



DECEMBER THEME

CHASING CHRISTMAS

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:1-7; LUKE
1:26-38, 2:1-7; GALATIANS 4:4-5

BOTTOM LINE Had a bad Christmas?
You're not alone.



- Be sure to look at the large group interactions so you know what things to draw your kids' attention to throughout large group.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

Have you ever felt like Christmas did not live up to the hype? Maybe last year's Christmas, did not live up to the year before, or did not even come close to being as special as that one memorable Christmas as a child. The gospel of the Christmas story is that amidst a world of chaos and imperfections our savior still comes, amidst our sinfulness and brokenness we still celebrate the coming forgiveness. Instead of expecting a perfect Christmas, expect a perfect gift—the gift of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Large Group Interactions

- **Oven Mitt Relay** - Teams will compete to unwrap Hershey's Kisses while wearing oven mitts.



Small Group Study

Connect

Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your “highs” and “lows” with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week. You can get paper for this activity at the leader bin cart or you can have the students use their phones. We suggest setting up a “group chat” using one of the following platforms: iMessage on iPhone, email, groupme, snapchat, instagram, or facebook.

Questions

- **Before Christmas:** You may have heard in Church that Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas. How do you prepare for Christmas? What family traditions do you look forward to every year? How do you prepare your spirit for Christmas?
- Read Isaiah 9:1-7 - Do the preparations and expectations you have for Christmas match the description that you find in this text? Why or why not? What would be an appropriate way to get closer to matching this text?
- **Christmas:** Like Mary, we are vessels of the Christmas gospel. Also like Mary, Christmas may come at a less than ideal time for us. What are things in your life that make Christmas a less than ideal time? Maybe your parent has to travel for work every Christmas, or Christmas marks the anniversary of a lost loved one, maybe it just means a houseful of cousins you don't get along with.
- Read Luke 1:26-28 - Mary was clearly shaken by this whole experience. The timing wasn't right in a lot of ways. What are some of the pressures that she was feeling that made this a difficult situation? What did the angel tell her?
- **After Christmas:** Christmas ends, now what? How do you fight the post-Christmas lull? How do you plan to live out the good news of Jesus following Christmas?
- Read Galatians 4:4-6 - This text talks about how we can experience the good news of Jesus. What does it mean to you to be a child or an heir of God's love?

Notes and Prayer Requests



EXTRAS

Christmas Letter

What You Need: Pen, paper, envelope

What you do: Anticipate the difficulty that you might experience this Christmas season. Now, go back and read the passages from the lesson today and find the good news they bring. Take that good news and write a letter to yourself that you can open on Christmas if you start to feel down. Maybe you don't need it this year and you hold onto it for next year. Maybe you give it to someone who needs to hear the good news. In any case, it is important for us to connect with and embrace the good news of this season, no matter our circumstances.

JUST FOR FUN

Christmas Charades

What You Need: Bowl/Hat/Basket, scraps of paper, pens

What You Do: Everyone writes down 3 Christmas themed things on small pieces of paper. Throw all of the paper in a bowl/hat/basket. Go around the circle and each person will have 45 seconds to get the group to guess as many pieces of paper as possible. When the bowl is empty, throw all of the paper back in and start Round 2. Repeat for Round 2 and 3.

You will go through the bowl of paper 3 times in rounds.

Round 1: Describe the word/phrase without using any of the words on the paper.

Round 2: Charades

Round 3: Sounds