

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: We should make room in our hearts for Jesus
Key Question: What can we do to make Jesus a priority?
Memory Verse: "She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" **Matthew 1:23**

Overview: We're continuing in our Christmas series today! Christmas is such a fun time of year. We decorate our houses with beautiful lights and bake yummy things to eat throughout the season. And, of course, the presents are fun, too! But as we learned last week, Christmas is about so much more than all of that. Christmas is really about God's desire to have relationship with us. God sent Jesus into the world to be the Savior of the world. Last week we learned that Christmas is about relationships- first with Jesus but also with the people we care about. Today, we're going to talk about making room for Jesus in our lives. In the Christmas story, Jesus had to be born in a barn because there was no room in the inn. We need to make room for Jesus in our hearts. We should never say to Jesus, "I don't have room in my life for you." He's the most important person we can ever know. We should make him our top priority by doing things like reading the Bible and praying. Even though it's great to celebrate Jesus at Christmas, we should celebrate him everyday. So, make sure to make room for him in your life.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

5 min	PLAY: Begin working on Activity Page #1.
5 min	WARM UP: Where's the coolest place you've stayed on a vacation? Why was it so cool?
5 min	PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
20 min	LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
5 min	RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then answer the KEY QUESTION.
5 min	EXPLORE: Read 1 John 4:9 . What did God do to show us how much he loves us? Where can we live forever with him some day?
10 min	PLAY: Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.
5 min	CLOSE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Share prayer requests and pray as a class.<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

It's fun to go on vacation and stay somewhere nice that has a pool or video game room. But did you know Jesus wasn't born in a cool place like that? He was born in a stinky barn because the nice places were full.

Answer: We need to do things that make us think of him.
Here's the truth. We spend time doing the things we care about. Think about how much time you spend eating, playing video games or watching TV. It's probably a lot. We need to make time for Jesus, too. We do that by; reading the Bible, doing the family guide with your family, praying and going to church. All of those things make us think about Jesus and how great he is and how much we need him in our lives.

Bonus Questions: What are some things we can do to spend time with Jesus? Why should we spend time with him?
4-5th: What do you spend most of your free time doing? How can you add Jesus into that list?

God sent Jesus into the world to save us from our sins. He loves us so much that he was willing to sacrifice his son for our sake. And, the Bible promises that when we trust in Jesus, we will get to live in heaven with him some day. Heaven will be the coolest place ever, better than any vacation you've ever been on with your family!

Make sure kids bring their Family guide home or tell them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities **K-1st**

Option #1

Jingle Bell Toss

- Set up the game before kids arrive. Using 10 red solo cups, set them up as follows: 1 cup at top with a 10 written on it (worth 10 points), then a row of 2 cups with a 5 written on each cup (worth 5 points), then a row of 3 cups with a 3 written on each cup (worth 3 points), and then a row of 4 cups with a 1 written on each cup (worth 1 point). **should make a triangle shape. **You might want to place something in each cup so they don't tip over easily.**
- Tape two lines on the floor for the kids to stand behind.
- Divide the class into 2 teams and have them line up behind each line.
- Give each kid a mini jingle bell.
- The point of the game is to get the most points by getting the bell to land in a cup. One kid will throw at a time and will alternate between each team. The teacher will need to tally the points as each kid throws. They get points based on the cup the bell lands in **(see points above)**
- Team with the most points wins.

Supplies needed

- Red solo cups, 10 per class
- Black sharpie/marker
- Mini jingle bells, 1 per kid
- Tape

Bonus Activity:

Play **Memory Verse**.

Say the memory verse as a class. Say it again while **marching** in place. Say it again while **clapping**.

Option #2

Nativity Scene Craft

- Give each kid a Nativity template **(page 5)**.
- Have them cut out each animal/person.
- Have them color each piece.
- Have them glue each piece onto a large craft stick.
- As the kids work, read the Christmas story from **Luke 2:1-17**. Encourage kids to go home and tell their parents the story of Jesus' birth using their stick figures to tell the story.
- If kids run out of time, give them a baggie to put their pieces in so they can finish it at home.

Supplies needed

- Nativity template (pg 5), 1 per kid
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Large craft sticks, 1 per kid
- Glue
- Sandwich baggies

Bonus Activity:

Play **Telephone**.

Have the class sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** in the ear of a kid. Have them whisper it to the kid on their right. Continue around the circle. The last kid has to say aloud the message they heard.

Make Room for Jesus | Christmas #2 (Kids)

 www.pursuegod.org/make-room-for-jesus-christmas-kids-2/

There was no room in the _____

Baby Jesus was born in a manger! Mangers were gross feeding trays that horses and cows would eat out of. They were dirty, stinky things that no mom would want to place her baby! What makes this part of the story so cool is Jesus didn't care where he was born. He just wanted to come.

_____ came to be with _____

Jesus came to be with us because he loves us! He didn't need a fancy hotel or even a clean bed! He chose to come to a stinky barn in a little no name town so that he could one day die on a cross to pay for our sins. So, since Jesus has done a lot for us, we should do something for him.

We should make _____ in our _____ for Jesus

The story of Christmas is all about Jesus coming to be with us but we have to invite him into our hearts. We do that by trusting in Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. Have you made room in your heart for Jesus? If you haven't, talk to a parent or teacher about it today and they'll be happy to help you do it. Don't be like the people at the inn and run out of room for Jesus!

Answers: inn, Jesus, us, room, hearts

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Where's the coolest place you've stayed on a vacation? Why was it so cool?
3. Where was Jesus born? Why did he end up in a barn?
4. What does Immanuel mean? Why is it important to know that God came to be with us?
5. How do we invite Jesus to live in our hearts? (see [Foundations #1-Trust Jesus](#))
6. Read [1 John 4:9](#). What did God do to show us how much he loves us? Where can we live forever with him some day?
7. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Bonus Questions: Use these passages to have more conversations this week.

1. Read [Acts 4:12](#). Who came to save us from our sins? Why is Jesus the only one who could do that?
2. Read [Luke 19:10](#). How did Jesus save us? Why do we need to be saved?
3. Read [John 3:17](#). Jesus came to save us, not to punish us. How can you show Jesus how much you love him this week?

ACTIVITY PAGE #1

K-1st Grade

Kids

BIG IDEA

We should make room
in our hearts for Jesus

KEY QUESTION

What can we do to
make Jesus a priority?

MEMORY VERSE

"She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him
Immanuel, which means
'God is with us.'
Matthew 1:23

Color the picture



