



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:**

- As kids arrive, ask:
  - If you were giving the best present EVER to someone, what would you give?
  - Who would you give it to? Why?”

**•• A SPECIAL CHILD AND A SPECIAL DAY**

*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, “Mortimer” coloring page, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Hand out “Mortimer” coloring pages and crayons.
- As kids color, read “Mortimer’s Christmas Manger”
- As you read, ask comprehension questions such as:
  - What do you think Mortimer will do?
  - How does Mortimer feel?
  - What was your favorite part?
  - Who is the special baby?

**What You Say:** “Mortimer heard the true story of Christmas! **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard the true story of Christmas, too!”

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

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## 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.

●● **GOD GAVE US JESUS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

**Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment**

**What You Need:** Spark Story Bible, “Nativity Figures” activity pages, scissors, tape

**What You Do:**

- Read “Jesus Is Born” from the Spark Story Bible (p. 212-217).
- Cut out the figures from the “Nativity Figures” activity pages and tape the tabs so they will stand.
- Lead kids in a guided review of the Bible story by asking THEM to tell YOU the Christmas story.
- As kids recall each part of the narrative, set out the corresponding “Nativity Figures.”
- Along the way, ask prompting and comprehension questions such as:
  - What happened next?
  - What do you think it was like in the stable?
  - What do you think Mary and Joseph saw and heard?
  - How do you think Mary and Joseph felt?
  - How would you have felt if you were baby Jesus?

**What You Say:** “God gave us the biggest and best gift EVER when **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus! Why did God give us Jesus? (to be our Savior; because God loves us) Yes, **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus because God loves us! God loves (say each child’s name). Who did God give us? Yes! **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus.”

●● **MY GIFT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Copy paper, crayons



**What You Do:**

- As you hand out copy paper and crayons, ask: “Since **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, what is something you can give?”
- Lead kids to draw their ideas on their piece of copy paper.
- Encourage kids to practice generosity by sharing their crayons and space.
- When all the kids finish, invite them to share their ideas.

**What You Say:** “God gave us the biggest and best gift EVER when God gave us Jesus! Why did God give us Jesus? *(to be our Savior; because God loves us)* Yes, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus** because God loves us! Since **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, what is something you can give? *(Let kids share their drawings.)*”

•• **THE BEST OF ALL!** [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:** Spark Story Bible, “Memory Verse Maze” activity pages, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Read “Wise Men” from the Spark Story Bible (p. 218-223)
- Give each child a “Memory Verse Maze.”
- Guide them to trace a solution to the maze with their fingers and then trace the path with a crayon.
- Read the verse with the kids, leading them to point to each word as you read.

**What You Say:** “How did the wise men give to Jesus? *(They gave him gifts.)* Yes, the wise men gave Jesus gifts. But did you know that they also gave Jesus their love? They gave Jesus their love because even though they had never met Jesus, they loved him so much that they didn’t stop looking for him until they found him!

The Wise Men gave great gifts to Jesus, but who is the best of all at doing good things and giving freely? *(Pause.)* Yes! GOD is the best of all at doing good things and giving freely. God is the most generous of all! God is SO generous that God gave us Jesus. **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus** because God loves us! Who did God give us? Yes! **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

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**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 Do:**

- Guide kids to hold their arms out as if receiving a gift and then fold their arms as if cradling a baby.
- Lead them in singing the first verse of “Away in a Manger”...  
    Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
    The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
    The stars in the sky looked down where he lay  
    The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay
- End by guiding kids to cross their arms over their chests, give themselves hugs, and close their eyes as you pray...

**What You Say:** “Thank you, God, for loving us SO much that you gave us the BIGGEST and BEST gift ever! Thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus. We love you, God. Thank you for Christmas! Amen.”



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

DECEMBER

17/20

2017

**GRADE PRE**

**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. Prompt kids to say the Bottom Line by asking: Who did God give us? **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**