



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 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

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
- 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: Clues Bags

What You Need: 8 paper bags with Bag Labels attached, nativity characters and stable, Nativity Story Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Pass out the bags. Each kid gets one bag
- As you read the story and pass the character in the story, each kid holding that bag can open it to see what is inside.
- When the character is mentioned in the story the next time, kids can hold up their character.
- Have the kids place the characters in the stable and read the story again.

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, 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 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.