

# Christmas Message

# Christ

## Christmas Celebration

### Ask:

- What are some things you guys do to celebrate Christmas?
- What are some things that come to mind when you think about Christmas?

## The Christ of Christmas

### Say:

- One of the main things we can think about when we think about Christmas is... Christ.
- While we certainly don't have to limit our thinking about Christ to Christmas time, it is a time that Christians have often focused on celebrating the coming of Christ.
  
- "Christ" is the Greek translation for the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means "anointed one."
- Jesus is God's anointed one.
- He is the Messiah spoken of in Scripture that the Jews had been expecting.
  
- We really don't know the date when Jesus was born...
- But, for quite some time, Christians have designated December 25 and the time around it, to focus on the good news of Christ's birth and what He came to do.
  
- Let's read about the birth of Christ in the book of Luke, in Luke 2...

## Jesus' Birth

### Read Luke 2:1-7

### Say:

- In these first few verses we see a couple important things about the birth of Jesus...
- The census that happened helped fulfill prophecy that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem.
- And, it shows a huge humility that Jesus would be born in such humble circumstances - born in a stable and placed in a manger - a feeding trough for animals.
- Then, the verses go on to focus on a couple other important things for us to see...

# Announcement to Shepherds

Read Luke 2:8-14

Say:

- An angel of God came and announced Jesus' birth to shepherds who were watching their sheep nearby.
- While we see in Matthew that wise men also came with expensive gifts, here we see that the announcement from the angels was made to shepherds.
  - Shepherds would maybe even have been looked down on by people because of their job.
  - This can help show that Jesus came for all types of people - not just powerful or well off people.
- The angel said he brought good news about a Savior who was born - Christ the Lord.
- This was good news about the Savior, Christ the Lord being born!
- Then a huge company of angels appeared and praised God saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (*v14, ESV*)
  
- Let's read on to see a few more important things we can see around Jesus' birth...

## Shepherds' Response

Read Luke 2:15-20

Ask: What was the sheperd's response?

Say:

- They went quickly to see what the angel had talked about... and found it just like they were told.
- After they had seen, they told others about what they had been told about the child who was born - they told others what they had been told about Jesus being the Savior - Christ.
- And, they glorified and praised God for what they had seen and heard.

## Why Is Christ and His Coming Important?

Say:

- So why is Christ and His coming an important thing and how should we respond?...
  
- First, here is why Christ and His coming is so important...
  - From what the Bible says about Christ, we see that...
  - He is the Son of God who came to earth in the flesh. (John 1 says that the Word was God and became flesh and dwelt among us.)
  - He was born by a virgin, supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.
  - He was fully God and fully man.
  - As the perfect, sinless man and Son of God, He lived a perfect life.
  - He taught that He was the way, truth, and life.
  - He is the way for people to come to God the Father and have eternal life.
  - He died on a cross to pay for sin.
  - Three days later, He rose again from the dead and continues to live.

- He offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life for all who believe in Him as their Savior.
  - As John 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so whoever believes in Him can have eternal life.”
  - He is coming again.
  - Those who reject Him will be judged with eternal punishment.
  - All those who trust in Him will be saved from sin and have eternal life.
- His coming as Savior is good news for all those who believe.
    - From looking at Scripture, we see that it is those who believe in Jesus as their Savior who are saved from their sin.
    - They can have peace with God, because of their sin being paid for.
    - They can have forgiveness from their sin and eternal life with Him.

## How Should We Respond?

### Say:

- So, how should we respond to the good news of Christ’s coming and what He came to do?...
- If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior for the first time today, then...
  - “Run to Jesus” similar to how the shepherd quickly went to see what the angel had announced.
  - Go to Jesus and trust Him as your Savior and Lord.
  - Ask him to forgive you for your sin and trust that His death on the cross paid the penalty for sin.
  - And, live for Him as your Lord.
  - If anyone has believed in Jesus to save you from your sins tonight, or if you have question, please talk to one of the leaders or your parents tonight!
- The angels praised God and said glory to God after sharing the good news about Jesus’ birth.
- And the shepherds gave praise and glory to God because of what they had seen and heard...
- Whether you have trusted Jesus as Savior for the first time tonight or have trusted Him before...
  - Thank and praise God for the good news of His Son, Jesus, the Christ who came as a Savior.
  - And, like the shepherds shared what they had heard about Jesus who was announced to be the Christ, we can help share about Jesus with others.
  - Think about and take opportunity to share the good news about who Christ is and what He came to do!

## Closing

### Say:

- Christmas can be a special time for us to celebrate the coming of Christ!
- We can celebrate that Christ has come to bring salvation.
- And we can remember that Christ is coming again and that all who trust in Him are saved from sin for eternal life.
- While Christmas is often a special time to celebrate His coming and saving by grace, we should - with His help - love, follow, trust and serve Christ all the time!

# Closing Prayer

Instead of simply closing in prayer, perhaps include an opportunity for teens to thank and praise God for sending Christ and thank and praise Jesus for coming and what He did.

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