

# 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)**

### **Put a Bow on It**

- A few packages of sticky-backed bows
- Music player

## **Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways**

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

### **Gift Wrapped**

- Old-fashioned clothespins with no springs; one for each kid
- Prepared manger; one for each child
- 1x12-inch strips of muslin or white fabric; one for each kid
- Fine-tipped markers
- Short bits of raffia
- Craft or school glue

## **Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)**

- Self-adhesive gift bows; one for each kid

## **Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)**

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

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

*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.*

### **Put a Bow on It**

**What You Need:** Sticky backed bows, music player

#### **What You Do:**

- Set the open packages in the middle of the room and tell the kids that as long as the music is playing, their goal is to stick as many bows on as many other people as possible.
- They can only hold one bow at a time, but they can resupply from the packages.
- When the music stops, everyone must freeze.
- Play for a few rounds or until all the bows are gone.
- Consider racing to try and pick up all the sticker backs on the floor, to tidy up!

#### **What You Say:**

“You all look like presents! **[Transition]** Let’s head to Large Group to see that when God wanted to give all people a gift, He didn’t send a ‘what’ but a ‘who!’”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

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

### **Gift Wrapped**

**What You Need:** Old-fashioned clothespins, strips of muslin, fine-tipped markers, prepared “mangers,” raffia, glue

### **What You Do:**

- Briefly explain that in Jesus’ time, loving parents wrapped their newborn babies in swaddling clothes. Swaddling clothes were long strips of soft cloth.
- Give each child a clothespin “baby Jesus.”
- Guide kids to draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the baby.
- Next, lead kids to snugly wrap the baby with the muslin strip. (It can help to thread one end of the muslin between the “legs” and then wrap the remaining fabric around the body.)
- When kids reach the end of the strip, guide them to glue the fabric in place.
- Finally, give each kid a “manger.”
- They can then glue some raffia “hay” to the Popsicle sticks and lay (glue) baby Jesus in the manger.

### **What You Say:**

“Long ago, God promised that He would send Someone to save us from our sins. Who did God send? *(Pause.)* Yes! God sent Jesus, His very own Son, who was the BEST gift of all time!

“When God gave us Jesus, He gave us the greatest gift ever! God gave us Jesus because He loves us SO much. Since **[Bottom Line] God gave us the greatest gift** because He loves us SO much, what gift can YOU give to others to show them God’s love? *(a toy, a card, a hug, a kind word, or spending time with someone)* Those are kind and thoughtful ideas!

**[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a tangible or intangible gift you’ll give this season to show someone God’s love.)**

“So always remember that at Christmas, we give gifts to others because **[Bottom Line] God gave US the greatest gift** of all: JESUS!”

## **Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

**[What You Need:** Self-adhesive gift bows

### **What You Do:**

- Give each child a gift-wrapping bow to wear as a reminder that since ***[Bottom Line]* God gave us the greatest gift**, they can give and show compassion to others, too.
- Model and guide kids to hold their hands together, palms up, as if holding a gift.
- Lead kids to pray silently, thanking God for giving them the greatest gift ever: Jesus!
- Close the prayer time using the sample prayer below as a guide.

### **What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH for giving us Jesus—the greatest gift ever. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your one and only Son so that if we believe in Him we can live forever with You. Thank You for showing us Your incredible, amazing compassion. Help us see ways that we can give and show compassion to others, too. We love You, God! Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today’s Bottom Line and share one way they can give to others, too.