

Small Group Experience

“The Perfect Present”



Whatchagaddaknow?:
“Jesus Is The Greatest Gift To The World!”



Power Verse:
“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”
- John 3:16

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* Bible Story Pictures Print Pieces (provided; print one set)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. Print the Bible Story pictures and gather all necessary classroom supplies. Once the small group begins, use the pictures to help review the Bible Story, allowing volunteers to hold them up. Ask the group to tell you about the events in the picture. Discuss them until the story is complete, filling in any gaps in the storyline as needed.

Say- History is full of amazing events that forever changed the world, but none compared to today’s Bible story. Christmas isn’t just a fun time of celebration, decorations, and gifts; Christmas is EPIC! Why? You’re about to find out! Let’s take another look at the Bible story and discuss it together. I need four volunteers to hold pictures.

-Choose volunteers and give each a picture to display-

Say- What do you remember about the events in these pictures? Share with the group!

-Display the pictures and allow time for the kids to discuss the events of each part of the story. Fill in any gaps in the storyline as needed-

Say- Thanks to our volunteers for holding the pictures and to everyone for sharing about the Bible story.

Ask- How did Jesus coming to Earth change the world forever?

-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-

Ask- What is your favorite part of the Christmas story?

-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-

Game/Activity**SUPPLY LIST:**

- * Several bowls
- * At least 5 candy canes per bowl (*and a few extra in case of mishaps*)
- * A way to keep time

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, gather the necessary supplies. To play the game, fill each bowl with five wrapped candy canes. Place the bowls on a table with enough space for players to stand or lean comfortably. Ensure there's a clean, flat surface next to each bowl where players can transfer their candy canes. Try the game yourself to ensure it's set up correctly and runs smoothly. Be prepared to demonstrate how to play when explaining the rules to the kids. Players will place one wrapped candy cane in their mouth and try to transfer as many candy canes as possible from the bowl to the table in 60 seconds. This game can be played in multiple rounds as time allows.

Say- Today's lesson is all about Jesus, which reminds me of a Christmas candy: candy canes! When you hold them upside down, they look like the letter J and are perfect for today's game. We're going to play a super fun game called Bobbing for Candy Canes! Here's how it works: You'll start with a bowl filled with five candy canes. One candy cane will go in your mouth—don't worry, it's still wrapped! Using only the candy cane in your mouth, you'll try to hook the candy canes in the bowl and move them one at a time to the table. The goal is to transfer all five candy canes from the bowl to the table as fast as you can. You have one minute to complete the challenge! Let's see who can beat the clock and transfer all five candy canes before time runs out. It's harder than it looks, but it's a blast! Who's ready to try?

-Play Bobbing For Candy Canes. This game can be played in multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing**SUPPLY LIST:**

- * John 3:16 Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before the small group begins, print the John 3:16 Print Pieces and gather all classroom materials. When group sharing begins, pass out the John 3:16 Print Pieces and something to write with. Group sharing aims to empower kids to engage in meaningful discussions and connect the lesson concepts with their own experiences. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say- Alright, picture this: it's Christmas morning. You wake up early, sneak out to the tree, and there it is—the perfect gift you've dreamed of for weeks. Maybe it's the newest gaming system, a skateboard, or that fluffy blanket that feels like you're hugging a cloud. You tear open the wrapping paper, and for a moment, it feels like nothing in the world could top this. But let's be honest—what happens after a while? The gaming system glitches, the skateboard gets scuffed, and even the coziest blanket loses its fluffiness. Today, we're going to talk about the greatest gift ever given—one that doesn't wear out, break, or get lost. It's the gift of Jesus!

Ask- What's the most amazing gift you've ever gotten? Why was it so special?

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-Allow time for responses; engage with their answers-

Say- You know how you sometimes plan the perfect gift for someone? You think about what they love, what they need, and how to surprise them. Well, God did the same thing for us. He saw that we needed help—BIG help—because sin was separating us from Him. And His solution? The perfect present: Jesus!

Ask- Why do you think God sent Jesus as a baby instead of just fixing everything from heaven?

-Allow time for discussion-

Say- God sent Jesus to be one of us, to live with us, and ultimately, to take the punishment for our sins. It's like the story we heard about the shepherds in Luke 2. God made this huge announcement because He wanted everyone to know that Jesus was here! Let's be honest—there are some things we totally deserve. If you study hard, you deserve a good grade. If you help with chores, you might deserve some extra screen time. But the gift of Jesus? That's different. We didn't earn it. We couldn't work hard enough or be “good enough” to deserve Him.

Ask- How does it feel to get a gift you didn't expect or deserve?

-Allow kids to share their thoughts-

Say- God's love isn't based on what we do; it's based on who He is. That's why Jesus came, not because we deserved it, but because God wanted us to be close to Him. Think about all the Christmas gifts you've gotten over the years—toys break, clothes get too small, and even your favorite video games eventually get old. But the gift of Jesus? It never fades, breaks, or goes out of style. His love lasts forever, and so does the life He gives to anyone who follows Him.

Ask- Why is it hard to imagine something lasting forever?

-Allow responses and guide them toward understanding God's eternal love-

Say- Jesus isn't just for now—He's for always. When we choose to follow Him, we say yes to the greatest gift: a forever relationship with God and the promise of living with Him in heaven someday. So, here's the big question: What will you do with God's gift? A gift only makes a difference if you open it, right? Jesus is the greatest gift you'll ever receive, but it's up to you to say yes to Him. Once you accept Jesus as the best gift ever, it's your turn to share the gift! How can you share the gift of Jesus with others this Christmas? Write your thoughts in the blank space on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to reflect and write responses-

Ask- Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

-Allow responses and wrap up with encouragement-

Prayer Time

Say- Great job today! Now, let's take some time to pray. Let's thank God for the greatest gift, Jesus! Would anyone like to lead us in prayer?

-Allow time for a volunteer to pray. If no one volunteers, you can lead the prayer-

Pray

Closing

Say- Christmas is about celebrating the greatest gift the world has ever received—Jesus! God planned this gift perfectly because He knew exactly what we needed: a Savior who would take away our sins. And even though we didn't deserve it, God gave us Jesus out of His incredible love for us. The best part? This gift never wears out, never breaks, and never gets lost. Jesus is with us forever, offering His love and grace every single day. So, as you go through this Christmas season, remember to thank God for the gift of Jesus and share His love with those around you. Jesus truly is the greatest gift of all! Thank you for coming! Merry Christmas!









How Can I Share The Gift Of Jesus With Others?



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