



IT'S ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Jesus is a Promise | December 11, 2022|

1 year olds thru 4 year olds

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:18-23; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:14

BIG IDEA: Because of Jesus, I have God's help every day.

CHRIST CONNECTION: At Christmas, Jesus came for us and lives with us today. When we believe in Jesus, we don't have a momentary encounter with God, we have His permanent presence in our lives. Because of Jesus, I have God's help every day.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

In the prophecy of the virgin birth, Isaiah 7:14, the prophet Isaiah declares, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." This prophecy ultimately refers to the birth of Jesus, as we see 700 years later in Matthew 1:22-23: "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')."

There are many "names" given to Jesus in the Old and New Testaments, and Immanuel is one of them. Isaiah elsewhere prophesied of the Messiah, "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus was never called by any of those "names" by the people He met in Galilee or Judea, but they are accurate descriptions of who He is and what He does. The angel said that Jesus "will be called the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32) and "the Son of God" (verse 35), but neither of those was His given name.

To say that Jesus would be called "Immanuel" means Jesus is God, that He dwelt among us in His incarnation, and that He is always with us. Jesus was God in the flesh. Jesus was God making His dwelling among us (John 1:1, 14). God keeps His promises.

Jesus' nature makes Him truly Immanuel, "God with us." Isaiah told us to watch for Immanuel, the virgin-born Son of God. He will save us; He will reconcile people to God and restore creation to its original beauty. We know Him as Jesus, but we can also call Him "God with us," because that's exactly who He is.

Jesus' presence reminds us that He is with us and we are to follow Him on more than just Sundays. He is always with us to help us and to lead us. As you lead your group, encourage your kids to both believe in and follow Jesus. Be clear with the Gospel by inviting kids to believe that they are sinners who need a Savior. Also, invite believers to follow and trust Him because He knows and sees us.

TAKEAWAYS

- God wants a relationship with you and me. Jesus left heaven and came to earth so that we can have a relationship with God.
- At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus came to live with us.

- Jesus is here, exactly as God promised. So I can trust He will always be here.
- When you put your faith in Jesus, you don't have a momentary encounter with God. No, you have the promise of His permanent presence in your life.
- Once you believe in Jesus, God will never, ever leave you.
- When we go through hard, confusing, or sad times, we can hope and trust that God will take care of us as Isaiah did.
- **BIG IDEA:** Because of Jesus, I have God's help every day.

Small Group Prayer: "Father God, thank You for Your Son, a child born to us. Thank you for people like Isaiah who seek You and tell us about You so that we can celebrate all the amazing detail You surround us with when You make a promise and keep it. Help us to focus on the miracle of Jesus this season and celebrate You. We love You Lord and worship You always. In Jesus' name, Amen."

SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Christmas Games/Activities

What You Need: Games/Activities instruction page (1 per group) felt tree and ornaments, dice, nativity sets, Nativity Scavenger Hunt Cards, Dry erase Marker, Eraser

What You Do:

- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Introduce the Story:

Today we are learning about Jesus as a promise that God told people about for 700 years. What do you think a promise is? When you make a promise, do you keep it? I sure hope so. God made a big promise when He talked to Isaiah about Jesus. Let's watch our Bible story together now to see what happens."

**Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku
Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku**

RECAP the STORY:

"God told Isaiah He would send someone perfect to earth to take away our wrong choices. He would bring us close to God and be a light to the whole world. He would bring Good News to the poor and rule in a new kingdom where there is no sin or sadness. Jesus came from Galilee to serve people his whole life. He was rejected, beaten, and killed by his own people. His wounds would heal us. The Rescuer would die and come back to life. God's family waited 700 years for all of this to happen. Through this prophecy from Isaiah and other prophets, we can know that God always keeps His promises. Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy from God."

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: God is Always with Us

What You Need: medium sized hula-hoop (1 per group)

What You Say:

- Ask kids to make a circle by holding hands.
- Kids are going to keep holding their neighbors' hands.
- Place a hula hoop on one person's arm as they hold hands in the circle.
- The goal is to move the hula hoop around the circle without breaking hands.
- Younger kids- play duck-duck-goose instead. Talk about how a circle never stops. This is like Jesus' love for us. God sent Jesus to be God with us, forever,

What You Say "Jesus' presence reminds us that He is with us and we are to follow Him on more than just Sundays. He is always with us to help us and to lead us. When you are scared, need help, or when we are just playing with friends, God is always with us. We can thank Jesus for giving us this option."

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Read The Jesus Story

What You Need: Christmas in the Manger Book (1 per group), nativity pieces

What You Do:

- Using the nativity pieces you searched for earlier, read the Christmas story in the book and ask kids to help you tell the story using the nativity pieces.

What You Say "It is important for us to learn about the Christmas story of Jesus and why God sent Him as a baby to grow into the man that would heal and teach others about God. Then die on the cross for our sins and rose in 3 days to show the world He was God and defeat death. When we see all those things in Christmas, we begin to see that It's All About Christmas! Let's talk about it all more now with these questions."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **If you could give any gift to someone you love, what would you give to them?**
- **What does God give to each of us at Christmas?** *He gives His Son, Isaiah 7:14*
- **Was Jesus' birth a normal birth?** *No, it was a miraculous birth because He is God's Son.*
- **Why was Jesus born?** *To rescue us from sin and to give life to all who believe. Because of Jesus, believers have a forever relationship with God who is always with us.*
- **What does it mean that God is with us?** It means that He is with us and can help us all of the time and wherever we are. Our relationship with God is about more than just Sundays at church because He is with us at home, school, on the sports field - everywhere we go.
- **What can you do to live for Him every day? How can I turn to Him for help when I need Him?**

TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.