

CITY LG – December 16 - 17, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Repeat the Sounding Joy (Jesus Is Born) • Luke 2:1-7

Today's Bottom Line: You can have joy because God sent Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us.* Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

***LG SUPPLIES: Christmas Carol Fill-In Sheet on a clipboard and a pen**

WORSHIP

Oh What a Glorious Night

Silent Night

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Merry Christmas, friends! Can you believe that Christmas Day is almost here?

SLIDE: Virtue

Christmas is about **celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.**

SLIDE: Theme

God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever. THAT'S why Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive!

Today is December [16 or 17], so that means Christmas is getting really close! I don't know about you but I've been singing a lot of Christmas carols. And speaking of that, I have a fun game for us to play called Christmas Carol Fill-in! I'll need a little help from all of you to fill in the missing words, then I'll sing the Christmas carols we've all created together. What a great way to celebrate!

Use the Christmas Carol Fill-In Sheets to know which words to fill in. Give the kids the prompts noted on the sheets. Explain the parts of speech so the kids know what you're talking about (for example: a noun is a person, place, or thing; an adjective is a word that describes something, etc.).

Ask the kids to raise their hands and call on them to shout out words for each blank. Write the words that the kids give you in the blanks.

(after you've filled in the blanks) Okay, I think it's time to perform these Christmas carols—with the new lyrics and all. Here we go!

Perform the songs with the new fill-in words, a cappella.

Thank you, thank you, everyone! Those were some very creative new lyrics.

We have Christmas Eve services next week, but we won't have the CITY and the ALLEY open. You will get to celebrate Christmas in the auditorium with your family! SO, I'm super excited because today, we get to tell THE Christmas story. We'll take a look at the time Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which you can read in Luke, chapter 2. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“Of course, there was a lot that led up to Jesus’ birth. From the very beginning, God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family, the Israelites. But over and over again, God’s people kept turning away. Eventually, they were attacked by foreign nations.

“Still, God had a good plan. God spoke through people called prophets and promised to send a Rescuer. After hundreds of years, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary that she was going to have a very special baby. She would be the mother of Jesus! Let’s take a look...

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme

I’m sure it wasn’t easy for Mary and Joseph as they were traveling all those miles to Bethlehem. I’m sure they were worried about what was to come since they were going away from where they lived . . . and they knew Mary was going to have her baby.

But of course, God had a good plan for their story! Mary and Joseph knew that God was doing something amazing in their lives, because they had heard the angels’ words about Jesus and how He would be the promised Savior. Jesus was born, right there in Bethlehem. And Mary and Joseph were filled with joy because they saw how God’s promise had come true.

Did you know that we can choose joy in our lives today? We can choose to remember all the good things God has done. We can think about how much God loves us and how God sent Jesus for us. That will always be true—whether things around you are going great, or even if you feel worried or confused. Stand up with me...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

You can have joy because God sent Jesus.

We can find joy because of our relationship with Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son, and He is the Savior of the world! All of us have sinned and made bad choices, but when Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for us to be forgiven. That’s how much He loves us. And that, my friends, is a reason to have joy!

The truth is, we can choose joy in any situation. We can choose to trust God no matter what. I know being here with all of you gives me so much joy. It’s been a lot of fun hanging out with you.

Let’s pray and thank God for giving us this kind of joy.

God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to be our Savior! You brought JOY to the world when You sent Jesus for us. As we celebrate Jesus’ birth, help us remember how much You love us. Because that will give us the kind of joy that nothing in this world could ever take away. We are so thankful for all that You have done for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

OFFERING:

If you have offering, you can bring it up now. Who remembers what we have been giving to? Yep! Food baskets in Turkana. This will be the last day we collect for Turkana. When we come back in January, we will start collecting for a brand-new mission which we will tell you about then. Thank you for being so generous, CITY kids!

SLIDE: WINTERPALOOZA

Don’t forget... you won’t be in the CITY for the next two weekends, BUT our awesome Winterpalooza event is the first weekend back in the New Year, January 6th and 7th. At every service we will have games, crafts, prizes and TONS OF FUN celebrating Winter and the New Year! Bring some friends back with you that weekend. Grab a postcard as you leave, so you can remind your parents to bring you and your friends!