



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Group prize for winning team (See "What You Do")

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Undercover Christmas Theme Slide
- *Optional:* Countdown Video or Timer

What You Do:

- Prize can be candy canes or some other Christmas candy that the group can share. These groups may be combined Small Groups, so be sure to have enough for everyone.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Three cans of spray whipped topping
- Three plates

- Sprinkles (Christmas style/colors if possible)
- Group candy prize
- Measuring tape
- Christmas caroling accessories (scarf, top hat, toboggan hat, hymnals, etc.)
- Host
- Worship Leader
- Other volunteers for a small choir (See “What You Do”)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Set out a table (may be good to cover it with plastic) with three paper plates spread out on the table. During the game, the participants will spray whipped topping onto the plates.
- For the Christmas carol portion, choose a small “choir” (including the Host and Worship Leader) that will interrupt the Communicator. Have the leaders go over the songs ahead of time.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Stop Singing

Start Spreading the News

Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Shepherds Visit) • *Luke 2:8-20*

Bottom Line: Share the good news about Jesus.

Key Question: Who needs to hear the good news?

Memory Verse: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16 (NirV)*

Life App: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else’s need

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Undercover Christmas Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. Christmas is coming up, so obviously there is much to talk about there. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! Can you believe we are just days away from Christmas! Now, be honest: how many of you LOVE Christmas songs? *(Pause for response)* Me too. I listen to Christmas music from the moment Thanksgiving ends. And I *know* some of you start even earlier than that . . . but that might be going a bit too far. Ha!”

“Well, I have a game for everyone that will test your team’s knowledge of Christmas carols. I need to get this room into groups of [____] people. Go!”

Put small groups together, combine groups, etc. The game plays best if there are five to seven total groups, so do the math for your environment.

“Now that we are in groups, here is how the game is played. I will call out a popular word often found in a variety of Christmas songs. I will then run from group to group with a microphone. As soon as I stick the microphone into your group, start singing the line that has that word in it. Now it is important that you listen to each other because you CANNOT repeat songs in a round (from round to round is fine though). If you repeat songs, your group is out and will take a seat. If your group can’t come up with a

song or pauses for too long [*About 5 to 10 seconds*] or sings a song that is NOT a Christmas song, you are also out. We go from group to group until somebody gets out. Then I'll give you a new word and all of the song choices are back on the table. Make sense? Alright, let's hear those angelic voices!"

**Words you can use. Give one word at a time. Angel, Tree, Snow, Star, Present or Gift, Bells*

Play until you have a winning group.

HOST: "That was amazing!"

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: "I'm so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it's your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you, get a high five and show you around. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. Mission is for YOU!

I have just a few announcements for you all today...

Share any/all announcements.

Now let's all stand up, get close, give someone a high five and let's sing and worship together!

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let's get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he's done for us!

Alive

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let's give everything we have and worship God together!

Never Gonna Stop Singing

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! I know you’ve already played a game, but hey, it’s almost Christmas, and I thought we should play another one. That’s ok, right? Great! I need three volunteers. Who’s in?”

Communicator chooses three volunteers and brings them up on stage. There is a table set up with three plates on top. Kids will face the audience.

“The goal is for you to create a freestanding Christmas tree as tall as you possibly can. Your building material?”

Communicator pulls out three cans of spray whipped topping and sprinkles.

“This! That’s right . . . your goal is to make it look like a tree, but it needs to be the tallest tree you can make. Use the whole can if you need to. Then make sure you decorate your trees with some festive sprinkles. Got it? Alright, let’s go!”

Optional CG: Countdown Video

Communicator hands a can of whipped topping to each, and they begin. Comment along the way. Afterwards, determine a winner (use the measuring tape if necessary) but DO NOT give out the prize.

“(After the game) That was awesome! Well done on creating some pretty impressive Christmas trees. You can go get cleaned up and take your seats again!”

