



## This is Jesus: The One We Love

**Bible Passage:** Luke 2:8-20

**Key Passage:** **23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”(which means “God with us”). **Matthew 1:23**

**Big Picture Question:** What does Christmas teach us about who Jesus is? Jesus is God’s Son who was born, died, and rose again to give life to all who believe.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

### 10 Minutes **SOCIAL:** SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

#### Christmas Noise and Action Dice Game

**What You Need:** “Christmas Dice Game” printed and assembled

#### What You Do:

- To Play: Roll one dice and then the other and complete your wacky sound and action together at the same time... now try to do it without laughing!
- For variation you can team kids up with partners and they have to work together to do the action and sound.

**What You Say** “That was so much fun. Christmas is a fun time of year for many reasons. During our Bible lesson today we are going to learn more about what we celebrate when we celebrate Christmas.”

### 10 Minutes **Worship:** CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes **LARGE GROUP:** COMMUNICATING GOD’S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### TODAY’S PASSAGE

**8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Luke 2:8-20**

#### CONTEXT

While the shepherds were tending to the sheep in the fields, they received the best news ever. Angels appeared and announced that the Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried off to find the one that they had heard about. They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus just as they had been told. The Savior was here! They told everyone what they had seen. They loved Him and told others about Him. They weren’t the only ones who show us how to love Jesus in this story. Mary saw all that happened and she “treasured” these things in her heart. She saw God’s faithfulness and she loved Him for it. She loved God by seeing all that He was doing in her life and all that He was doing to save the world.

#### TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

- Because Jesus was born, we should celebrate Him and live for Him.
- The shepherds heard good news and told everyone about it.
- **BL:** Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.
- Mary was used by God and she treasured every minute of it.
- If we believe in Jesus, we can see Him working in our lives, too. We can live for Him!
- We love Him by believing in Him. We love Him by living for Him.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.



**25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS:** CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

**Discussion Questions:**

- What were the shepherds doing in the field when the angel appeared to them?
- What would you do if hundreds of angels filled the sky so that they could talk to you?
- What type of news did the angels share- good news or bad news?
- What did the angels say to the Shepherds?
- Where did they say that they could find the baby?
- What does the name Jesus mean? (Savior, Matthew 1:21)

**Activity: I Love Jesus Gift**

**What You Need:** wooden heart or scratch heart (1 per kid), ribbon (12" per kid), scissors, markers, pencils, I Love Jesus Card (1 per kid)

**What You Do:**

- Pass out a heart for each kid.
- They are going to decorate their heart with things/people they love and/or things they love about Jesus.
- Help them tie the ribbon and card to the ornament.
- Talk to the kids about finding someone who needs to hear about Jesus. They will give their ornament to that person.

**What You Say:** “

Telling others about Jesus is as easy as giving them a gift. Use this ornament to tell someone that God’s Son was born. Tell them what you learned about Jesus in your group and why you love Him. Let them know that they can love Him, too.

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, balloons (1 per kid)

**What You Do:**

- Ask the kids if they recognize the memory verse.
- Give them chances to read the memory verse.
- Give each kid a balloon and ask them to blow it up. Tie the balloons for each kid.
- Kids are going to toss the balloons in the air and try to say all the words to the verse before the balloon touches the ground.
- Variation : Blow up one balloon and bat it around the small group as you say a word for each touch of the balloon.

**What You Say:** ” Jesus came exactly the way God said he would come to do exactly what God had in mind, to rescue us and bring peace between man and God. This verse reminds us of the promise of how Jesus would be born as well as reminding us that Jesus was not just any man, He is God.”

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Say:**

“Lord God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help us to love and celebrate Him this Christmas and help us to tell others about Him!”

**5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, send the nativity activity page home with each kid.