



# IT'S ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

**Jesus is the Best Gift | December 4, 2022|**

**1 year olds thru 4 year olds**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 JOHN 4:9-10

**BIG IDEA:** Because of God's love, Jesus came to save me.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** At Christmas, God shows how much we are worth. God loved us first and sent His one and only Son for us. My value is found in His love for me and what Jesus has done for me. Because of God's love, Jesus came to save me.

**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 John 4:9-10, we read one of the most life-changing truths in all of Scripture. God loved us before we loved Him. Read it: "9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

How much does God love us? He loves us more than anyone has ever loved us. His love for us doesn't compare to any love that we have ever experienced and Christmas proves it. God showed us His love at Christmas by sending His one and only Son into the world. God loves us so much that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger, but the story doesn't stop there. Jesus came to be our rescuer, to save us from our sins, and to give us eternal life. That's the Christmas story in a nutshell. 1 John 4:9 makes it clear: God's love for us is inescapable at Christmas.

Keep reading 1 John 4:10 and you will see that every man, woman, and child matters to God. God shows us what real love is by loving us first. You are so valued by God that He chose to love you before you even thought of Him. He chose to love you while you were still a sinner in great need of a Savior. He loved you first and will love you always because you matter to Him.

*If God had waited to love us, we would be helpless. If God could ever stop loving us, we would be hopeless. But because God loves us and nothing will ever change that, we can know that we are God's children and we can live close to Him throughout our lives because of God's gift, Jesus.*

Jesus' perfect love invites us to believe in Him and to follow Him. He loves us so much that He came to save us and to show us how to live our lives in a way that pleases God. 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**

- Love starts with God. He sent Jesus to rescue us. At Christmas, we celebrate that God didn't wait for us to come to Him. He came to us.

- Jesus chose to take the punishment for our sins. He died on the cross so that we don't have to.
- Christmas would have no meaning if Jesus hadn't died on the cross for us and then proved that He is God rising again three days later on Easter Sunday.
- We get to be close to Him because He loves us!
- Jesus doesn't just heal us on the inside. He heals us on the inside, too. Only God can give us a new, loving heart.
- **BIG IDEA:** Because of God's love, Jesus came to save me.
- Anyone can be a part of God's family if they choose to believe in Jesus.

**Small Group Prayer:** Father God, thank You so much for sending a Savior that is perfect like You. Help me see how much you love me, every day. As we celebrate Christmas this year, help me draw close to the baby, boy, and man who came to rescue me, because It's ALL about Christmas. We love you Lord and worship You. 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 gift for you and me. What is one gift you really want for Christmas this year? I hope that everyone gets one thing they really want. I really want all of us to learn about how Jesus is the best gift we could ever get. Will you watch our Bible lesson with me on the video now, please?"

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

**RECAP the STORY:**

"People waited 100s of years for Jesus to come as the promised rescuer. When He was born He was completely human and God. Only God is completely perfect, so Jesus was perfect too. Jesus performed miracles that affected people on the outside and on the inside. He healed people from blindness, inability to walk or talk and He healed people from sin. Jesus chose to take the punishment on the cross so we don't have to suffer the punishment of our sins. Jesus rescued us and we get to be close to Him because He loves us. He loves us when other people don't. He loves us when we feel left out, alone and hurt. He loves us when we do wrong things. His love is always, forever, and never changing. No matter where we go, what we do, we can know Jesus loves us. Jesus is the best gift you will ever receive and believe in.

**APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Jesus is the Best Gift**

**What You Need:** Best Gift Craft kit (1 per kid), marker, gift tags, ribbon

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a craft kit.
- Encourage them to use the stickers to create a special gift to share with someone else.
- Place the gift tag on the ornaments kids complete.
- Ask kids to think about who they will share this with and what they want to tell them about Jesus.

**What You Say** " Let's read 1 John 4:10. In it you will see that every man, woman, and child matters to God. God shows us what real love is by loving us first. You are so valued by God that He chose to love you before you even thought of Him. He chose to love you while you were still a sinner in great need of a Savior. He loved you first and will love you always because you matter to Him.

*If God had waited to love us, we would be helpless. If God could ever stop loving us, we would be hopeless. But because God loves us and nothing will ever change that, we can know that we are God's children and we can live close to Him throughout our lives because of God's gift, Jesus."*

**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:**

- **Who in your life has loved you before you loved them?** *Parents, Grandparents, Older Siblings*
- **When the Bible says that God loved us before we loved Him, what does that mean?** *Even before we believed in Him or even thought of Him, God loved us.*
- **How does Christmas prove that God loves us?** *He sent His Son Jesus to live with us and to die for us.*
- **What did Jesus do to show that God loves us first?** *He showed His love by coming to rescue me. He died on the cross for us and was raised again from the dead.*
- **How should we respond to God's love?** *We should believe that Jesus is our Savior and follow Him with all of our lives.*

**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.