

CITY LG – December 2-3, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Goodness and Light (Jesus Is Promised) • *Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; 7:14-15*

Today's Bottom Line: You can have hope because God is faithful.

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

***LG SUPPLIES NEEDED:** bag for each small group filled with green crepe paper, paper ornaments, garland, tape

WORSHIP

Oh What a Glorious Night

Silent Night

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

SLIDE: Theme

Merry Christmas, everybody! I've been waiting all year to say that! This is my very favorite time of year because there are just so many fun things to do. I love to 'deck the halls' and decorate for Christmas. I love to bake Christmas treats and Christmas songs. What fun things do you like to do during the Christmas season? *(Take a few responses.)*

Those are all great ways to celebrate! And do you know WHY we celebrate Christmas in the first place?

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. That's definitely worth celebrating in a BIG way! We're going to celebrate today with a game! It's called Turn your leader into a Christmas tree! *(to audience)* YES! This is going to be amazing!

Here are some supplies for each small group.

Give a bag of supplies to each small group: green crepe paper, "Ornament Cutouts," garland, tape.

"You'll have two minutes to decorate your Small Group Leader and turn them into a Christmas tree! Are you ready? Three . . . two . . . one...GO!

VIDEO: Two-minute countdown

As the kids are decorating their leaders, move around the room and cheer them on. When the time is up, go around to each group and showcase their work. This game won't have a winner, just lots of zany fun!

Wow! I'm so impressed! Look at this forest of beautiful Christmas trees. All of you are really great decorators!

All right, leaders, you can undecorate yourselves and put the supplies back in the bag.

As we celebrate Christmas this month, it's good to go back and look at everything that led up to the birth of Jesus. (*Hold up Bible.*). Let's check out the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

When God sent Jesus, that meant God's promises from Isaiah and Micah had come true! As we look back at the time BEFORE Jesus was born, we can see that God is faithful. God's promises are true. And that should give us hope! Let's all stand up for our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

You can have hope because God is faithful.

At Christmas, we celebrate how God was faithful to send Jesus, our Savior. (*Hold up Bible.*) And we know from the Bible that one day, God will make everything right again. So, no matter what happens, you can KNOW that God loves you, and that God will be faithful to make things right in the end.

For our memory verse this month, we'll get to learn part of what Isaiah shared with the people in Isaiah 9:6.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. (Isaiah 9:6a, NIV)

Can you say that with me? *A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. (Isaiah 9:6a, NIV)*

Great job! I love to think about how God promised to send Jesus, even before Jesus was born! Let's pray and thank God for giving us hope!

SLIDE: Theme

"Dear God, thank You for being so good to us! Even before You sent Jesus to rescue us, You spoke through Isaiah and Micah to let everyone know that Jesus was coming. You gave hope then, and You give us hope now! We are so thankful that we can trust you no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

This is the last month for our offering to purchase food baskets for families in Kenya, in the rural area of Turkana. There is a food shortage and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

Our partners at Missions of Hope have been delivering the food baskets and they are a blessing to the families in Turkana! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

SLIDE: WINTERPALOOZA

I also want to tell you about an awesome event we will have the first weekend we are back in the New Year, January 6th and 7th called Winterpalooza! 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. We have postcards to give you as you leave, so you can show your parents. You and your friends won't want to miss Winterpalooza!