

ALLEY SG – November 30 - December 1, 2024

Today's Bible Story: The Word (In the Beginning Was the Word) • *John 1:1-5, 14*

Today's Key Question: Why is Jesus important to you?

Today's Bottom Line: God always had a plan to send Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: "[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (*NIRV*)

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: "Ornament" Cut Outs (2 cut outs per kid), pens, garland (1 12-foot piece per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen and one ornament cutout.
- Invite the kids to write something they love about Christmas on their ornament.
- While the kids write, use the garland to create a large triangular shape that resembles a Christmas tree in your group space.
- When kids are finished writing, ask them to place their ornament inside the garland as if they were "hanging" them on a tree.
- Give each kid another ornament cutout and repeat the steps above, but this time, ask them to write something that Christmas shows us about God!
- Once everyone is finished, have each kid add their ornament to the garland tree.
- Take a moment to observe what's written on all the ornaments.
- Call on a few kids to share what they chose to write.
- Invite each kid to take a turn re-arranging two to three ornaments inside the garland.
- Instruct them to start with what they feel is the most important thing about Christmas at the top and the least important at the bottom.
- Give a few kids a chance to share why they chose to re-arrange the ornaments in that way.
- Close by encouraging the entire group to agree on five ornaments that should go at the top of the tree based on how important each one is to Christmas.

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bibles, bigger bows (a few per bin)

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to look up John 1:1-5.
 - Provide help as needed.
- Encourage someone to read the verse aloud.
- Ask:
 - How is Jesus the Light of the World?
 - If you had to explain why God sent Jesus in only one sentence, what would you say?
 - God always had a plan to send Jesus. How do each of us fit into that plan?
- Give the kids the following prompt and encourage them to take turns sharing their answers.
 - "Jesus is important to me because . . ."

- Instruct kids to pass the bow to the next person who wants to share in their group.
- Encourage the groups to expand on why Jesus is important to them.
- If kids need prompts to get them thinking, share the following questions with the groups.
 - How has Jesus shown that He loves you?
 - When you think of Jesus, what's the first thing that comes to mind?
 - In what ways is Jesus a special gift?

3. Discussion Questions

- In what ways is Jesus the best gift ever?
- Why is Jesus' birth such an important part of God's plan?
- What does it mean to know that God sent Jesus for you? How does it make you feel?

4. Memory Verse Pass

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: gift box

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a large circle or around the table.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together. *"Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21
- Give one kid the gift.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to gift to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
"Dear God, we are so thankful that You always had a plan to send Jesus to rescue us so that we could have a relationship with You. We know You love us so much because You gave us the best gift ever! Help us to remember that You are always with us no matter what we're going through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share why Jesus is important to them.