

# CITY SG – December 14 - 15, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Born to Save (Jesus Is Born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

**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)

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

## PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** candy canes (one per kid, one for leader)

**What You Do:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Ask about their week!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite your group to form a circle.
- Give each kid one candy cane and hold on to the leader candy cane.
- Instruct the kids to hold the straight part of the candy cane with only one hand, with the hook side facing down.
- Direct the kids to place their free hand behind their back.
- Explain to the kids the goal is to see how fast they can pass the dangling candy cane around the circle, using only the hook part of their candy canes.
- Choose a kid to start.
- Place the leader candy cane you're holding onto the curved part of the candy cane of the kid who is starting the game.
- Start the round and start the timer—prompting kids to pass the dangling candy cane from one kid to the next using only their candy cane as a hook.
- Play several rounds, letting new kids in and timing each round to see if the kids can beat their previous time.
- Let the kids take their candy cane home. Keep leader's candy cane for next service.
- When you hold your candy cane like this, what letter does it look like? *the letter J.*
- Before you start large group, say **"The best Christmas gift we could ever receive starts with a 'J' too. Let's go to large group to hear more!"**

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### 1. Christmas Bingo

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Christmas Bingo cards and chips (set per group), prizes (bin per campus)

**What You Do:**

- Pass out the bingo cards and chips.
- Let them know you will review the story as you play bingo.
- As a Christmas symbol is called, ask kids to review what it has to do with the Christmas story.
- As kids win, let them pick a prize.
- Play several rounds.
- If any kids haven't won, let them pick a prize.

## 2. Christmas Verse Celebration

### Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Bibles, and “Celebration Actions” Cards (one set per group)

**What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
  - *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*
- Read the verse together a few times.
- Divide the group into teams of three.
- Give each team a Celebration Actions card.
- Instruct the kids to practice saying the verse using the celebration actions on their cards.
  - Let them know they can use their Bibles if needed.
- One at a time, invite each team to take turns reciting the verse in front of the entire group with their celebration action.
- Encourage the rest of the group to imitate reciting the verse after each team demonstrates their celebration action.
- Give out any remaining cards or invite groups of kids to trade and practice saying the verse in a new way if time and interest allow.

## 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*)
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- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...  
“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and bring us joy, peace, and hope. Just like Mary and Joseph, help us to trust in You, to celebrate the gift of Jesus, and to have joy when unexpected things happen in our lives. Help us to remember that You are always with us. 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 when the City meets again on January 4-5.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to recite this month’s memory verse.

Remind parents and kids that there are no services in the City for Christmas or December 28 & 29. City will be back on January 4 – 5... and Winterpalooza will be January 11-12.