

Christmas Message

Meaning of Christmas

Lesson checklist:

- Have “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (*Universal, 2000*) video clip cued up (see below).

How the Grinch Stole Christmas clip

(Video Clip idea from Group’s Children’s Ministry Magazine?)

Give this background to set up the clip: “Where we are picking up in the video, the Grinch just got through stealing everyone’s Christmas gifts, decorations, and destroying the town...”

Then, watch the clip...

(Start about 1:19:40 (DVD chapter 16), where Whoville Mayor says “Invite the Grinch, destroy Christmas!”; End after Grinch says “Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.” Around 5 minute clip.)

After the clip, Ask:

- How much of Christmas seems to be “bought in a store” nowadays?
- Do you think the townspeople and the Grinch discovered the true meaning of Christmas? Explain.

Say: They realized Christmas was about something more... but they missed Christ in Christmas...

Ask: Why is Christ central to the reason for Christmas?

Honoring Jesus at Christmas

Read Matthew 2:1-12

Ask: What are key things that happened that this passage talks about?

If not already mentioned by the students, ask these follow-up questions:

- What were the wise men looking for?
- Where did the priests and scribes say the Christ was to be born and what was their basis for that? (The verse quoted is from Micah 5:2. Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem fulfilled Scripture.)
- What did the wise men do when they came to Jesus?

- The wise men honored Jesus at His birth. How can we celebrate Christmas in a way that will honor Christ well?
- Anything you guys do - personally or with your family - that's a neat way to celebrate Jesus and honor Him?

Say:

- This Christmas, don't get caught up too much in presents.
- Remember the true meaning of Christmas and thank Jesus for being born to die for sin.
- And, honor Him not just at Christmas, but - with His help - in all of your life...
- Honor Him by living in relationship with Him and living your life for Him.

Trusted In Jesus? Have Questions?...

Say:

If you believed in Jesus' death on the cross to pay for sin for the first time today or if you have questions about having forgiveness for your sin and eternal life with Him because of His death on the cross, please talk to me or another Christian about that today!

Closing Prayer

Close by thanking God for the gift of Jesus' birth and death for sin.

Reference:

Matthew Henry, Commentary on Matthew 2:1-12 (via blueletterbible.org).

Warren Wiersbe, Comment on Matthew 2:1-12, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume 1* (Victor, 2001 printing).

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