

Simply the Best

Bible: Simply the Best (Jesus is Born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift.

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but 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.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience

Early Arriver

- Six opaque plastic cups
- Small pieces of Christmas candy or prizes (small enough to easily fit under a cup); one for each kid

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Draw the Story

- 15-foot length of butcher paper
- Markers
- Bibles
- Wall tape

Prayer

- Wrapping paper pieces
- Markers

Dismiss

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus, and for making a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Pray for God to give kids some ideas for how to respond to God’s amazing gift. Ask Him 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.

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: Cups, Christmas candy/prizes

What You Do:

- Explain that you’ll be playing a “shell game” with the cups and candy/prizes.
- Turn three cups upside down in front of you, and hold up a prize.
- Choose one kid to play first, and instruct him to sit facing you and the cups.
- Put a prize 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 prize 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 prize 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 take turns moving around the other three cups, challenging their peers to find the cup with the prize.
- Play until every kid has won a prize.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Draw the Story

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers, Bibles, tape (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Roll out the butcher paper and set out the markers.
- Use a marker to divide the paper into three equal sections. Label the sections:
 - Luke 2:1-3
 - Luke 2:4-5
 - Luke 2:6-7
- Divide kids into three groups, and assign a section of the Bible Truth to each group.
- Tell kids to read their verses and then draw what is happening.
- Give them several minutes to draw, and then ask them to show everyone else their pictures and tell what's happening.
- If possible, tape the paper on the wall for parents to see when they come to pick up.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “**God gave us the greatest gift** when He gave us Jesus. That was his ultimate act of compassion and care for us. Just like God cares for us and has met our greatest need, we are supposed to care for others and help meet their needs. God wants us to look around and see the very real and practical needs that other people have and then do something about those needs.

(If you're doing Activity Two) “We’re going to get a chance right now to think about some of the ways we can meet others’ needs.”

(If you're not doing Activity Two) “What are some things you can give to someone this week? Think beyond just physical objects to something you can’t touch, like giving your time, energy, or attention to someone.” *(Allow kids to respond.)*

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: Wrapping paper pieces and markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of wrapping paper and a marker.
- Instruct them to write a prayer thanking God for giving us the greatest gift.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to us. He is by far the greatest gift ever. We praise You for your compassion toward us, and we ask You help us show compassion to others and tell them about the great gift of Jesus. In His name we pray, amen.

“I want you to take your prayers home with you as a reminder to keep thanking God for giving us the greatest gift.”

At pick up, encourage parents to ask kids about the prayer they wrote on the wrapping paper.