K-5TH

**LARGE & SMALL GROUPS** 

**DECEMBER.-WEEK 3** 

## **TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

#### **PRE-SERVICE**

GAME	15 MIN
LARGE GROUP	[33 MIN]
OPENING GAME	10 MIN
WORSHIP	5 MIN
STORY VIDEO	13 MIN
BOTTOM LINE WHAT'S OUR PART II	N THE STORY

SALVATION MOMENT	5 MIN
SMALL GROUP	[30-35 min]
APPLICATION 1	12 MIN
APPLICATION 2	12 MIN
CLOSING PRAYER	6 MIN

#### THIS MONTH



## **Today's Bible Story**

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20

#### **Bottom Line**

Jesus is the greatest gift.

## **Memory Verse**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 NIrV

Please make sure that children who were not here last week receive a memory verse card to take home so they can practice and memorize it throughout the week.

Please go over the memory verse with the class every Sunday.

#### **PRE-SERVICE GAME**

# "CHRISTMAS OBJECTS"

What You Need 
☐ Timer

Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave!

#### What You Do

- 1. Explain the game:
- 2. Choose a kid to think of one Christmas-themed object.
- 3. If the kid is stumped, here are some suggestions.
  - → wreath
  - → angel
  - → manger
  - → tree
  - → lights
- 4. Direct the rest of the group to ask "yes" or "no" questions to guess the object.
- 5. Feel free to play an example round or be ready to suggest questions as hints.
- 6. Use a timer for 2-3 minutes, or set a limit of 20 questions.
- 7. Continue playing until each kid has had a chance to think of an object.

## **What You Say**

"Wow, you all asked some great questions and figured out those Christmas objects! That was so fun. You know, in our game, we had to ask lots of questions to try and guess what the object was. We had to do some guessing! But when Jesus was born, God clearly communicated exactly what was happening to some shepherds. The shepherds didn't have to do any guessing! God sent an angel to declare the good news! The angel told them clearly: 'A Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord,' (Luke 2:11 NIrV).

"And here's the best part, Jesus isn't just for important people or people with lots of money or power. He came for everyone—even ordinary shepherds out in the fields. And He came for you and me too. We can celebrate Christmas, because [Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift! [Transition] Let's go to Large Group so we can hear about this great gift God gave us because He loves us so much!"

#### **LARGE GROUP**

#### **OPENING GAME**

# "GIFT GUESSING EXTRAVAGANZA"

What You Need

☐ 6 random, everyday objects

☐ 6 index cards (to write
down an everyday object)

☐ 6 Assorted small, gift boxes

☐ Christmas-themed gift wrap

☐ Clipboard, sheets of paper,
and a pencil to write down
each contestant's guesses

#### **WORSHIP**

#### STORY VIDEO

## **SALVATION MOMENT**

What You Need

☐ Salvation cards
☐ Salvation sheet

#### HOST:

"Hey everyone! Welcome to Fusion Kids! This month, we're celebrating a really special time of year. Can anyone guess what it is? That's right, Christmas! And during Christmas, we're discovering something incredible about Jesus. He isn't just a part of the Christmas story, He is the greatest gift of all. Today, we're going to find out why!

"Before we dive into our story, we've got a super-fun game that will help us think about what makes a gift really special. It's called 'Gift Guessing Extravaganza'!

"This game is all about trying to figure out the best gift you've been given, just like our question for today. And here's how we're going to play. I need three volunteers to come up on stage.

"First, I'm going to show you cards with the name of an everyday object on each card. Each of these items is wrapped in one of the six boxes on the table.

"All three of you will each take turns, and you will be blindfolded. I will have you stand at the table and hand you a gift. You'll have to guess what is in the box, based on what you remember from the names of the six items I showed you a couple of minutes ago.

"You can shake the box lightly. You can turn it upside down. But you can't open it."

"For those of you in the audience, you'll notice that each box has a number. I'll be writing down the number of the box, and the person's guesses for each. After each contestant has made their guesses for each box, we'll see who has the most correct answers and declare our winner.

"Alright, volunteers, are you ready to play 'Gift Guessing Extravaganza'? Remember, you'll only have your sense of touch to figure out these gifts, so think carefully. Let's start the game now!

Allow the game to proceed with each volunteer taking their turn.

#### **LARGE GROUP**

## OPENING GAME (CONT.)

"Great job, everyone! It's not easy guessing what's inside just by feeling the outside of a gift, is it? Sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that surprise us, the ones we can't figure out until we open them. And that's what we're talking about today. We're going to open up the story of when Jesus was born and discover why He's the best gift we could ever receive. Let's give a big round of applause for our volunteers as they take their seats. (Join in the applause.)

"Now that we've warmed up with our guessing game, let's get ready to worship. We're going to sing some songs that help us celebrate the birth of Jesus—songs that remind us about the joy and hope He brings into our lives."

