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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to talk about Christmas! Christmas is such a fun time of year as we put up all the pretty decorations, eat yummy food and see a lot of presents under the tree. All those things are great but Christmas is about so much more than that. Christmas is all about God's desire to have relationship with us. God sent Jesus into the world- a baby born in Bethlehem who would grow up to be the Savior of the world. In fact, another name for Jesus is Emmanuel which means "God with us". Jesus came into the world at Christmas time so he could fix our relationship with God. He came to die for our sins. When we trust in Jesus, the Bible says we are saved and our relationship with God is fixed. That's why Christmas is more about relationships than anything else. Instead of just focusing on the gifts and pretty decorations, we need to remember that Christmas is really about having a relationship with God. And, Christmas is a great time to spend with other people we love like family and friends. So kids, when you're opening presents, remember that a relationship with Jesus is the best gift of all.

Big Idea

Christmas is about relationships, not presents

Key Question

Why are relationships so important?

Memory Verse

Matthew 1:23 "She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: What are your favorite family traditions at Christmas?** (Tip: Maybe you make cookies, go see pretty lights in the neighborhood and spend time with family. Christmas is full of fun things but we can't forget what Christmas is really about.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We need Jesus and other people to help us.** (Jesus came to die for our sins to take care of our sin problem. Without Jesus, we wouldn't have a relationship with God. But God also designed us to need other people. We're not meant to be alone. Our parents help to guide us in life and our family and friends can encourage us to live to honor God.)
 - Bonus Questions:** Why are relationships important? How does a relationship with Jesus help us? **4-5th** How can you help your siblings or friends to know Jesus?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read [John 3:16](#). Who loves us? Why did Jesus come? What does it mean that we can have eternal life?** (Answer: This is how much God loves us. He sent Jesus to die for us! Because of Jesus, our sins are wiped away and our relationship with God is fixed. And, when we put our trust in Jesus, we are guaranteed that we get to live in heaven with God forever.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: CANDY CANE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a green pipe cleaner and a some red and white beads.
- Have the kids bend their pipe cleaner into a shape of a candy cane. Have them fold the bottom end up a bit so the beads don't fall off as they put them on.
- Have the kids place the beads onto the pipe cleaner, alternating red and white each time. Once they get all of the beads on, have them bend the hooked end up so the beads don't fall off that end.
- Give each kid a Candy cane template (page 5) and a piece of ribbon. Help the kids punch a hole in the top left corner of the verse so they can tie it onto their candy canes using the ribbon. (You may need to help with this)
- As they work, read the story from Luke 1:26-33. Remind the kids that Jesus came into the world so our relationship with God could be fixed. Christmas is really about relationships, not the presents under the tree.

Supplies needed: Green pipe cleaners (1 per kid), Red and White beads, Candy Cane template (pg. 5, precut, 1 per kid), Ribbon (cut into 8 in. pieces, 1 per kid), Hole Punch

OPTION 2: CANDY CANE RELAY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Have teams line up on opposite sides of a table.
- Give each kid a big, wrapped candy cane.
- Put a pile of unwrapped little candy canes at one end of the table.
- Teams will race to see which team can move the most candy canes down the line to the other end of the table the fastest using only the large candy cane in their mouth to do it. They can try to hook a candy cane and lift it to the next person in line or slide it over. No hands allowed!
- Kids can eat their large candy cane when the game is over.

Supplies needed: Large candy canes (1 per kid), Boxes of small unwrapped candy canes

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When an angel told Mary a super important message, it showed the whole world the real meaning of Christmas.

Key Points:

- Christmas is about _____, not _____.
- An angel talked about relationships in his _____ with Mary.
- _____ proves how much God cares about relationships

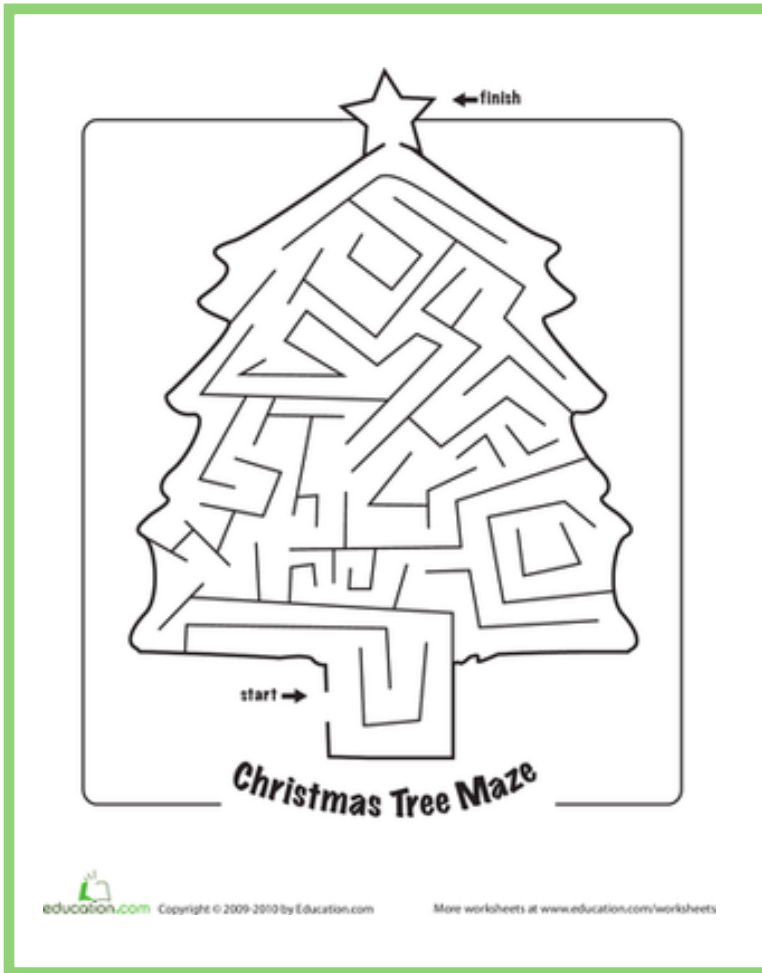
Memory Verse:

Matthew 1:23 She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *What are your favorite family traditions at Christmas?*
3. *Who was Jesus' mom? What did the angel tell Mary?*
4. *What was Jesus' nickname? What does it mean?*
5. *Read John 3:16. Who loves us? Why did Jesus come? What does it mean that we can have eternal life?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.



Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

Matthew 1:___ "She will give _____ to a son, and they will call him _____, which means '_____ is with us.'"





John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

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