

Whose Birthday Is It?

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: The true meaning of christmas.

Scripture: Matthew 1:21

Memory Verse: She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. - Matthew 1:21

The Children's Sermon

Wouldn't you be sad if everyone celebrated your birthday with each other and left you out? Imagine having a huge party, with cakes, balloons, and presents everywhere, but you were the only one not invited. That would make anyone feel pretty lonely, right? Well, Christmas is actually a big birthday party for Jesus! It's a time when we celebrate His birth, the day He came to earth because He loves us so much. But sometimes, we get so caught up in the fun stuff like presents, decorations, and yummy food, that we forget about Jesus, the birthday boy.

What kind of gift can you give Jesus for His birthday? You might think, "But Jesus is God, He has everything. What could I possibly give Him?" You can give Him the gift of thanking Him and telling Him how much you love Him. Even though Jesus has everything, He loves hearing from us. Just like how your parents love it when you make them a card or give them a hug, Jesus loves it when we talk to Him and spend time with Him.

There are lots of things you can do – but I think the most important one is telling someone about Jesus who doesn't know Him. Imagine you have a friend who has never

heard about Jesus or doesn't know that Christmas is actually His birthday. You can be the one to tell them the amazing story of how Jesus came to earth, why He did it, and how much He loves us. That's a pretty awesome gift to give Jesus, don't you think?

So have a wonderful time celebrating Christmas, but don't forget to celebrate with Jesus, too – it is HIS birthday!!! Remember, the best Christmas Sermon: Jesus Saves. He came to save us all because He loves us so much. That's the true meaning of Christmas.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for sending Jesus to earth so that we can go to Heaven and live with you forever. Forgive us when we forget Who's birthday it is. Help us to share Him and His love with other people. Amen.

Now, let's think more about how we can make Jesus happy on His birthday. One way is by being kind to others. Jesus loves it when we help our friends, share our toys, and use kind words. This Christmas, you can look for ways to be extra kind, like helping to set the table, saying "thank you" to your parents and teachers, or even sharing your favorite toy with your sibling. Every time you do something kind, it's like giving a birthday present to Jesus.

Another great idea is to make something special for Jesus. You could draw a picture, write a letter, or even sing a song that tells Jesus how much you love Him. You can ask your parents to help you hang your drawing somewhere in your house or keep the letter in a special place where you can read it every Christmas. This is a fun way to remember that Christmas is all about Jesus' love for us.

Let's not forget about spending time with Jesus. Just like you would spend time with a friend on their birthday, you can spend time with Jesus by reading stories about Him in the Bible or saying prayers. You can thank Him for all the good things in your life and ask Him to help you be more like Him. This is a very special gift because it shows Jesus that you want to know Him better.

Christmas is also a time for sharing, and one of the best things you can share is the story of Jesus. You can tell your friends and family about how Jesus was born in a stable, how the shepherds and wise men came to visit Him, and most importantly, how He came to save us. Sharing the Christmas Sermon: Jesus Saves with others is a wonderful way to spread the joy of Jesus' birthday.

Lastly, remember to say "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas day. You can say a special prayer with your family, thanking Jesus for coming to earth and asking Him to fill your hearts with His love and joy. This is a simple but powerful way to keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas celebration.

So, as you enjoy all the fun parts of Christmas, like opening presents, eating delicious food, and spending time with your family, remember to also take time to celebrate Jesus. After all, He is the reason for the season. The best Christmas Sermon: Jesus Saves reminds us of the greatest gift we've ever received – Jesus Himself.

Let's make this Christmas extra special by giving back to Jesus, sharing His love, and remembering that the best Christmas Sermon: Jesus Saves. Merry Christmas, everyone! Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday with all our hearts!

Bible Memory Verse

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. -

Matthew 1:21

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers related to Christmas (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into strips before class.
- Write the memory verse on a large piece of paper or whiteboard for the children to see.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle and read the memory verse together. Discuss the meaning of the verse, focusing on the name 'Jesus' and why it's so special, especially during Christmas.
2. Hand out the construction paper strips, scissors, glue, and markers/crayons to each child. Instruct them to create a chain link by writing one word of the memory verse on each strip and then gluing the ends of the strip together to form a loop. They should then link another strip through the first loop and continue until the entire verse is on their chain.
3. Once everyone has finished their memory verse chain, encourage them to decorate their chains with markers, crayons, and stickers. Hang the completed chains around

the classroom as a festive decoration and a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small wooden or cardboard manger
- Baby doll to represent Baby Jesus
- Strips of cloth or paper
- Markers or crayons
- A large star cut out of paper or cardboard
- Tape or glue
- A printed or written copy of Matthew 1:21

