



# IT'S ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

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

**Kinder - 5th grade**

**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 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: Jesus is the Best Gift**

**What You Need:** blank wood ornaments (1 per kid), vinyl nativity cut out (1 per kid), popsicle sticks, ribbon, gift tag (1 per kid)

**What You Say:**

- Give each kid a blank wood ornament and popsicle stick.
- Lay out the vinyl stickers on the table.
- Using the popsicle stick encourage kids to rub the vinyl sticker on the wood ornament. They will need to use some strength to get it to stick.
- When they have added their nativity vinyl sticker, ask them to attach a gift tag to the ornament.
- Encourage kids to think of someone they can share their ornament with who needs to hear about Jesus and God's plan to use Him to rescue us and allow us the best gift ever.
- Encourage them to use this as a way to share what God has done for them too.

**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: 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:

- **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.