



God's BIG Plan!

What is Christmas About?

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

This lesson was written to explain the reason for Jesus' birth to children who attend Kid's Church as a one-off at Christmas time. It explains the 'bigness' of God: His omniscience, omnipotence and that He is omnipresent. At Christmas time, God's plan unfolds, and because He is so big and powerful, any plan He makes will succeed!

Warm-up Activity: Team Architect

You will need:

Basic craft materials like glue, newspapers, string, paddle pop sticks, sticky tape, etc., depending on the object you ask the children to make. Use Christmas-themed materials where you can. Make sure that the resources given to each team are the same.

What to do:

Divide the children into teams, give them the materials to build the selected object and set a time limit. Things you can ask the children to build are:

- A stable or a manger from the Christmas story using paddle pop sticks
- A camel made from newspaper
- A cardboard tube palace

Bible Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Bible Reference: Luke 10:1-20

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Family gathering at Christmas
2. Planner
3. Word: Omniscient
4. Word: Omnipotent
5. Word: Omnipresent
6. Joseph and Mary travelling
7. Jesus in a manger
8. Angel of the Lord appears to shepherds
9. Angels praising God
10. Shepherds visiting Jesus

11. Jesus
12. A child doing something wrong
13. Jesus on the Cross

Words:

1. Has your family got plans for Christmas?
There's always a lot to work out.
Do you need to travel between families?
Who will host Christmas lunch?
What time will everyone get there?
What food will you need to bring?
Planning is important.
You don't want to end up at the wrong house on Christmas Day, do you?
Where is everybody?
Where are the presents?
2. What if I told you Christmas is God's plan?
It is the **BIGGEST** plan ever devised.
Of course, a big plan is no problem for God.
Here's why...
3. He is omniscient.
That means God has total knowledge about everything, including the past and the future, the visible and the invisible.
He knows everything about you.
4. He is omnipotent.
That means God has all power over all things at all times and in all ways.
God created the world by simply speaking it into being!
5. He is omnipresent.
That means God is everywhere at all times.
You cannot hide from Him.
6. Why did God plan Christmas?
First, let's see what Christmas really looks like.
Now in those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child.
7. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8. Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified.
But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Listen carefully for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Saviour is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.'
9. Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!'
When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us.'
10. So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. When they saw Him, they related what they had been told about this child and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said. So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.
11. God's BIG plan was to send a SMALL baby into the world?
Why?
Because God loves us and wants us to be with Him forever.
God is Holy. That means He is perfect.
The trouble is that we humans are not holy and cannot make ourselves holy no matter how hard we try or what we do.
We have done things wrong. The wrong things we've done are called sin.
God longs to be near us but His holiness and our sin cannot come together.
God planned to remove sin from our lives.
And that's why He sent Jesus.
Jesus grew up and when He turned 30 he showed people what God was like. He loved people, healed people, fed people, and taught and disciplined people.
12. This upset wicked people who wanted to keep their power and control over others, so they made a plan of their own.
They falsely accused Jesus and condemned Him to die on the cross.
But it was God's top secret plan for His son to die.
And it was a plan that Jesus agreed to.
When Jesus was crucified, the wicked people thought their plan had worked.
They did not plan on God raising Jesus from the dead!
13. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus leaving His home in Heaven to come to earth as a baby who would grow up to die for the sins of everyone.
He made a way for all our sins to be washed away.
Because He did that we can turn from our sins and ask for His forgiveness, and Jesus will forgive us!
We can now be near to God and He can be near to us. There is nothing in the way!

God's plan is that you believe in Jesus and why He came.
His plan is that you thank Jesus for dying for your sins.
His plan is that you ask Jesus to forgive you for your sin.
His plan is that you receive Jesus into your heart.
His plan is that you will be together forever!
What a BIG plan! What an amazing plan! What a life-changing plan!
Our omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent God is the only one who could
make a plan like that work!
(Altar call)

Ministry to the Children:

Do you have plans for your life? A plan about what you want to be?
A plan about where you want to travel? A plan about where you want to live?
The Bible tells us 'The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps'.
(*Proverbs 16:9*) It's good to have a plan as long as you understand your ability to
plan does not make you the boss of your life. God has plans for your life, too! You
might have an idea of what those plans might be or you might have no idea at all.
God will reveal His plans for you as you need to know. You can trust Him.
Remember, He is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. God has the best plan
and He will make it happen!

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not
to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Follow the Plan

- Hide the words of the Memory Verse around the room or in an outdoor play space.
- Make multiple plans of the room or space, with each plan showing a different place where a word is hidden
- Choose a child or a team to take a plan and use it to find the word
- When all the words of the Memory Verse have been found by following the plan, arrange them in the correct order and recite them aloud together.

Game: Look Up, Look Down

You will need:

A large play space to form a large circle

What to do:

Have the children form a large circle. They can stand an arm's length apart.
Once the circle is formed, all the children are asked to look down at their feet.
When the leader shouts out "Look up," the children have to look up and immediately
look at another child in the circle. If the child they are looking at also looks at them at

the same time, they scream together (or use the word 'Christmas!') and leave the circle. The remaining children stand in their place and continue to stare at the person they have been looking at until the leader says "Look down." The game continues until there are no more than two to three players left in the circle.

Craft: A Nativity Scene

You'll find plans for a Nativity Scene on the internet. Download and photocopy onto paper or thin cardboard, one set of plans per child. The children can colour and assemble their own Nativity Scene to take home.