



DECEMBER THEME

**UNDERCOVER
CHRISTMAS**
Make Others Your Mission

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-7

Simply the Best | Jesus is Born
Spark Story Bible, pg. 212-213
Jesus is Born

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us the greatest gift

MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son. Anyone who
believes in him will not die but will
have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

LIFE APP

Compassion | Caring enough to do
something about someone else's need

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to
be treated...and with God's help I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

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

THIS WEEK—Key Question: What are some ways you can give? When we experience
God's life-changing compassion, we can't help but want to share that compassion
with others. We hope our families leave with an idea of how they can give and show
compassion to others.

This week we head to **Luke 2:1-7** to the familiar moment when Jesus is born. Even
though Jesus was born where the animals stayed, God took care of all the details. The
Savior of the World was born, and God's compassion for us was on full display.

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. God had been planning a rescue since the
very beginning. Jesus was God's greatest gift to make it possible for all people to be
with God forever.

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 group member by name. Thank God for the wonder-
ful gift of Jesus, and for making a way for us to have a relationship with God. Pray for
God to give kids some ideas for how to respond to God's amazing gift. Ask God to bring
to mind today some things they can do to give to others, even if they don't have a lot
of resources or time.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

What You Need: 3 cups, Christmas candy

What You Do:

- Explain that you'll be playing a "shell game" with the cups and candy.
- Turn three cups upside down in front of you, and hold up a piece of Christmas candy.
- Choose one kid to play first, and instruct him to sit facing you and the cups.
- Put the candy under one of the cups.
- Tell the kid to watch carefully while you mix up the cups. His job is to keep his eye on
the cup with the candy in it.
- Scoot the cups around and mix them up as quickly as possible for 15-20 seconds.
- Ask the kid to guess which cup the candy is under. If he's right, he gets to keep it. If
he's wrong, he'll get to play again later.
- Continue playing, and allow kids who win to help their peers find the cup with the
candy (if needed).
- Play until every kid has won a piece of candy.

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask each group member to come up with a unique baby cry or a distinct way of saying “mama.” Their baby sounds can be as silly as your group is willing to go.
- Choose someone to be the “parent” and tell them to close their eyes.
- Select another group member to demonstrate his or her baby cry then have everyone rearrange around the table. The “parent” will have to find this cry.
- Tell all of the kids to begin making their baby sounds.
- Challenge the “parent” to move around the table (eyes still closed) in search of the baby cry demonstrated earlier.
—When he thinks he’s found the right baby, he should open his eyes.
—If his guess is correct, the baby will become the parent for the next round.
—If incorrect, the original parent tries again with a different baby cry.

What You Say: “Have you ever wondered what baby Jesus sounded like when he cried? You made some great baby sounds, but I’m going to guess that none of them sounded like Jesus. We may not know the sound baby Jesus made when he cooed or cried, but there are other things we DO know. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’re going to celebrate/we celebrated the baby in the manger and the reason he came.**”

[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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Dice

What You Do:

- Give someone the dice and invite them to roll it.
- Whatever number they roll, ask them to share that many ways to give to others—not only at Christmas, but also all year long.
- If they run out of ideas, remind them that there are more ways to give than by simply buying stuff.
- Challenge them to think of ways we can give our time, attention, talents, energy, and skills to meet other’s needs.
- Continue going around the table and let everybody take a turn rolling the dice and coming up with ways to give.

What You Say: “It’s amazing how many ways there are to give. Even if we don’t have a lot of money, we can give some amazing gifts to others by sharing our time with them in some way. Everyone gets into the giving mood at Christmas, but true compassion is all about keeping the giving going all year long in many different ways.”

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [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: Bible, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Invite someone to look up and read 2 Corinthians 9:15.
- Say something like, “Even though this verse says it’s impossible to tell how wonderful God’s gift of Jesus is, let’s try anyway.”
- Encourage kids to give one word descriptions to express the awesome gift of Jesus.
- To encourage creativity, suggest they think of words that spell out the word “Christmas.” For example, for “C” they could use the word “compassionate.”
- Use the copy paper to write down the words given. They will be used again in the Pray and Send activity.
- Discuss:
 - What makes God’s gift of Jesus the greatest gift ever given?
 - If someone is genuinely thankful for the gift of a Savior, how will it show up in his or her life?
 - How does God’s gift to you encourage you to give to others?

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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:

- Ask some of the following questions...
 - What are some ways to show compassion to someone who doesn’t believe in Jesus?
 - Who do you know that would be totally blown away if you gave him or her a gift? For example, a kid who’s hard to like or someone you don’t know very well such as your bus driver or the person who delivers your mail. What could you give that person or do for them throughout the year ahead?
 - Share about a time when you had to give something up in order to show compassion to someone.
 - What advice about showing compassion would you give someone a year or two younger than you?
 - Why do you think it’s often easier for people to give at Christmas than throughout the rest of the year?

●● **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Talk about God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Advent-urous Compassion” calendar, “Compassion” cards, tape

What You Do:

- Ask kids if they have ever seen an advent calendar.
- Explain that an advent calendar is a way that we count the days until Christmas.
- Tell kids that they’re going to make their own advent calendars to help them remember that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us the greatest gift when God gave us Jesus.
- Give each child an “Advent-urous Compassion” calendar. Tell them that each space on the calendar represents a day until Christmas.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the memory verse written on the calendar.
- Show the “Compassion” cards and guide kids to identify ways the people are showing compassion.
- Invite kids to choose four cards and tape one on each “blank” calendar day.
- Tell kids that every day until Christmas, they should look at their calendar. Each day, they should read the verse up to the current day. (For example, on December 4, they’ll read “For God so loved the world”.) By Christmas, they’ll read the whole memory verse. Along the



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SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE