

The Gift of Christmas

After finishing this lesson, children will realize that Christmas is a time in which we should celebrate the birth of Jesus and worship Him.

TOPICS

Christmas, Giving, Joy, Worship

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct the kids to list the things that make Christmas special to them, but ask them to think beyond the material gifts they may receive. Before starting class ask the children to share what they came up with, but reinforce the idea that they need to share things other than material gifts.

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 NIV

Write Romans 6:23 on the board. Read the verse together several times. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Today's lesson, teaches children about the true meaning of Christmas.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was searching for baby Jesus so that they could give Him gifts and worship Him? (*Magi.*)
2. What did the Magi do when they finally found Jesus? (*They were overjoyed, they worshiped Jesus and presented Him with gifts of precious treasure.*)
3. What gift did the Magi receive when they encountered Jesus? (*Great joy and the ability to worship the son of God!*)
4. Why did King Herod want to find baby Jesus? (*King Herod was jealous and wanted to kill baby Jesus. The King thought everything should revolve around himself. Herod didn't have room in his heart for anyone else, not even the son of God!*)
5. When we celebrate Christmas - are we like Herod and think it is all about us, or are we like the Magi and joyfully pursue Jesus to worship Him?
6. What types of gifts can we bring to Jesus today? (*Obedience, Prayer, Worship, Tithes and Offerings.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (20 minutes)

My Gift to Jesus (Craft) [page 2](#)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (8 minutes)

Not What I Wanted (Skit) [page 3-4](#)

APPLICATION (2 minutes)

God loves us very much and gave us the ultimate gift, when He sent His only son, Jesus, into the world to die for our sins, so that those who believe may have eternal life. We need to keep an eternal perspective and not chase after the temporal pleasures that the world has to offer, but rather seek to have a personal relationship with God.

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MY GIFT TO JESUS

A Christmas coloring craft to show how children can give special gifts to Jesus.

TOPICS:

Christian Living, Christmas, Giving

MATERIALS:

Coloring page for each child [PDF] [page 5](#)

(Optional full color wheel) [PDF] [page 6](#)

Crayons or colored markers

Glue sticks, Brass brad

Green or Red Construction paper

Stick-on magnets (optional)

Ribbon (optional)



DURATION:

Approximately 20 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, print enough copies of the Gift coloring page so you will have one for each child. Cut circles, slightly larger than the wheel, from colorful construction paper. Then cut 1 inch lengths of stick on magnets to display the craft on a refrigerator, or 8 inch lengths of ribbon to hang the craft on a tree or door knob.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

First have the children color their Gift wheel and Christmas tree pointer. Then follow the cutting instructions on the cutout sheet. The amount of construction should depend on the age of your children. Have the children glue the finished wheel to the colorful round circle cut from construction paper. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the center of the pointer. Then using a pencil, poke a hole through the the wheel and circle, and fasten the pointer using a brass brad. Tie a colorful ribbon near the top of the craft or stick magnets on the back side.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

If you could give a gift to Jesus, what would it be? Perhaps the best gift we can give Jesus is to do the things He wants us to do. This wheel gives us some great ideas.

Share with the kids what is on the My Gift to Jesus wheel. Let them know that each day they can move the pointer to another space on the wheel to show what special gift they can give to Jesus to celebrate His birth or to show how much they love Him.

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NOT WHAT I WANTED

Let your light shine in the darkness, and help set some captives free.

(Skit for four: Julie, Sam, Frank and Mary.)

TOPICS:

Bible, Christmas, Feelings, Happiness, Giving, Word of God

MATERIALS:

4 snack lunches
A table and four chairs.

DURATION:

Approximately 8 minutes



(Julie, Sam, Frank & Mary are sitting at a table in the school cafeteria eating lunch)

- Julie** So! Did everyone get what they wanted for Christmas?
- Sam** Yeah, this year we all made a killing!
- Frank** My Grandparents really love to spoil me! It's great!
- Mary** This was the best Christmas I ever had. It was so good!
- Frank** Okay, so who'll go first, let's hear about all those newly acquired treasures!
- Julie** Well, I sure didn't get everything I wanted for Christmas. My Grandma gave me an old, wooden, hand me down, chest. She said it was a "Hope Chest." Yeah right, the only hope I had was that there would be something better inside. There wasn't!
- Sam** Hmmm, I can relate, this year I got a lot of clothes and only a couple toys. My parents thought I'd be more interested in clothes at "my age." Worst yet my Uncle Jim gave me a savings bond. *(sigh)* What a waste...
- Frank** *(Laugh)* Well like I said my Grandparents really love to spoil me! They got me the new video game system. Only bad thing is there are only a couple games out for it right now, which of course I got, but I'm already bored with it. I hope they make some new games soon.
- Julie** Come on Mary tell us what you got, you must have made a haul. You said it was your best Christmas ever!
- Mary** I didn't get that many presents, but I did get one really special gift.
- Sam, Julie, Frank** Ooooh cool, what was it?
- Mary** *(Big smile)* A Bible!
- Frank** A Bible? How can that be a cool gift!
- Mary** The Bible my mom and dad gave me is a newly acquired treasure. In fact it's a gift that keeps on giving. The Bible is the best. It showed me how I can have a real relationship with God, how much God's Son Jesus loves us and how we can get to Heaven. It's like a hope chest filled with love, joy, peace and wisdom. The stories are real and so exciting, you'll never get tired of reading them.
- Julie** Wow, I never knew the Bible had all that stuff in it!
- Frank** The Bible sounds more like a treasure chest than a hope chest.

