

# CHRISTMAS



## THINK ABOUT IT:

What does Jesus want for his birthday?

## Introduction

Ask the children to shout out the first thing that pops into their heads when you say the word “Christmas.” Repeat one answer you heard and ask for a show of hands for how many others said that. Ask for a different answer and another show of hands. Continue until all answers have been accounted for. If Jesus’ birthday is not mentioned, bring up the point that the reason we celebrate Christmas is to honor and remember Jesus’ birthday.

## Message

1. Say, “Since Christmas is Jesus’ birthday celebration, wouldn’t it be great if the first thing we thought about was Him? I wonder what Jesus would want for His birthday? Let’s find out.”
2. Give out the presents included in the story box to six (seven) children. Instruct them not to open it until you tell them to.
3. Read the story, *What God Wants for Christmas*. Have the child with the piece being talked about walk around to show what was in the present.
4. Ask, “What does Jesus want for his birthday?”
5. Say, “In small group, you’ll learn more about what happens when you believe in Jesus.”

## Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Read John 3:16.
2. Ask, “What does this verse promise will happen if we believe in Jesus?” (*we will never die, we will have eternal life*)



## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-21

John 3:16



## MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- What God Wants For Christmas story boxes
- Christmas craft materials for each child:
  - Red pipe cleaner
  - 19 red pony beads
  - 19 clear pony beads
  - 8” green ribbon (1/16”)
- CBA cross for each child \*

\* Available in the Member Toolbox



## CRAFT

### PREPARATION

- Fold the pipe cleaner in half.
- Place one red bead in the middle and twist the pipe cleaner to secure.
- Fold the ribbon in half and knot the end together.



## PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse



## CBA's

- Prepare the CBA crosses as follows:
  - With the heart facing you, fold up the prayer (two folds).
  - Next fold in the A, then B, then C flaps so you have a square with the C on top.
  - You may use a paper clip to secure the square until ready for use.
- Have questions about the CBAs? See page 10 for more information.



## IDEA!

The book that describes the boxes is a bit on the long side. Read through it ahead of time and have ideas on where to shorten the story if needed.



## IDEA!

Make sure the CBAs are presented! Let the discussion go from there if needed. Celebrate with the children who have committed or recommitted their lives to Jesus. Encourage them to tell an adult about their decision. Invite them to seek out a Christmas service going on at a nearby church.

- Say, "Perish is another word for die. Does this mean we won't ever die here on earth? What do you think eternal life means?" (*living forever in heaven*)
- Ask, "What do you think Jesus wants for his birthday?" (*you*)
- Hand out the Christmas ornament craft and give instructions to the children on how to complete it:
  - Place the remaining beads on the pipe cleaner to create a fun pattern.
  - Shape the pipe cleaner into a heart shape.
  - Place the green ribbon over the beads, or secure with the pipe cleaner ends.
  - Twist the pipe cleaner ends together to close the heart.
- Use the CBA cross as a visual to explain the CBAs.
  - Say, "The Bible tells us a lot about how God gives us faith. We're going to use the acronym CBA to help us remember the important parts.
  - Open to show the 'C.' Open the 'C' flap and say, "C stands for Confess. Everyone needs to confess that you have sinned and made bad choices."
  - Open the 'B' flap and say, "B stands for Believe. Believe that Jesus died for the forgiveness of your sins."
  - Open the 'A' flap and say, "A stands for Ask. Ask God to forgive your sins and ask Him to be part of your life forever."
  - Show the question and say, "So, how does God give me faith? The verse John 3:16 explains what faith in Jesus means." Read the verse (in the heart). Take a few minutes to explain the concept of salvation further if clarification is needed and answer any questions the children might have.
  - Open the prayer flap to reveal the prayer (and the cross made when the visual is fully open!). Lead the children in prayer, encouraging them to pray with you if they'd like to affirm their decision to follow Jesus.

*"Dear God, I'm sorry for my sins.*

*I believe Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.*

*I want to follow you.*

*Please forgive me and be a part of my life forever."*

