

TOPIC: The Meaning of Christmas

Title: 'The Best Gift'

Purpose of the meeting: for the kids to receive the best gift of their life—Jesus Christ as their Savior.



INTRO

Game: 'Christmas Tree on Your Head'

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen. Say, 'We need to draw a Christmas tree, but not like usual. We will draw this Christmas tree on our heads. Here are the steps:

1. Put the paper on your head, then without looking, draw the outline of a Christmas tree on it. Leave the paper there, put the pen to the side.
2. Use the pen again and, without looking, draw a star on the tree. Put the pen down.
3. Now, draw several ornaments on your tree. Put the pen aside.
4. We still need garlands! Add them to your tree. Put the pen down.
5. Finally, draw some presents under your tree.'

Now, have them look at how their drawing turned out and let them show others. Some will look quite good, while others will be very funny.

Christmas quiz (see end of lesson)

Quiz answers: 1) Any answer is correct; 2) B – It was a pagan tradition. Ancient peoples such as the Egyptians, Romans, and Vikings used trees to celebrate the winter solstice, when the sun god was believed to begin to gain strength; 3) D – We don't know (it's not written in the Bible); 4) C – The region of Judea; 5) D – The Bible does not mention any animals; 6) A – According to the Bible, the angels did not appear in the stable. The multitude of the heavenly host was in the field; 7) C – In Bethlehem; 8) A - They had to participate in the census. Joseph and Mary were from the family of King David, so they went to the city of David, Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5); 9) D - We don't know. There were three gifts, but it does not say how many wise men came to worship Jesus; 10) E – Into the house (Matthew 2:11); 11) A – King Herod; 12) D – Jesus was probably two years old because Herod ordered the killing of all boys two years old and under (Matthew 2:16).

QUESTIONS

To assist the leader, possible answers are provided after each question. The purpose of the discussion is for the group to express their thoughts. The leader should share his ideas in the conclusion at the end.

1. When you were small, what did you like most about Christmas?
School break; the Christmas tree; presents; Santa Claus; family; relatives and guests
2. What do you like now about Christmas?
Vacation; family; getting more gifts; giving gifts
3. What is the best gift you have received?
4. What do we celebrate at Christmas?
Christ's birth
5. Why did Jesus come to earth?
Show us who God is; we need a Savior; forgive our sin show us that God loves us; give us the truth; to sacrifice Himself for us
6. Why did Jesus come as a baby?
Identify with humanity; fulfill the prophecies; to 'sneak in' so Satan would not recognize him
7. Did God make Him come? *No, He wanted to come*
8. What would happen if Jesus had not come?
The world would be worse; we wouldn't have Christmas; no hope; we wouldn't have His example; no New Testament in the Bible; no Christianity; the calendar year would be different; no way to eternity.

WRAP-UP

Today our summary is longer than usual because we have such an important topic.

1. God has a gift for you this year.
You can either open and keep it, or 'leave it under the tree.'
2. What is this gift?
(Show a wrapped box with the word, 'Jesus' on it. Inside the box are a Bible and cards, on which you have written the words 'peace,' 'eternity with God,' 'God's presence,' 'forgiveness,' 'love,' 'wisdom,' 'joy,' 'Holy Spirit', 'a spiritual family.' Show the cards from the box one at a time.)
3. How much does this gift cost? No one can pay for it with money.
(Show a card with the word "Price –?" and on the other side – "Jesus' death")
The price was Jesus' death which is priceless. God knows we could never pay for this gift, so He offers us this gift for free.

4. Is it difficult to use this gift?

It can be, but we have a lot of help from the Bible (*pull it out*), the Holy Spirit who comes to live inside us, and others who have received the gift, too. (*pull out those cards too.*)

5. Who needs this gift? Everyone! We can't know God without His gift. He loves us first.

6. What if we feel we don't deserve this gift?

God is holy, and people are all sinful, so none of us deserves it.

But God loves us first, and when we accept His Son, Jesus, He forgives our sin.

7. Is it possible to take a gift and never open and not use it?

Yes. Sometimes people receive a gift and just let it sit and collect dust. Maybe they are too busy or somehow unsure about how to use it. But God promises to help if we try.

8. There is a special Bible verse that many people use to describe the gift of Jesus.

Read John 3:16 (*from your Bible, to show that this is not your idea*).

Invite your students to accept God's gift of Christ, and pray with them.

9. *If desired, pass out response cards (below).* Today was an important meeting, so if you don't mind, would you write your reaction to the meeting today? If you do not want to, that is okay. But if you want us to know, your answer will be very important to us!

Name _____

Date _____

I want to know more about how to accept Christ.

I have just accepted Christ in our meeting.

I have already accepted Christ before. If this is your answer, please write when and where: _____

I am not yet ready to accept Christ.

Conclusion: 'We want you to understand what an amazing gift you have been given, and we hope you are ready to accept it. If not today, you can talk to us anytime about how to accept the gift of Jesus.

(Collect cards from those who wish and end the meeting).

Christmas Quiz

1. Why does Santa wear suspenders?
 - A. His wife gave them to him.
 - B. The reindeer would wear them and Santa would be jealous.
 - C. Santa is a sissy.
 - D. He doesn't. He wears a belt.
2. What religious significance does the Christmas tree have?
 - A. There were some around the manger where Jesus was born.
 - B. One of the Wisemen brought one as a gift to Jesus.
 - C. None. It is a pagan custom established by the Romans.
 - D. None of the above (or below).
3. What did Mary, the mother of Jesus, ride into the town where Jesus was born?
 - A. Budweiser Clydesdale
 - B. Donkey
 - C. Young colt
 - D. We don't know
4. In what state was Jesus born?
 - A. Samaria
 - B. Judea
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. Galilee
 - E. California
5. Which of these animals were NOT listed in the Bible as being in the stable?
 - A. Cow
 - B. Lamb
 - C. Rhinoceros
 - D. All of these
6. According to the Bible, how many angels appeared at the manger scene?
 - A. None
 - B. One
 - C. Three
 - D. A multitude of heavenly host
7. In what town was Jesus born?
 - A. Nazareth
 - B. Bethlehem
 - C. Samaria
 - D. Jerusalem
 - E. Chicago
8. Why did Jesus' family come to this city?
 - A. They had to participate in a census.
 - B. They were on location for a movie.
 - C. An angel told them to go there.
 - D. To have a baby.
9. How many wisemen came to see the baby?
 - A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Four
 - D. We don't know
10. When the wise men arrived, where did they go?
 - A. To the manger
 - B. To the inn
 - C. To the Holiday Inn
 - D. To the house
11. Which famous person wanted to kill the baby Jesus?
 - A. Herod
 - B. Pilate
 - C. Prince Charming
 - D. Judas
12. How old could Jesus have been when the wisemen came?
 - A. Five years old
 - B. Six weeks
 - C. Six days old
 - D. Two years old