## **WORSHIP**

## **STORY VIDEO**

## **SALVATION MOMENT**

What You Need

☐ Salvation cards
☐ Salvation sheet

#### **SMALL GROUP**

#### **APPLICATION 1**

#### "GIFT GIVER"

What You Need

☐ "Gift Giver" Activity Page

#### What You Do

- 1. Divide the kids into three groups.
- 2. Give each group a set of "Gift Giver" Activity Page cards.
- 3. Explain how to play
- → You will be the 'Gift Giver' and read to the kids one clue at a time that describes a gift we get from God without saying its name.
- → The groups must discuss and choose a card from their pile that matches their guess. After a few tries, you'll reveal the answer!
- 4. One by one, read the clues below in an order different than the order listed below.
- 5. Continue until all the gifts have been guessed.

Make It Personal -> Share why the gift of Jesus doesn't compare to any other gift you've ever received. Discuss another gift that you've gotten that you REALLY love. Then, explain how it still can't match what Jesus has given you.

#### **Clues and Answers**

- 1. Clue: This gift can't be bought, but it's the reason you can live forever with God. (answer: eternal life)
- 2. Clue: This gift wipes away your sins and makes you clean before God. (answer: forgiveness)
- 3. Clue: This gift never runs out, even when you feel far away from God. (answer: God's love)
- 4. Clue: This gift gives you the true feeling that you're never alone, even when life feels hard. (answer: peace through Jesus)
- 5. Clue: When you choose to follow Jesus, this gift lives inside of you—it's God living inside of you! (answer: the Holy Spirit)
- 6. Clue: This gift is what happens when you choose to follow Jesus. (answer: adoption into God's family)

## What You Say

- 1. What's the best gift you've been given?
- 2. If Jesus is the greatest gift, what makes Him different from every other gift you've ever gotten?
- 3. How does God giving you Jesus show His love for you?
- 4. How could you "pass on" this gift to someone else this Christmas?

#### **SMALL GROUP**

#### **APPLICATION 2**

#### "PASS THE GIFT"

What You Need

☐ Small box
☐ Christmas-themed
 wrapping paper
☐ Music player (Optional:
 You can also sing "Jingle
Bells")

#### What You Do

- 1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- 2. Explain that you're going to play a game like "hot potato," but with a gift.
- 3. Start some music or sing, and instruct the kids to pass the wrapped gift around the circle.
- 4. When the music stops, encourage the kid holding the gift to share one reason Jesus is the greatest gift to them.
  - → If they can't think of something, maybe ask them to share in general what or who is the greatest gift in their life, and help them connect how that person or thing is a gift from Jesus.
  - → Younger kids may need a prompt like: "Because Jesus loves me," "Because Jesus forgives me," "Because Jesus came for everyone," or "Because Jesus helps me."
- 5. Continue until every kid has shared.

**AUDIO**: Upbeat Christmas-themed music or sing "Jingle Bells".

## What You Say

"Wow, you shared some amazing reasons why [Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift!

"The shepherds heard the good news from the angel, and then more angels came and celebrated. And after the shepherds saw Jesus, they were filled with joy. They couldn't stop talking about what they had seen. And we can feel that same joy today, because God loves us so much He gave us Jesus!

"The toys, games, and clothes we get at Christmas are fun, but they don't last forever. But Jesus is a gift that lasts forever. Jesus gives us love that never ends, joy that never runs out, forgiveness that we could never earn, and a friendship that lasts forever.

"That's why we say: [Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift. Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and He is the very best gift God could ever give."

#### **SMALL GROUP**

## PRAY AND DISMISS

#### What You Need

☐ 3rd-5th Graders - Index Cards & Pens\*

#### What You Do

- 1. Ask: "Does it change anything for you knowing that Jesus will always be the greatest gift for you?"
- 2. Pray together, thanking Jesus for being the greatest gift.
- 3. Close in prayer.

#### **Prayer**

"Dear Jesus, You are so amazing. You really are the greatest gift—better than anything we have received or will receive. We know that even when Christmas is over, You will still be the greatest gift to us, every single day. Thank You for coming to earth to save us. Help us not to forget how much You love us. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

#### **Transition**

-> As adults arrive to pick up, remind them to always remember that [**Bottom Line**] Jesus is the greatest gift! Encourage the kids to tell their grown-ups how important it is to know what Christmas is about—Jesus!

\*3rd-5th- write down your prayer request on a index card and place inside the prayer box.

## **GETTING READY**

#### **What You Need**



PRE-SERVICE GAME
□ Timer
OPENER GAME
<ul> <li>6 random, everyday objects</li> <li>6 index cards (to write down an everyday object)</li> <li>6 Assorted small, gift boxes</li> <li>Christmas-themed gift wrap</li> <li>Clipboard, sheets of paper, and a pencil to write down each contestant's guesses</li> </ul>
SALVATION MOMENT
<ul><li>☐ Salvation cards</li><li>☐ Salvation sheet</li></ul>
APPLICATION 1
☐ Gift Giver" Activity Page
APPLICATION 2
<ul> <li>☐ Small box, one for each Small Group</li> <li>☐ Christmas-themed wrapping paper, one roll for each Small Group</li> </ul>
☐ Music player (Optional: You can also sing "Jingle Bells")
PRAY AND DISMISS
☐ 3rd-5th Graders - Index Cards & Pens*