



Need to Know: *I Can Celebrate Jesus*

Bible Story: *Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-21)*

Circle Up

1

1. WELCOME kids back to our series, “Holly Jolly Kitchen,” and TELL them your name. Then SAY: *Merry ALMOST Christmas, everyone! I’m so glad you came to church to celebrate! ASK: What is your favorite way to celebrate Christmas? (Allow responses)*
2. Then SAY: *The reason why we celebrate Christmas is because God sent us a special gift, Jesus! When God sent Jesus, it was because Jesus was His perfect plan to bring joy, love, and peace to the whole world! Say this with me:*

I Can Celebrate Jesus

Read the Bible

2

1. SAY: *In the Bible, there’s a true story we read at Christmas to help us celebrate Jesus. I’m going to give each one of you a **Character Card**. Each Card has a picture of one person from the Bible story and a phrase they might say. As I read, listen for your character in the story and say your character’s phrase out loud.*
 2. ASSIGN each child a part in the story by giving them each a **Character Card**, making sure all of the Cards are distributed. Some kids may have more than one Card. REVIEW the name of each child’s character(s) and the phrase(s) they will say.
 3. READ the **Bible Story Sheet** aloud, pausing at each character to allow each child to say the phrase that adds to the story. After the story, ASK:
 - *What did the angel tell Mary would happen?* (She would have a special baby, God’s Son)
 - *What did the shepherds do when they heard the news about Jesus’ birth?* (They went to Bethlehem to see Him) *That’s right! Who else traveled to celebrate Jesus?* (The Wise Men)
 - *Why do you think Jesus’ birth was such a big deal?* (Because He was God’s Son, God sent Him to fix our friendship with God so we can be forgiven and live in heaven one day)
 4. SAY: *Yes! Jesus was born to fix our friendship with God, making Him the most wonderful gift ever! That’s why we can celebrate Jesus!*
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Let’s Practice

3

Option 1: Bingo

1. SAY: *Let’s play Christmas Cookie Bingo to help us remember what we’ve learned today! When you get your **Bingo Card**, you can go ahead and mark the “Free Space.” The first people to get five in a row and shout, “Bingo,” will be our winners.*
2. GIVE each child a **Bingo Card** and a **writing utensil**.
3. PLACE **Bingo Pieces**, picture-side down, in a pile in the middle of the group. DRAW a **Bingo Piece**, SHOW it to the group, and ALLOW kids to cross off that picture on their **Bingo Card**. Then READ the question from the back of the **Bingo Piece** aloud to the group.
4. PLAY until someone has gotten Bingo. It is OK for multiple kids to win at the same time. Once all the bingo pieces are read, hand out the Christmas prizes.
5. Then SAY: *This game helped us to see why we celebrate Jesus and different ways we can celebrate Him! Let’s say that together again:*

I Can Celebrate Jesus

Option 2: ON BACK

Option 2: Group Discussion

1. GENERATE a group discussion by asking the following questions:
 - *What is a tradition your family has for celebrating Christmas?*
 - *What would you say to a friend who asks why you celebrate Jesus at Christmas?*
 - *What makes Jesus the most wonderful gift you could receive?*
2. Then REVIEW the Need to Know together again: *I Can Celebrate Jesus*

Memorize It



1. SAY: *There's a verse in the Bible that helps us tell God "thank you" for sending His Son, Jesus, as a wonderful gift! Just repeat after me:*
"Thanks be to God (point up)
for His gift (palms up in front of body)
that is too wonderful (palms on cheeks, surprised face)
for words." (cup hands around mouth)
2 Corinthians 9:15 (make book with hands)

How to stack cups:



2. PRACTICE saying the verse with the group two times, having them repeat each line after you.
3. PLAY "Christmas Cup Stack." DIVIDE kids into two teams and GIVE each team a set of **Christmas cups**. When you say, "Go," teams will race to put the memory verse in the correct order, stacking cups like the picture to the left. The first team to correctly order the **Christmas cups** will be the winner.
4. CONTINUE playing as time allows.

Let's Pray



- ASK your group for any prayer requests. Then PRAY the following for your group:
- That they would celebrate Jesus with their family this Christmas
 - That when they get gifts this Christmas they will remember God's gift of Jesus

Stay Together



- KEEP kids engaged in Small Group until they are checked out by doing the following activities:
- PLAY "Would You Rather" by asking the following questions:
 - Would you rather be an elf in Santa's workshop OR a reindeer for Santa's sleigh?
 - Would you rather be a snowman OR a polar bear?
 - Would you rather only eat candy canes OR only eat Christmas cookies?
 - Would you rather have colored Christmas tree lights OR white Christmas tree lights?
 - Would you rather build a gingerbread house OR decorate a Christmas tree?
 - Would you rather celebrate Christmas with the Grinch OR Frosty the Snowman?
 - Would you rather have cookies and milk OR hot chocolate?