

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for the unending love that is communicated through the gift of Jesus. Ask God to help kids remember that Jesus is the greatest gift, better than any physical gift they could ever receive. Thank God for the excitement of the season and that we DO get to celebrate with gifts and fun traditions.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Gift
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, copy paper, and crayons or colored pencils

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the greatest gift.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and something to color and draw with.
- Ask, "What is the greatest gift you have ever gotten?"
- Direct the kids to draw the greatest gift they've ever received on one side of their paper.
- Once all the kids are finished, invite kids to share what they drew with the rest of the group.
- After everyone has shared, ask, "What is a gift you wish you could get?"
- Direct the kids to draw a gift they'd like to get on the other side of their paper.
- When they're finished, invite the kids to share what they drew with the rest of the group.

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



2. NATIVITY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Room" Activity Page, "Animals" Activity Page, "Instructions" Activity Page, markers or colored pencils, resealable plastic bags, glue sticks, and Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Room" Activity Page and an "Animals" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers or colored pencils.
- Invite the kids to color both pages.
- Referring to the "Instructions" Activity Page, demonstrate how to fold the "Room" Activity Page and fold and glue the "Animals."
- Ask the kids to follow your lead and do the same.
- Look up Luke 2:1-7 in the Bible.
- Invite the kids to set up their nativities up as you read Luke 2:1-7 aloud.
- Give each kid a resealable bag and encourage them to place their nativity pieces in them.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! Your nativities look beautiful! Who do you see in the nativity? (*Invite responses.*) What was their part in the Christmas story? (*Invite responses.*) What's your favorite part of the Christmas story? (*Invite responses.*)"

"God showed you how much you are loved by sending Jesus. No one understood it then, but this tiny baby would grow up to teach and heal and show people what God is like. Then Jesus would choose to lay down His life for you and me and the whole world to defeat sin and death itself."

"If you look closely, you'll find a heart in the nativity. That's to remind you that Jesus is the ultimate example of God's love for you. Take this nativity home and place it in your room to remind you that **Jesus is the greatest gift**. On Christmas day when you open gifts, eat lots of food and candy, and have fun with family, remember to take the time to think about how much God loves you and celebrate the greatest gift you've ever been given—Jesus."

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. THE GREATEST GIFT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Cards" Activity Page and treats rolled into a plastic wrap ball; Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Give one kid the prepared plastic-wrap ball.
- Help them find the end to start unwrapping.
- Direct the kid to continue unwrapping the ball until they find a card from the "Verse Cards" Activity Page.
- Let them keep whatever treats they find as well as the card.
- Once they get a card, direct the kid to pass the ball to the next kid in the circle.
- Once the ball is totally unwrapped, guide the kids to put the Luke 2:11 verse cards in order (using the Bibles if needed).
- If you choose, let kids eat their treats or set them aside until dismissal.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This was a fun game AND a treat! Two for one! I wanted to make sure everyone got a little present to remember that **Jesus is the greatest gift.**

"This week, when you shop for surprises or wrap boxes, when you open presents or give them away, remember that we give gifts BECAUSE of the greatest gift. God gave the whole world a forever gift. We can't do that. So we focus on sharing special presents with our friends and family that show our love and kindness and celebrate theirs. God gave first and forever, so that we can give to each other. **Jesus is the greatest gift.**"

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Nativity scenes from "Nativity" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has the nativity scene they made.
- Ask the kids to hold their nativity scene and silently reflect on how much God loves them.
- Close your group time in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus as a gift of love.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Thank You, God, for giving us the greatest gift. You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer—to save us so we could be part of Your family forever. Thank You for giving us such an amazing reason to celebrate at Christmas. In the middle of our busy day on Christmas, remind us to take a moment to thank You for all You have given us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen. **Jesus is the greatest gift.**"

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them the heart on their nativity and share what God did at Christmas to show us that He loved us.

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