

3-6 | December 21

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus Is Born • *Luke 2:1-20*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Jesus is the greatest gift.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."* • Luke 2:11 NIV

## 1. Opening Activity

*Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall the first time you heard about Jesus' birth. Thank God for giving Jesus, the greatest gift you could ever receive! Ask God to help each kid know how much He loves them, and that His love is a free gift they don't have to earn! Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you point to Jesus in every moment, and that new kids would leave small group celebrating that God loves them so much, He sent Jesus so they could be close to Him!*

### What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Timer

### What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, and ask them about their Christmas plans!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain the game:
- Choose a kid to think of one Christmas-themed object.
- If the kid is stumped, here are some suggestions.
  - wreath
  - angel
  - manger
  - tree
  - lights
- Direct the rest of the group to ask "yes" or "no" questions to guess the object.
- Feel free to play an example round or be ready to suggest questions as hints.
- Use a timer for 2-3 minutes, or set a limit of 20 questions.
- 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 NIV).

"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!"**

**Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- Encourage kids to give thumbs-up and thumbs-down instead of verbally saying yes or no.

*[Lead your group to do worship and watch today's lesson.]*

## 2. Pass the Gift

**What You Need:**

- ☐ Small box wrapped like a Christmas present
- ☐ Music from Christmas Worship Loop on Jellyfin (*Optional: You can also sing "Jingle Bells."*)

**What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you're going to play a game like "hot potato," but with a gift.
- Start some music or sing, and instruct the kids to pass the wrapped gift around the circle.
- 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."
- Continue until every kid has shared.

**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."

**Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- Teach kids the ASL way to say, "Jesus loves me" and have them use that as a response when the "gift" comes to them.



### 3. The Greatest Gift

#### What You Need:

- ☐ “The Greatest Gift” Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons and markers
- ☐ Christmas-themed stickers

#### What You Do:

- Give each child the picture of a gift from “The Greatest Gift” Activity Page.
- Say: “Today, we’re going to make a gift box to remind us that the *greatest gift ever is Jesus!*”
- Encourage kids to decorate their gift box from “The Greatest Gift” Activity Page with crayons, markers, and stickers.
- Allow a few kids to share their decorated gift boxes with the group.

#### What You Say:

“Wow, your gift boxes look amazing! I love how each one is decorated in its own special way. At Christmas, some people think about presents under the tree—maybe toys, games, or something fun. Those gifts are exciting, but they don’t last forever. Toys can break, clothes don’t fit, and games get old.

“But God gave us a gift that lasts forever—His Son, Jesus. When Jesus was born, it was the greatest gift the world had ever received. He wasn’t wrapped in shiny paper or bows. He was wrapped in cloth and laid in a manger. It might not have looked like a king’s birth, but it was God’s perfect plan.

“And the best part? Jesus isn’t just a gift for people long ago. He’s God’s gift for you, for me, and for the whole world, forever! Jesus came, lived a perfect life, and paid for sin so anyone who chooses can be God’s close friend forever. God was giving us the greatest gift—the chance to be close friends with Him again!

“So, every time you look at your decorated gift box, remember: the greatest gift isn’t something under the tree, it’s Jesus. He is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Let’s all say it together: **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus is the greatest gift!’**”

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

#### What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

#### What To Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Say: “We learned today that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is the greatest gift**. At Christmas, some people might think about toys, games, or presents, but none of those things last forever. Jesus is the gift that lasts forever, and He came for everyone!”

- Invite kids to close their eyes and think of one thing they want to thank God for this Christmas. Maybe it's family, friends, or something they're excited about. Then ask them to also thank God for the greatest gift, Jesus.
- Give 30 seconds of quiet reflection.
- Close in prayer.

**Prayer:**

"Dear God, thank You for Christmas and for all the good things You give us. But most of all, thank You for the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Thank You that You sent us a Rescuer, just like You promised. Thank You that He came to show us Your love and to make a way for anyone who wants to be close to You. Please help us celebrate Jesus this Christmas more than anything else. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."