Put the table off to the side but do not get rid of the plates with the trees. You will use them later.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “That was fun, right? I wonder how long those whipped cream Christmas trees will last. I guess we’ll have to wait and see. So, let’s keep this moving with a question: Have you ever been left in the dark about something? What I mean by that is that was there was something you REALLY needed to know something but nobody ever told you? Has that ever happened to you? Maybe it has but you just don’t know it yet because nobody has told you! Hmm . . . now that’s something to think about! But no one likes to be left in the dark, right? I’m sure every single one of us likes knowing what’s happening.

Even when we might be surprised by something amazing like a vacation to Disney World or a new puppy for Christmas, we become upset that we didn’t already know this information. Well, we’re not alone. No one likes being left in the dark, but sometimes that’s just the way it has to be. Sorta like, why in the world am I keeping these Christmas trees up here, right? Well . . . I’m gonna have to keep you in the dark a little bit longer.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “As we check out a story from the Bible today, we find some people who had been left in the dark, both literally and figuratively. See, an angel had visited Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby and that child was the long-awaited Messiah. She was to name Him Jesus. This was all quite unbelievable to both Mary and her soon-to-be husband, Joseph, but God was doing something miraculous. He was bringing his very own Son into the world in a very unexpected way. Then, Mary and Joseph traveled almost 70 miles to Bethlehem because a Roman census required Joseph to return to his hometown. While they were there, Mary gave birth to the baby boy. The whole thing was quite out of the ordinary, but what happened next was certainly unexpected!”

“(Read directly from Luke 2:8) ‘There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night . . .’”

The Host, Worship Leader, and a few others enter and interrupt the Communicator with their caroling. The caroling should be very serious and dramatic. Hand positioning, over emphasizing words, conducting . . . very showy.

CAROL CHOIR: *(From “Go Tell It On The Mountain”)* “While shepherds kept their watching o’er their silent flocks night behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Ummm . . . what is happening?”

HOST: “You’re talking about shepherds, and there are so many shepherds in Christmas carols. Just helping you out, buddy!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, thanks . . . but I think I have it from here.”

Carolers exit.

“So where was I? Oh yes . . . (Read directly from Luke 2:8) ‘There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night and they were taking care of their sheep . . .’”

Carolers return.

CAROL CHOIR: *(From “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”)* “Shepherds in the field abiding; watching o’er your flocks by night; God with man is now residing . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, I get it. So, I said they were taking care of their sheep and so you sang ‘watching o’er your flocks.’ I see what is happening here. Okay, thanks again for your help.”

HOST: “No problem!”

COMMUNICATOR: “I’m going to continue . . . if that’s okay with you all?”

HOST: “Please do!”

Carol choir no longer exits between songs.

COMMUNICATOR: “(Read directly from Luke 2:8-9) ‘There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them . . .’”

CAROL CHOIR: (From “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”) “From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came; And unto certain shepherds brought tiding of the same; How that in Bethlehem
was born the Son of God by name . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, yes, I was going to get to what the angels said . . .”

CAROL CHOIR: “Oh tidings of comfort and joy . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay I can continue . . .”

CAROL CHOIR: “Comfort and joy.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Yes . . . well, but first let me . . .”

CAROL CHOIR: “Oh tidings of comfort and joy!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Well now that THAT’S over . . . let’s continue. So the angels appeared . . .
(Continue reading from Luke 2:9 NIV.) ‘And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were
terrified.’”

Communicator looks at Carolers, expecting them to start singing. They are still and silent.

COMMUNICATOR: “Nothing? (Surprised) Okay, well then . . . let’s keep going . . .”

CAROL CHOIR: (From “Silent Night”) “Shepherds quake at the sight . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Should’ve seen that coming. Anyway, so, it was a night just like any other night,
and these shepherds had traveled with their flocks and were out in the fields near Bethlehem. They did
this all the time! But what didn’t happen all of the time? Angels appearing in the middle of the sky and
the glory of the Lord shining all around them! The shepherds were . . . (wait for response) TERRIFIED!”

