



IT'S ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Jesus is a Promise | December 11, 2022|

Kinder - 5th grade

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 Social Games

What You Need: Tongue Twister cards, Decorate a Tree Cards (1 per kid), Tree Decor, Dice, Instruction Pages

Objective: Interact with each kid before group starts so you can have great discussions.

Winning: The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important ways to get them to talk about what is going on around them.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: God is With Us- Immanuel

What You Need: large candy canes (1 per kid), bucket, 3-4 small plastic Christmas ornament, masking tape

What You Say:

- Use the masking tape to mark off a line down the middle of your play space.
- Place a bucket at the end of one line.
- Create 2 teams.
- Each team will take turns playing the game.
- Have each team choose a "goalie" that will stand behind the masking tape line.
- Using their candy canes, teams will work together, only using the candy cane to hit the ornament, to pass the ornament across the masking tape line past the goalie.
- Each player can only hit the ornament once per turn moving it down the court to make a goal.
- The team with the most ornaments in their bucket at the end wins.

What You Say "Candy canes are also known as peppermint sticks, Santa's cane, or in the hard candy form as just peppermints. They are all referring to the same type of candy and taste exactly the same, but have different names. We assign multiple names to people and things all the time.

We know Christmas is about so much more than presents, decorating Christmas trees, singing songs, and sending Christmas cards. At the center of the message of Christmas is a God of love who wants to have a relationship with you. The name "Immanuel" means, God is with us. God sent His Son to be with us. That has been God's desire all along- to have a relationship with us. We were created to have a relationship with God, but sin drove a wedge between God and us that we couldn't fix on our own. We can't be good enough by performing good deeds or trying to be perfect. Thankfully, that's not what God asks of us. He knows we aren't perfect, and it's impossible to do enough good things to restore our relationship with God. So, God sent Jesus, Immanuel, to be with us. Jesus was the very first Christmas present. Isn't that cool?

Jesus provided the ultimate sacrifice to restore our relationship to God now and for all eternity. Now, you may be asking, "If His name was supposed to be Immanuel, then why do we call Him Jesus? In the Hebrew language, the word, "name" could refer to a title as well as a proper name. You call you mom and dad by those names. That's not their actual name, but whether you say, "Mom." or whatever your mom's name is, you are still addressing the same person. Jesus was the proper name for the Messiah, but He has many other names. The Bible also calls Him Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Prince of Peace, and Immanuel. This Christmas season, think about the relationship God wants to have with you. He loved you so much He sent His only son to be with us. Now, you get to choose Him."

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Nativity Shout Out

What You Need: Shout out Cards (1 per kid), Calling card, card markers

What You Do:

- Each card has one match and only one match, with every other card.
- Object of the game: Collect the most cards.
- Distribute one card face down to each player.
- Place the remaining cards face up in the center.
- Each player turns over their cards at the same time.
- When you find your match, 'shout out' the name of the object and take the card.
- Game ends when all cards in the center are gone.
- Each player counts their cards.
- The player with the most cards wins.
- Alternate game instructions are available in the bag of supplies for the game. Play the best way for your group on that day.

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.