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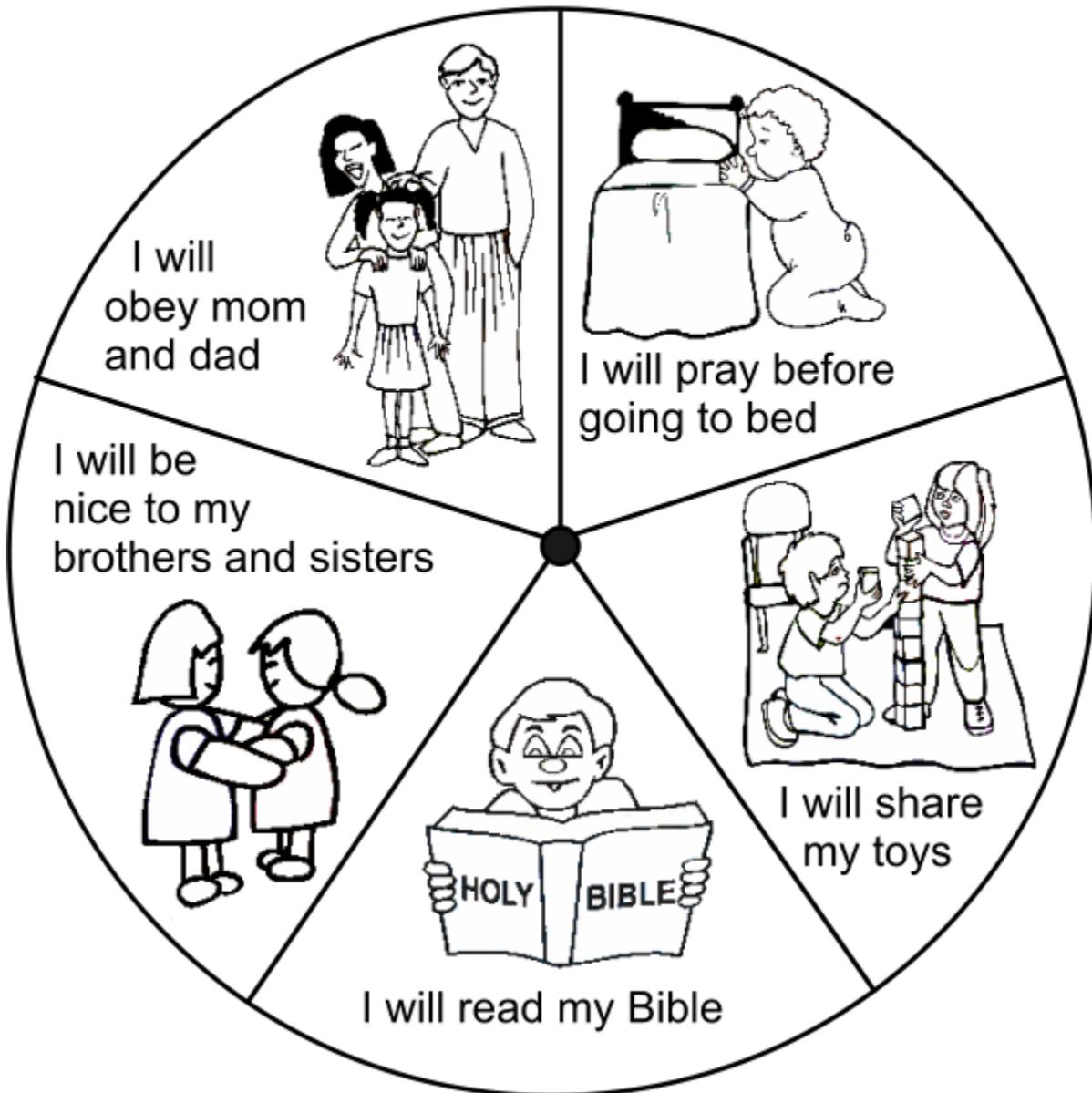
Sam Hmm, my birthday is coming up soon. I think I'll ask for a Bible.

Mary In the mean time I'd be happy to share my Bible with all of you.

(Julie, Frank and Sam crowd around Mary and they all begin looking at the Bible)

Instructions:

Cut around the wheel on the solid line. Cut out Christmas tree pointer. Let an adult poke a hole in both the wheel and tree. Use a brass brad to fasten tree to wheel.



Instructions:

Cut out wheel on solid lines. Cut out Christmas tree pointer.

Let an adult poke a hole in both the wheel and tree. Use a brass brad to fasten tree to wheel.

