

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: God gave us the most valuable gift of all

Key Question: What is the best gift we could ever receive?

Memory Verse: "She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" **Matthew 1:23**

Overview: We're finishing our Christmas series today. We're all excited for the fun and exciting things to come. But, as we've been learning in this series, Christmas is about more than pretty lights and yummy food. We've learned that Christmas is about relationships. We need to have a relationship with God and we need to have good relationships with others. We've also learned that Christmas is about making room for Jesus in our hearts. He should be the most important person in our lives. This week, we're going to talk about gifts! Now, we all get excited about getting gifts but we should also be excited about giving gifts. When Jesus was born, the wise men brought him very expensive gifts. They did it to show their love and respect. We should want to give nice gifts, too. That doesn't mean we need to spend a lot of money. It means we should be thoughtful and kind and do things for our friends and family that shows them how much we love them. God has modeled this for us, too. He showed his great love for us by sending Jesus into the world to save us. He is the best gift ever! So, instead of just thinking about all the gifts you want to receive, remember to also be a good gift **giver** this year.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** What's the best gift you've ever received at Christmas? Why was it your favorite?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Romans 6:23](#). Why does sin bring death? What is the free gift?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.
 - Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

At Christmas time, we get a lot of great gifts. It's fun to unwrap every surprise. But, Christmas should be more about giving gifts than receiving gifts.

Answer: Jesus is the best gift ever!

Jesus is the best gift ever because he came to save us from our sins. He loves us so much that he chose to come into the world knowing that he would have to die on a cross to save us. His sacrifice means our relationship with God is fixed and that we get to live in Heaven with him some day.

Bonus Questions: Why is Jesus the best gift we could ever receive? How does he help us?

4-5th: Why should you share the gift of Jesus with people in your life?

The Bible says that our sin has broken our relationship with God. Sin is going our own way instead of God's way. So, we are "dead" in our sin when we say to God, "I don't care what you say. I'm doing it my way." But, Jesus came into the world to pay for our sins and to set us free from that sinful attitude that wants to go our own way. Jesus' forgiveness is free to us. We just have to accept the gift. And, with Jesus, we have the power to live to honor God.

Make sure kids bring their Family guide home or tell them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities K-1st

Option #1

Candy Cane Ornament

- Give each kid a green pipe cleaner.
- Give each kid a baggie of red and white beads.
- Give each kid an ornament template (**page 5**).
- Give each kid a piece of ribbon.
- Have kids bend the pipe cleaner to look like a candy cane and have them bend the hook end over itself to make a knot so the beads don't fall off as they add them.
- Have kids alternate between red and white to fill the pipe cleaner with beads.
- As they near the bottom of the cane, make sure they leave enough room at the end to fold it over so the beads don't fall off that end either.
- Then have kids thread their ribbon through the hole on the ornament tag and have them tie it onto their candy cane. Remind the kids that the best gift at Christmas is JESUS!

Supplies needed

- Green pipe cleaners, 1 per kid
- Bags of red and white beads
- Baggies
- Ornament template (pg. 5), pre cut, hole punched, 1 per kid
- Red ribbon, cut into 6 in. pieces, 1 per kid

Bonus Activity:

Play **Bible Hangman**

Words or phrases: Christmas, Matthew, Give gifts

Option #2

Christmas Memory Game

- Have kids divide into groups of 4 or 5.
- Give each group a set of memory cards (**page 6-7**).
- Have them place all the cards, face down, on the floor.
- Then, have kids take turns flipping over two cards trying to find a match. If they do get a match, they get to keep those cards and play again. If they don't get a match, they flip the cards back over and the next kid gets a chance. Continue playing until all the cards are gone. Kid with the most matches in the group wins.

Supplies needed

- Memory cards template (pg. 6-7), pre cut, 1 set per group

Bonus Activity:

Play **Find the book**

Have the class get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

Books: Deuteronomy, John, Jeremiah

Don't Give Cheap Gifts | The Christmas Story #3 (Kids)

 www.pursuegod.org/dont-give-cheap-gifts-the-christmas-story-3-kids/

The _____ gave Jesus _____ gifts

Matthew 2:11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We should give _____ that _____

We need to learn from the wise men and be good gift givers. We shouldn't just focus on getting gifts, we should think about GIVING gifts. Now, you might be thinking, "I'm just a kid, I don't have enough money to buy everyone presents!" And you're probably right, but gifts don't always have to come from the store.

_____ gave us the most _____ gift of all

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Answers: wise men, expensive, gifts, matter, God, valuable

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. What's the best gift you've ever received at Christmas? Why was it your favorite?
3. Who brought Jesus expensive gifts on his birthday?
4. What are some thoughtful gifts you can give to your siblings or friends?
5. Who is the best gift we can ever receive?
6. Read [Romans 6:23](#). Why does sin bring death? What is the free gift?
7. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Bonus Questions: Use these passages to have more conversations this week.

1. Read [Ephesians 2:8](#). Why can't we take credit for God's grace? What do we need to do to accept God's gift?
2. Read [Psalm 147:3](#). How does Jesus heal us?
3. Read [Revelation 3:20](#). Why is it important to know that Jesus knocks and waits to be invited into our hearts? Have you invited Jesus into your heart yet?

ACTIVITY PAGE #1

K-1st Grade

Kids

BIG IDEA

God gave us the most valuable gift of all

KEY QUESTION

What is the best gift we could ever receive?

MEMORY VERSE

"She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him
Immanuel, which means
'God is with us.'
Matthew 1:23

Color the picture





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