

Holiday Lesson Series

Christmas

Bible Verse:

Luke 1:14

And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth

Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

Christmas is celebrated all over the world and is the most popular Christian holidays. This is a day when the birth of Christ is remembered. Typically, Christmas day means celebrating with friends and family and lots of feasts and gift giving.

Lesson Ideas:

1. Happy Birthday Jesus: Giving a birthday party for Jesus is a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas at Sunday school. Talk to the children about Jesus and ask them why we celebrate his birthday on Christmas. Read the story about his birth.
2. Giving Back: Christmas also provides an excellent time for children to learn about giving back. Let the children help in a larger church project, or collect toys or food for the needy. You can even host a gift exchange with the understanding that the toys are given away after the party.
3. Baby Jesus: children seem fascinated by the story of the birth of Christ. Use this opportunity to read the story out loud and talk about the fateful night in the manger.

Decorations:

1. Christmas Tree: Place a Christmas tree in the room and let the children fill it with handmade ornaments.
2. Make a red and green paper chain for each child so they can take one off each day and count down the days until Christmas.
3. Nativity Scene: create a nativity scene in the room so children can remember the real reason for celebrating this holiday.

Craft:

Unwrap the package: Have each child put on a pair of mittens. Wrap a large box (with a small treat inside for each child) in several layers of wrapping paper. On "go" have the children take one layer of the paper off the box still wearing the gloves. You can even give them a set time before passing the box to the next child (such as 30 seconds). When they reach the last layer, open the box and share the prize.

Snacks:

1. Candy Cane cookies-For these cookies, you will need two tubes of sugar cookie dough. Tint one tube with red food coloring. Roll the dough into strips and twist the red and white dough together. Cut into strips and shape like a candy cane. Bake according to the package directions.
2. Christmas cupcakes: Bake enough cupcakes for the class. Let them decorate them with green frosting and sprinkles.

Game:**Snowball Relay Race**

You will need several small Styrofoam balls or balls of white yarn, large wooden spoons and mittens for each team.

To play this game, you will divide into teams. Each player takes turns putting on mittens and balancing a "snowball" on a spoon while racing to the other side of the room. Drop the snowball into a bucket, return to the team, pass the mittens and go to the back of the line. First team to complete the race wins!

Gift Idea:

Box of Love: This is a cute and inexpensive gift you can give the children in your class. Find a small box for each child and wrap in Christmas paper. Add a bow and a tag that says:

This is a very special gift
That you can never see.
The reason it's so special is,
It's just for you from me.
Whenever you are happy,
or even feeling blue.
You only have to hold
this gift and know
I think of you.

You never can unwrap it
Please leave the ribbon tied.
Just hold the box close
to your heart,
It's filled with love inside.