



JINGLE JAM – DECEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *O Night Divine* ▪ Luke 2:1–20

Bottom Line: *You can have joy because God sent His Son.*

Key Question: *What’s the best part of Christmas this year?*

Memory Verse: *“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”*
Philippians 4:4

Life App: *Joy—Finding a way to be happy, even when things don’t go your way*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: In Luke 2:1–20, we read that God didn’t announce Jesus’ birth to kings or government officials. Rather, He sent an angel choir to announce this news to a bunch of shepherds on a hillside. The shepherds ran to find Jesus, where they worshipped Him. They were so full of joy that made sure to tell everyone what they saw when they left.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Let It Go

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about what they are most excited for Christmas
- Divide your group into two teams
- Direct each team to link arms with their teammates and to form a line standing next to each other.
- Instruct the two teams to face each other, leaving 10 feet in between them.
- Each team will take a turn calling someone from the opposite team to come over for a “no smile” contest.
- A “no smile” contest is when you choose to look someone in the face for as long as you can without cracking a smile.
- The person who gets called over can decide to have the “no smile” contest with whomever they choose.
- If the person who has been called over loses the “no smile” contest, they must join the opposing team.
- If the person from the “host team” (the team that called the “contender” over) loses, that person must go back with their opponent and join the other team.
- Play several rounds as long as time and interest allow.
- The team with the most people at the end wins!

What You Say:

*“That was fun trying to watch you all hold in your smiles! There were a few of you who are really great at concealing your laughter! But a few of you couldn’t help but smile no matter how hard you tried. How did it feel when someone had to join your team because they couldn’t NOT smile? (Allow time for responses.) Well, **[Transition] today in Jingle Jam, we are going to learn about someone who was sent over to us that can always help us to be full of joy!**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What's the best part about Christmas this year? No matter what is happening at home, Christmas can be joyful experience because God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Because preteens might have a hard time seeing why they can be joyful, we start with a question that gets them thinking about the great things that might happen during Christmas this year.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What is the most meaningful part of the Christmas story for you?
 - What are you most looking forward to about this Christmas week?
 - Christmas is so fun and wonderful, but it can also sometimes be disappointing. What can you do to have joy if/when you don't get everything you asked for, someone in your family isn't getting along, or something just goes wrong on Christmas Day?

2. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: “Gift Tag Prayer Prompts” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Have each of the kids choose at least one of the “Gift Tag Prayer Prompts.” It's okay if some kids have more than one.
- Invite the group to focus a prayer around the word(s) on their gift tags.
- Have them choose a different tag and then pray again.
- Repeat as time allows.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we are so grateful that You sent Jesus, the King of Christmas. He came as a baby in a manger but would one day be the Savior of the world. You rescued us by making a way for us to be forgiven. As we celebrate Christmas with friends and family, help us to remember how

You came to earth to save us. You died for our sin and rose from the dead so that we could live forever with You in heaven. We can have joy because You sent us Jesus. Amen.”