



## This is Jesus: The One We Say Yes To

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 1:18-23

**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 Charades

**What You Need:** Christmas Charades Cards (1set per group), paper, pencil

#### What You Do:

- Choose a player to start the game. The player selects a card at random (without looking).
- The player pantomimes the word or phrase on the card he’s chosen to the other players – no speaking allowed!
- Some common action clues used in Charades include:
  - A song: Pretend to sing
  - A movie: Pretend to crank an old fashioned movie camera
  - TV show: Use index fingers to draw a small rectangle
  - A book: Pretend to read a book
  - Number of words: Hold up the number of fingers in the phrase. When acting out the first word, hold up one finger, then two fingers before the second, etc)
  - Sounds like: Tug your ear
  - Short word: Words like a, the, of, and can be indicated by closing the thumb and index finger of one hand together.
- The other players must watch carefully and call out their guesses. The first person to guess the correct word or phrase takes the next turn.
- *Optional:* Allocate points to each person for each correct guess. The person with the most points at the end of the game wins.
- Alternatively, divide into teams before playing. Each player takes turns pantomiming for their teammates. The first team to guess the word is allocated a point. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

**What You Say** “How many did you get correct? Are you a Christmas expert? This month we are looking at all the details of the Christmas story from the Bible. Do you think you are an expert on that part of Christmas? Let’s see.”

### 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

**18** This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**20** But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

**22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

#### Matthew 1:18-23

#### CONTEXT

It is impossible to tell the Christmas story without sharing the faith of two young people – Mary and Joseph. Mary was told that she would give birth though she is a virgin. She believed that what is impossible with man is possible with God so she said yes to His plan. Joseph, when He heard that Mary was pregnant, said yes when he was asked by God via an angel to raise His Son. By faith, Joseph and Mary set an example for us to always be saying yes to God and His plan for our lives. This begins by saying yes to Jesus as our Savior and it continues by saying yes to Him every day as the King of our lives.

- Mary was told by angel she would give birth to a Son and name him Jesus (Yahweh is Salvation) and He will be the Son of the Most High
- Mary wanted to know how? God’s Son would enter the world thru the power of the Holy Spirit and Mary voluntarily submitted



## All Star Kids

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3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

- Mary worshipped God with Elizabeth through her song in Luke 1:39-56
- Mary was the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:26-56)
- God created Joseph for a specific purpose: to be the earthly father of God's Son (Matthew 1:18-25)

### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *It takes faith to say yes to God.*
- *Mary and Joseph show us how to say yes to God.*
- *The first yes that you can give God is to believe in Jesus for life.*
- **BL:** Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.
- We don't say yes to God only once. We say yes to Him every day as we live 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:

- Who were Jesus' earthly parents? (Mary and Joseph)
- Who is Jesus' Father? (God)
- What name did God give His Son and what does it mean? (Jesus, Savior, Matthew 1:21)
- What did Joseph find out in his dream? (to name Him Jesus)
- What did the angel tell Joseph that Jesus would do? (Save His people from their sins, Matthew 1:21)
- How did Mary and Joseph "say yes" to God in this story? (being obedient)
- How do we "Say yes" to God today?

#### Activity: Left and Right Gift Game

**What You Need:** Left and Right Gift Game Story (1 copy per group), Christmas Bag, small toys (1 for each kid)

#### What You Do:

- As you read the story out loud, have the kids pass the bag around.
- When you say "left" kids pass the bag one person to the left.
- When you say "right" kids pass the bag one person to the right.
- When the story is finished the person with the bag, should open the bag and share a toy with each kid.

**What You Say:** "Why was Jesus born? **Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.** We need a Savior. God sent His own Son, Jesus, born as a human being like us, to live on earth. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He did not sin-ever. Even though He never did anything wrong, Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sin that we deserve, and He rose again so we could have eternal life when we believe Jesus is our Savior. We can say yes to God just like Mary and Joseph did. We don't say yes to God only once. We say yes to Him every day as we live for Him.

#### Activity: Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, Stocking, Memory Verse Activity Page (cut up and put in stocking)

#### What You Do:

- Put the words to the memory verse in the stocking.
- Pass the stocking around and get kid to pick one piece of paper out of the stocking.
- Then take turns putting the words in order.
- After all the words are in order on the table, get kids to say the verse with you out loud several times.

**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 sending Jesus to Mary and Joseph and us so that we can have peace with God. Help us to celebrate Jesus life and death all year.

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

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