“Now there is something you should probably know about shepherds. They weren’t very well respected.
They were a bit dirty . . . probably quite smelly. Certainly not the first people you would expect an angel
to make an appearance to!”

CAROL CHOIR: (From “The First Noel”) “The first Noel; the angel did say; was to certain POOR
shepherds in fields as they lay . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Yeah . . . poor shepherds . . . exactly. (Starting to warm up to the choir’s help) And
check out what the angel said . . .”

“(Read from Luke 2:10-11 NIV) ‘But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”’ This baby was not just anybody . . . but the angels declared that this child was the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior who would come to save His people. Surely these shepherds, along with everyone else, had waited a long time. Some had given up hope. But the angels declared, ‘He is here!’”

“(Read from Luke 2:16 NIV) ‘So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.’”

CAROL CHOIR: *(From “What Child Is This?”) “This, this is Christ the King; whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud; The babe, the son of Mary.”*

COMMUNICATOR: “These shepherds were some of the first visitors to see the new baby. Imagine what that must have been like. And the truly cool thing is that they couldn’t stop talking about it. Check out the next verses in the story.”

“(Read directly from Luke 2:17-18 NIV) ‘After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.’”

“Do you see what just happened?! The angels told the shepherds the good news about Jesus, and it changed their lives. I’m sure that when they returned from seeing Him they were never the same again. But it didn’t stop there! They told EVERYONE what had happened . . . and now THOSE people were amazed.”

CAROL CHOIR: *(From “Angels We Have Heard On High”) “Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heavenly song?”*

COMMUNICATOR: “Exactly! The shepherds were so excited as they told everyone what they had experienced!”

“They received good news and then shared good news. And who knows, maybe the people they shared with then went and told others.”

“Hey, would you give our choir a hand! You really *did* help me tell that story.”

The carolers exit singing “We Wish You A Merry Christmas.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “That’s the thing about good news . . . you want to share it. Think about it—if you get a good grade on a test, you probably can’t wait to tell your parents. Or if you get to that next level you’ve been trying to beat, you can’t wait to tell your friends. If you won tickets to see your favorite sports team or an amazing concert, I’m sure you’d tell everyone! But we have some of the greatest news you could ever have: God sent His Son to this world to save us. We can have a relationship with God because of Jesus. What could be better than that? So shouldn’t we want to share that with everyone just like the shepherds did? And who knows . . . maybe they’ll be amazed and then go share

it with others as well.”

“We receive the good news. Now we share the good news!”

“See, when we don’t tell people about Jesus, they might miss a chance to enjoy a relationship with Him. And I have to confess something to the winner of our Whipped Cream Christmas Tree game—I didn’t tell you about the prize for winning the game, and so you missed out on enjoying it. Actually, your whole small group missed out because it was a group prize. So . . . here you go!”

Communicator throws a bag of candy as a prize to the winner. While doing this, the Host enters.

“See, I shared the good news with you and now you can enjoy and share with your group.”

HOST: *(To Communicator)* “Oh, by the way, there was something we actually didn’t share with you and I need to be honest about it now.”

COMMUNICATOR: *(concerned)* “Really? What could it be?”

HOST: “Well, there were actually two prizes for winning the Whipped Cream game. One was the candy for the group, and the other was . . . the chance to do this!”

Host grabs the plate with the Whipped Topping Christmas Tree and smashes it into the Communicator’s face.

HOST: “I just wanted to share . . . and now I hope you enjoy it!”

Host runs offstage.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “I can’t believe that just happened! *(To Host offstage)* I know where you live! *(To kids)* I gotta go get cleaned up, but as you go to small group today, think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

“Who needs to hear the good news?” As you think about how you’d answer that question, think about the people in your own lives. Who are the people around you who you might be able to invite to church and introduce them to Jesus? Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for the Good News of Jesus!

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*