clothes for someone to wear.
- A bottle of water or shampoo could be given to a homeless person to stay hydrated or feel clean.
- A bookmark could be used in a book that's read to a little kid or an elderly person.
- Encourage kids to find and use a common household item to help somebody this week.

What You Say: “The items we talked about are pretty simple, and you probably see them around your house and don't think much of them. But there are ways we can use just about anything to bless someone else. Often, we give gifts on Christmas to remind us that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. As you look at random items in your home this week, use them to help others and tell them about the wonderful gift God gave us.”

•• **RICH IN GIVING** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, “Rich in Giving” activity pages, scissors, dice

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 6:18 and read the verse together as a group.
- Give every kid a “Rich in Giving” activity page. Instruct kids to cut the strips apart and put all the strips on the center of your small group table.
- Tell kids they're going to be rolling the die to get numbers that correspond to sections of the verse.
 - They'll race each other to roll all the numbers, choosing a part of the verse until they get a complete verse.
 - The first kid will roll the die. If he gets a number 1-4, he gets to “collect” that part of the verse.
 - The challenge will be for kids to know which is the first, second, third, and fourth section of the verse!
 - If a kid rolls a 5, she skips her turn.
 - If a kid rolls a 6, she can choose whichever strip she wants.
 - Continue around the circle until someone has collected the whole verse.

What You Say: “You guys have really come a long way toward learning the verse this week! Especially at Christmas time, it can seem like the lucky kids are the ones who get the most toys or the video game you wanted to get or the bike you were hoping for. But this verse reminds us that no matter how much we want something, all that stuff is just STUFF. And stuff doesn't last forever. What lasts forever is our chance to get to know the greatest gift: Jesus. On Christmas morning, let's remember that no matter what we get under the tree, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, and that's the most amazing gift of all.”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say: “Thank you, God, for giving us the most amazing gift we could ever imagine: your Son. Please help us to never forget that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. In the midst of our busy days this week, remind us to take a moment to thank you for all you have given us. Bring to our minds awe and wonder at the precious gift of God with us. As we unwrap our gifts and give gifts to others, remind us that all that matters is the lasting gift of knowing you. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to save us. Amen.”



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

DECEMBER

17/20

2017

GRADE 2-3

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

What You Do: Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday Leaders: Pass out **Parent Cue** cards to any adult who has not yet received one. Encourage kids to tell their parents this week's **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** as an answer to why we celebrate Christmas.