



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Pass It On

[10 min]

Supplies

- yarn (16-foot piece for every 5-6 kids)
- index cards (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- hole punch
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Draw a large, brightly colored smiley face on both sides of an index card, and punch a hole in the top corner of it. Thread the card onto a piece of yarn, keeping it at one end. Make a set of these for every group of 5 to 6 kids.

Share the Good News

Say: **After they saw baby Jesus, the shepherds ran and told everyone the good news that Jesus came to earth for us. Let's play a game and share happy news with each other.**

- Form groups of five or six. Give each group a piece of yarn with an index card on it.
- Have kids spread out along their piece of yarn so there's a child at each end, and other kids are spaced evenly in between. Encourage them to stand in a zigzag pattern rather than a straight line.
- Show kids how to move the "good news" card down the yarn from one person to the next by holding the yarn at an angle and wiggling it.
- After the card gets to the other end of the yarn, encourage kids to pass it back to the beginning.
- Continue passing the card from one end to the other as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Say: **The shepherds were so excited that Jesus came to earth for us, they told everyone. And just like you kept passing your good news cards from one person to the next, the shepherds told their friends who then told some more friends. The happy news just kept spreading until someone told us! Now we can share the good news that Jesus came to earth for us with someone else.**

Share an example of someone *you* could tell the good news. It could be a friend, a family member, or even the clerk at the grocery store.

Ask: • **Who could *you* tell that Jesus came to earth for us?** Kids might say their brother, a friend, or a neighbor.

Say: **There are so many exciting things to talk about at Christmas. But the most exciting thing of all is Jesus came to earth to be our friend forever.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO
A Gift for You

[10 min]

Supplies

- “A Gift for You” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “A Gift for You”

Say: **We’re learning that Jesus came to earth for us. Let’s watch what happened!**

Watch “A Gift for You.”

Ask: • **Why is Jesus a good gift?**

• **If you were writing a thank-you note to God for the gift of Jesus, what would you say in it?**

Say: **Jesus came to earth for us. He loves you so much that he gave up heaven to become a human baby on earth! Jesus wanted to bring you joy, peace, and friendship. What an amazing gift!**

 **DEEPER BIBLE**
What a Surprise!

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- classroom objects such as Legos, dolls, cars, or puzzles

Easy Prep

- Put 4 sets of classroom objects in a place kids wouldn't expect to find them. For example, there could be Legos in one of the snack bins or cars in the puzzle boxes. Have fun looking for arrangements that would surprise kids.

Find Some Surprises

Say: **It's fun to think about when Jesus came to earth for us. It was a big surprise to the people who were there. Before we talk about why it was surprising, let's see what surprises we might find here in our classroom today.**

Lead kids to the first set of objects that are out of place. Say: **I think something here isn't in the right place. Does anyone see something surprising?** Allow kids to find the objects that are out of place.

Respond with surprise, and say: **Well, that's not what I expected to be in there. What a surprise!**

There are lots of things in the Christmas story that weren't what people were expecting, either. Shepherds weren't very important people, but the angels still made sure they heard that Jesus was born. That was a surprise!

Lead kids to the next set of objects that are out of place, and have them look for the objects.

Respond with surprise, and say: **Well, that's not where those belong. What a surprise!**

Jesus wasn't born where people thought *he* belonged, either. The Bible tells us Jesus is a king. Kings are usually born in castles where everything is clean and fancy. But Jesus was born in a simple place. It's a good thing Jesus was born there because the shepherds wouldn't have been able to go into a castle to meet Jesus.

Lead kids to the next set of objects that are out of place, and have them look for the objects.

Respond with surprise, and say: **That's not what I expected. What a surprise!**

Mary and Joseph planned to go to a hotel, but there were no rooms left. That was probably a surprise to Mary and Joseph. But God already knew exactly where Jesus would be born.

Lead kids to the next set of objects that are out of place, and have them look for the objects.

Respond with surprise, and say: **That's a surprise, too! What are those doing there?**

Talk About It

Say: **Before we get to the biggest surprise in the Christmas story, I have a question.**

Ask: • **What lives in a barn or stable?** Allow kids to name as many animals as they can think of that might live in a stable.

Say: It wouldn't have been a surprise to see shepherds in a stable. They were with animals all the time. But it was a surprise to find a baby in a manger. A manger is a box that animals eat from! It would be a bigger surprise to know the baby was a king! If you think people were surprised to find baby Jesus in a feeding box, show me your best surprised face. Give kids a moment to respond.

Say: The Bible tells us Jesus came to earth for all people. Read Luke 2:10 aloud.

Say: Jesus came for us—he came for everyone. Baby Jesus was the best surprise ever!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Baby Jesus Came for Me

[5 min]

Supplies

- baby dolls (1 for every 10 kids)*

Pass the Baby Doll

Have kids sit in groups of about 10. Say: **Today we learned that baby Jesus came to earth for us! Let's each take a turn holding our pretend baby Jesus, remembering that God loves each one of us so much!** Lead kids in passing the doll, each taking a turn holding baby Jesus. In each group, you or an adult or teen helper will place a hand on the head of the child who's holding the baby and say: "[Child's name], Jesus came for you!"

Pray

Say: **We celebrate Christmas because Jesus came for us! Let's thank Jesus that he loved us each so much that he came to earth.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Say: **On Christmas, remember that Jesus is the whole reason we're celebrating! I hope to see you back here next week!**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Heaven and Earth

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Christmas” Activity Page Coloring Page
- pencils
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **At Christmas we celebrate that Jesus came to earth for us. He gave up heaven to come as a baby boy in a barn! Let’s think about the differences between heaven and earth.**

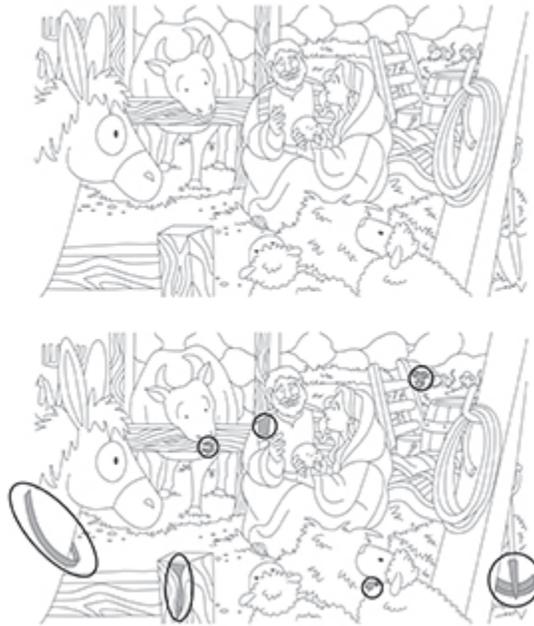
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the differences between the two pictures.

Ask: • **What differences did you notice?**

• **How do you think earth is different *because* Jesus came?**

Say: **Jesus gave up so much when he came to earth for us! Heaven is a perfect place where no one ever gets hurt or feels sad. It’s always bright and beautiful there. Earth is quite different! But when Jesus came to earth, things got brighter here. He brought joy and hope to our world! Jesus came to earth for us.**

ANSWER KEY:



Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus came to earth for us. Jesus came as just a little baby, born in a barn. Let's color that.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.