

CITY LG – December 13th- 14th, 2025

Bible Story: Jesus Is Born • *Luke 2:1-20*

Bottom Line: Jesus is the greatest gift.

Monthly Memory Verse: *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."* • Luke 2:11 NIV

WORSHIP

Oh What a Glorious Night

O Holy Night

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, friends! It's almost Christmas! Yay! Extra! Extra! Read all about it! God loves you so much, He sent you Jesus!

I'm so glad you're here today as we discover even more about why Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift to us.

Before we get into it, I've got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: **What is your favorite Christmas tradition?** Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

*Large group leader should walk around listening to groups as they answer this.
Give them a couple of minutes.*

It's so exciting that it's almost Christmas! There are Christmas trees and presents and candy canes—all to celebrate what happened on that very first Christmas, when God gave us Jesus- **Jesus is the greatest gift!**

And that's what we're going to learn about today! But before we get to the Christmas story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're learning about the key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!

We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can get to know Him! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't be close to Him anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. God's people cried out to God—'Help us!' they said—and God heard them! God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

Sometime after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' God told His prophets to share. But for years and years, nothing happened.

But that long, long time was about to come to an end. God was about to show the world what He was working on for centuries—His plan to rescue all of us.

And that's where we are in God's Big Story! Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Story Lab

Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever! Jesus is our Rescuer!

And that's why we celebrate Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the season. At Christmas, we celebrate that God gave us the greatest gift.

That reminds me of our Bottom Line for this week!

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

One of the traditions of Christmas is that we give gifts to each other. Well, at Christmas, God gave you the greatest, greatest gift that there ever could be. He gave you Jesus.

Jesus would grow up, give His life, break that horrible curse of sin we were all under, and make a way for you to be God's friend forever.

Jesus would make a way so you could be close friends with the God who is kind, loving, compassionate, and fun.

God was giving you a way to be His friend forever. He was giving you a way to be friends forever with the most incredible Being. As God's friend, you will live with Him in a perfect world forever!

Let's talk to the God who gave us such an amazing gift!

Dear God, thank You for sending us the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember this Christmas, and every Christmas, You gave us the greatest gift because You love us so much. Merry Christmas, Jesus. We love You so much too.

OFFERING

In The City, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. For the rest of 2025 we are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! We are collecting our offering for Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. If you were at Summer Jam, you heard a lot about Shady Oaks. And Scott, the director of Shady Oaks Camp wants you all to hear how thankful he is for our help! Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Scott

Go home and see what you can do to earn money to help Shady Oaks Camp!

SLIDE: Theme