



TODAY'S TOPIC:
The Reason for the Season
 You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

THINKING JOB: Ask a "thinking job question" to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

The Christmas season is inspired by someone. Do you know who it is?

Lesson

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nativity set • Nativity story. We used "The Story of Christmas" by Vivian French which is good for younger elementary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for setting up and telling the story based on the number of children. 	Know that Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

ASK: Why do you think people choose to celebrate Christmas?
SAY: Think of your teachers and the things they teach you. Throughout time, there have been many famous teachers who taught about God and one of the most well-known is Jesus Christ. We celebrate Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday. Jesus CHRIST - CHRISTmas
STORY: Just to remind you of the story, here is a nativity set. "Nativity" means the birth of Jesus. (Use the characters to act out a brief version of the nativity story. Use the copy of the story as needed. Include the kids as much or as little as works for your class.)
RETELL THE STORY: Here is what some people believe about this story: (Lines in italics are ways you can retell parts of the story using the characters. Be sure to point out the characters as you retell the story.)

- ❖ Jesus' parents Joseph and Mary are about wisdom and love. Are your parents or grandparents about wisdom and love? *Hey baby Jesus. We love you so much and promise to take care of you.*
- ❖ The Angel Gabriel is about God's wisdom and love that lives inside everyone and inside of you.
Hey Mary and Joseph and (later) baby Jesus. God loves you and promises to take care of you. He is a part of you and always with you.
- ❖ Jesus – this is you! Just like Jesus is about love and God, YOU are about love and God.
- ❖ The stable means finding a place to be still. The inn was really busy and full of people and noise, but the stable was quiet and peaceful.
It was a bummer that the inn was full, but this place seems to work out even better. It's cool how things that seem bad can actually be a good thing.
- ❖ Shepherds – be peaceful and connect to nature.
I love being out here with the stars and the trees and the sheep.
- ❖ The other angels that talk to the shepherds are messengers. Angels can bring you messages too.
Yo (pick name of kid in your class). I have good news for you!
- ❖ The wise men/kings bring gifts to Jesus just like you bring your gifts to the world. What is a gift you bring to the world?
- ❖ The wise men follow the star. What do you follow? Your heart, your gut feeling, your instinct, your inner voice? And are all those things God?

SAY: Sometimes when people tell this story, when the angels appear to the shepherds, they say “Glory ton God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.” (Luke 2:14). What do you think “good will toward men” means?

GOOD WILL: Friendly, helpful, cooperative attitude

THINGS TO REMEMBER FROM TODAY'S LESSON: Jesus Christ is the Christ in Christmas, you are a child of God, you spread good will to other people.

AFFIRMATION – I am a child of God. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .

