

A Christmas Carol



Dear Youth Leader,

It's Christmastime! This 3-part series walks together with the Crosswalk teaching team as we look at Christmas past, present, and future. Echoing the framework of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, We will spend time looking at the Christmas story (the arrival of Jesus) from the beginning (past), advent (present), and the hope that is promised (future). Each week consists of a handful of passages that together help capture the essence of the week. I suggest reading through all the verses, and then choosing one or two that resonate with you the teacher and with your youth group. Use those scriptures as you share your own story to point to the main idea of the week. I have added questions that can get you and your group started.

I am praying for you as you prep your time with your youth group, and can't wait to hear how it went. Please reach out if you have any questions, ideas, or stories. I'm here to support you!

Mark Ricalde

Youth Pastor, Crosswalk Redlands

SUGGESTED FORMAT

Belonging | 25 - 30 min

Breakfast / Welcome

Sharing Activity

Experience | 25 - 30 min

Worship

Message / Discussion

Momentum | 5 - 10 min

Challenge / Application

Announcements / Visioning

SERIES OUTLINE

Week 1 | Christmas Past

December 6

Week 2 | Christmas Present

December 13

Week 3 | Christmas Future

December 20

CRSWLK

THE WALK

Christmas Past



PREPARATION

Read this Week's Verses

Ephesians 1:3-5, 1 Peter 1:18-20,
Genesis 1:1-3, 27-31, Genesis 2:9-17,
Genesis 3:8-15, Hebrews 10:1,
Deuteronomy 18:17, Isaiah 7:14,
Isaiah 9:2-7, Isaiah 53:5-6

Listen to the Series

listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study*
podcast and the *Abide Daily* podcast
and sit in the texts with our pastors

Reflect on your Experience

think of a story from your own life
that highlights a choice to love over
being forced to act a certain way

Activity Idea

- Guess the Baby! Find a collection of baby pictures of celebrities, and play a guessing game with the group. Have fun with it!
- Talk about how the parents of these celebrities probably didn't know what their kids would become. Kids will make decisions that shape their life, and good parents are ready to love, accept, and support their child whichever direction they choose to take in life.

Icebreaker Questions

- What does it mean to you to know that God loved you even before he created you?
- What do you think you would have enjoyed most in God's creation of the world?
- God knew the risk to himself should he create us and we choose to rebel.
 - Why did God take that risk?

This Week's Main Idea

The plan of salvation was ready before we even needed it, and knowing the risk, God still created us with the freedom to choose. From the moment we were banished, God went in chase. The First Testament gives us a shadow of the things to come, a promise. Whatever our past, He can take care of it when we surrender it to Him.

Christmas Present



PREPARATION

Read this Week's Verses

Galatians 4:4-5, Romans 5:6-8, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-19, Matthew 28:5-6, John 20:21-22, Acts 2:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:8

Listen to the Series

listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast and the *Abide Daily* podcast and sit in the texts with our pastors

Reflect on your Experience

think of a story where you had an aha moment that changed everything for you moving forward

This Week's Main Idea

In the fullness of time, the rescue began, the announcement was made, God would become flesh. He came with a purpose, to seek and to save, though an enemy would fight back. The Son of God would give His life and claim the victory. This changed everything and we are invited to take part in the work left to do.

Activity Idea

- *I Will Always Love You* by Whitney Houston Challenge
- Look it up if you don't know what this is. Find a drum that students can hit. Bring them up one at a time and have them try to get the correct first hit. It will be sure to bring some laughs, and make sure to record some.
- Discuss timing, and segway into the present & perfect timing of the Advent story.

Icebreaker Questions

- Have you ever had to wait a long time for the fulfillment of a promise or to receive a gift? What did it feel like to finally receive the gift?
- What is the best news you've ever received?
- Jesus may have come at just the right time, but his birth would go unnoticed. Why do you think so many missed it?
- What are ways that you and I can bring Jesus into our world today?
- What can you do today to take the next step, to believe in who Jesus is and what He has done for you, and to surrender your life to Him?

Christmas Future



PREPARATION

Read this Week's Verses

1 Corinthians 15:51-57,
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,
Revelation 20:1-10, Revelation 21:1-7,
Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18,
1 Peter 1:6, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15,
Psalm 23:6, Psalm 90:1

Listen to the Series

listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study*
podcast and the *Abide Daily* podcast
and sit in the texts with our pastors

Reflect on your Experience

think of a story where knowing the
ending helped you turn to the right
action or decision

This Week's Main Idea

With our future secured by Jesus,
we can have hope that the enemy
will have an end, that there will be
an end to all ends, and those truths
challenge us to live now with a holy
perspective, knowing the end of
our story, which is truly the
beginning. So may we repent (turn
toward) home, today - for our home
is now, has always been, and will
always be... in God.

Activity Idea

- Future Wish List Declarations! Have everyone write one wish for the future, and what they can do this week to start moving towards that future. Use the following prompts:
 - Wish for this Christmas season, and wish for 2026
 - Wish for the church or school

Icebreaker Questions

- When you think about the resurrection, how do you imagine it happening?
- Have you ever felt scared of the Devil? What are some of the ways we are attacked? How can you remind yourself that Jesus is much more powerful?
- What is one thing you are facing right now that you look forward to being done with in the new world?
- How would you describe the kingdom of God? What is it? Where is it?
- How do you and I make our home with God both now and in the future?



A Final Note,

Life gets crazy. Sometimes we walk into a room knowing we haven't prepped enough. A high-schooler might walk in with the weight of a hard week on their minds, and the last place they want to be is youth group. The teenage community you are leading will have cliques, crazy couples, and apathetic kids. All this to say that teaching in this scenario will rarely feel like you did a great job. Don't worry, you don't need to. **Jesus shows up.**

If every week you:
eat together,
pray together,
worship together,
and study the word together,
then you have faithfully structured the youth time for God to work.

Thank you for your effort and compassionate heart.
I'm a leader in the church because of influencers like you!

Mark Ricalde

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