Get Ready:

1. Write Matthew 1:21 on the star: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
2. Set up the manger in a visible spot in the classroom.
3. Prepare the strips of cloth or paper by cutting them into pieces that can be easily written on.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Matthew 1:21 together and explain that Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus, who came to save us.
2. Give each child a strip of cloth or paper and ask them to write or draw something they are thankful for about Jesus or a simple prayer to Jesus.
3. Have each child come up one by one, say what they wrote or drew if they wish, and then place their strip of cloth or paper in the manger as a gift to Jesus.

4. Once all the strips are in the manger, place the baby doll representing Jesus on top of the strips, showing that all our prayers and thanks are with Him.
5. Finally, attach the star with Matthew 1:21 above the manger to remind everyone that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

Snack Activity: Sweet Savior Manger Scene

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- White frosting
- Mini marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Small paper plates
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a clean table. Make sure each child has a small paper plate and a plastic knife or spreader.

Do this:

1. Use the graham crackers to build a little manger scene on your paper plate. You can break them into smaller pieces to make the walls of the manger.
2. Spread white frosting on the graham crackers to 'glue' them together and to cover the ground as snow. This reminds us that Jesus came to make our hearts as clean as snow by forgiving our sins, just like it says in Matthew 1:21.
3. Use the mini marshmallows to represent baby Jesus in the manger and the pretzel sticks to make the animals and the structure of the manger. This fun snack helps us remember the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus's birth and His promise of salvation.

Game Activity: Christmas Star Hop

You'll Need:

- Large pieces of construction paper (preferably in yellow or gold)
- Tape
- Marker
- A Bible or a printout of Matthew 1:21

Get Ready: Before the game, cut out large star shapes from the construction paper. Write different parts of Matthew 1:21 on each star, breaking the verse into short phrases or individual words. Tape the stars on the floor, spaced out in a path or random pattern around the room.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they will be hopping from star to star to discover the true meaning of Christmas, as told in Matthew 1:21. Tell them that each star has a part of the verse and their goal is to hop on the stars in the correct order to piece together the verse.
2. Read Matthew 1:21 aloud to the children: 'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' Discuss briefly what this means and why it's important for Christmas.
3. Let the children take turns hopping from star to star, trying to recite the verse in the correct order. If a child is unsure, they can ask for a hint or help from their friends. After completing the verse, they can hop freely among the stars, celebrating the joy of Christmas.

This activity combines physical activity with learning Scripture, reinforcing the true meaning of Christmas through movement and teamwork.

Craft Activity: Jesus' Manger of Love

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard box or a paper plate
- Straws or yellow construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- A printed picture of baby Jesus (or children can draw their own)

Get Ready: Cut the cardboard box to create an open-top manger shape or fold the paper plate into a half to make a cradle. Cut the yellow construction paper into strips to mimic straw, if not using real straws.

Do this:

1. Color or decorate the outside of your manger or cradle with markers or crayons. You can write 'Matthew 1:21' and 'Jesus Saves' on it to remember the true meaning of Christmas.
2. Glue the straws or yellow paper strips inside the manger to look like hay. Spread them out to make a soft bed.
3. Place cotton balls at the bottom of the manger for extra softness. Then, glue the picture of baby Jesus on top of the cotton balls. This represents Jesus being the reason for the season, born to save us from our sins.

Prayer Activity: The Christmas Heart

You'll Need:

- Paper
- Markers or Crayons
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut out heart shapes from the paper, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 1:21 together, focusing on how Jesus was born to save us because He loves us. Explain that Christmas is a time to remember and celebrate this great love.
2. Give each child a paper heart and markers or crayons. Ask them to think about what the true meaning of Christmas is to them, and how Jesus's love has touched their lives.
3. Encourage them to write a prayer on the heart, thanking Jesus for His love and asking Him to help them share that love with others this Christmas season. Once they're done, they can decorate their hearts with drawings that remind them of Christmas.
4. Gather the hearts and create a 'Prayer Wall' or 'Christmas Tree of Prayers' by attaching them to a designated wall or tree in the classroom. This will serve as a visual reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and the love that Jesus brings into our lives.