

# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE

## Children's Ministry

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

WAITING FOR JESUS: JOY

ISAIAH 35; LUKE 2

## GOD'S BIG STORY

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

# LEADER DEVO

*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.

# ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

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

*Hebrews 11:1*



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

**JAN 25**

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

### THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, John 3:16 will look like:

F G S L T W T H G H O A O S T W B I H W N P B H E L

# 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.

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

**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, and 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!

# PICK-UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

# CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!