



# Children's Ministry

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

### ADVENT WEEK 4 | JESUS IS OUR JOY

ISAIAH 35; LUKE 2

#### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!

#### MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:10-12 (emphasis ours)*

There are so many reasons to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. What a gift that God would send a Savior for a broken people! As amazing as that gift is, when I look closer at the smaller details of this story, I can't help but be filled with a delight that brings me to an indescribable feeling of joy.

Luke 2:7 describes the condition in which Jesus was born: in a manger, because there was no room anywhere else. Such a humble origin story for the King of Kings! He was born not in a palace or a deluxe-room, but in a manger surrounded by animals (and all the mess and smells that come with that).

Verses 8-12 go on to tell us that God chose lowly shepherds to be the first to hear that the Savior had come. Shepherds in those days were often seen as less than and considered social outcasts. Yet this is the group that God chose to see a choir of angels singing the Lord's praises and be the first to hear of the birth of the Savior. Not the king of the region, not noblemen or religious leaders, but humble shepherds.

Verses 16 and 20 paint an incredible picture. After seeing this tiny, helpless baby, fully dependent on those around Him, the shepherds respond by glorifying and praising God. I hope that when we reach heaven one day, we will be able to understand the joy of this moment. Imagine what it must have been like to be these men, to see the perfect and innocent face of a newborn baby, knowing that baby is Emmanuel: God with us.

This season is a time for celebration and joy. Regardless of what's happening in the world or in your life, take time this week to be still and let the joy of this story fill your heart. And after, let us all be like those shepherds, glorifying and praising God for all He has done.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

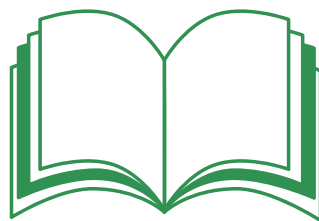
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:1, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse bin to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on January 25!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## JESUS IS OUR JOY | LUKE 2:1-21

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY: After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!**



# CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Celebrate Jesus' birth through snacks, games, and more!

After Large Group, it's time to celebrate! There will be a variety of activities, games, and treats for kids and leaders to participate in. More detailed instructions are in this week's volunteer email and will be provided at the Sunday morning huddle.

## DONUTS & HOT CHOCOLATE STATION

Donuts will be out for everyone, but make sure kids are only taking as many as they've been told they can. Help kids as they get their hot chocolate, making sure they don't overfill their cup.



## SILENT DISCO!

We have a special treat for everyone in the gym: a silent disco party! This will be open to all elementary kids. There's a limited number of headphones, so a rotation schedule will be printed for leaders to reference.

## GAMES, CRAFTS, & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Various games, crafts, and activities will be spread out among the different rooms in the building. Engage with kids as they play, cheering them on in games or sitting and doing a craft with them.

Whatever you do, have fun! This is a time for all of us to celebrate Christmas together!

# CLOSING



Prepare for parent pick-up and end of service.

## PICK-UP REMINDERS

Even though today is a fun day, we still need to follow our safety policies! Be sure to check parents' codes with the ones on kids' stickers and remove the stickers before kids leave.

Remember, this is the last day of Elementary programming in 2025, so we'll see you next in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**