

## Christmas Party – The Backwards Birthday Bash

Small Group Leader – Discuss with the children the best present they ever received at Christmas. Make sure you share your best gift also. Ask the children why we celebrate and give gifts at Christmas. Serve any treats on p. 3-4 of text

### Club Time

 \_\_\_\_\_ Welcome

 \_\_\_\_\_ Fingerprint one student's thumb

 \_\_\_\_\_ Rules, Consequences

\_\_\_\_\_ Review Game: Three Legged Relay Race

\_\_\_\_\_ Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me

\_\_\_\_\_ Prayer

\_\_\_\_\_ Games: Choose one or two icebreaker games on p. 2

\_\_\_\_\_ Action Song: Jesus is the Good News

\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent Child

 \_\_\_\_\_ ***Lesson – The Backwards Birthday Bash***

\_\_\_\_\_ Song: Happy Birthday Jesus song

\_\_\_\_\_ Games: choose two or three from the 7 games given on p. 1-2 **Do not use the Backwards Relay since that will be the review relay used for the Welcome Back party lesson.**

 \_\_\_\_\_ ***Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8***

\_\_\_\_\_ Song: Christmas Bells

\_\_\_\_\_ Craft: Choose one on p. 3

\_\_\_\_\_ Closing

### **What do you want the children to leave your club knowing?**

Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25; 28:1-10; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20, 40, 52

Memory Verse “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8)

Teaching Objective: The unsaved child will believe in Jesus – God's perfect gift.

Main Teaching: Jesus is God's perfect gift to you. When you believe in Him, you will be part of His forever family.

Emphasis for Saved: You can say “yes” to what God wants you to do.

Word Up! Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me

 Italicized and bolded: What you **must** teach that week

 Ideas to be used all year

## Christmas Party – The Backwards Birthday Bash

Small Group Leader – Discuss with the children the best present they ever received at Christmas. Make sure you share your best gift also. Ask the children why we celebrate and give gifts at Christmas. Serve any treats found on p. 3-4 of text (Backwards Birthday Cake, Cupcake Walk, Graham Cracker Manger, Hay Cookies, Ice Cream Cone Cupcakes) Plan on whoever providing treats that day to prepare one of these snacks.

	<i>Italicized and bolded: What you <b>must</b> teach that week</i>
	<u>Ideas to be used all year</u>

### Club Time

 \_\_\_\_\_ Welcome

\_\_\_\_\_ Q & A: What are some of God's ways that are backwards from the world's ways? (God says in His Word that it is "Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 16:18-19 In other words, it is better to be humble and poor than proud and rich.

The world says you need to be strong and powerful to be successful. God says, "My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9. Be glad that you are weak, wow that is not what the world tells us. These are just a few and there are many more. According to God's Word, He says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9. So stand up and turn backwards if you want to follow God's ways instead of the world's way. **Sing one chorus of "Let Me Listen"**

 \_\_\_\_\_ Fingerprint one student's thumb

 \_\_\_\_\_ Rules, Consequences: What is harmful about giving rules and consequences and then not being consistent with them? Not enforcing your own rules puts everything you say into question. If kids don't know what to expect from you, they never really know what the rules are. You may want to back down for fear of ruining the child's fun being unloving. Keep in mind that kids benefit from limits. Rules and structure give children the security of knowing you are watching out for them.

<p><i>"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." Rita Pierson</i></p>
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\_\_\_\_\_ Review Game: Three Legged Relay Race

\_\_\_\_\_ Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me

Introduction: In small group you shared about your favorite Christmas gift. Stand up if you want to tell us what you said. (Allow several that are standing to share depending on your time.)

Presentation: Today's Word up tells us what the absolute perfect gift we have all been given. **Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me.**

Explanation: When God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus Christ, to earth He became our perfect gift. The gift Jesus brought is a forever gift. It won't die, rust, decay or disintegrate. What is that forever gift? It is salvation, eternally life with God in Heaven forever, for eternity. **Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me.**

Application: Saved: If you have accepted God's perfect gift of salvation, you have God's protection, care, help and presence in your life always, forever. You have forgiveness of sin, power over sin and the punishment of sin. You have a forever home in Heaven. When you feel sad or like things aren't going right in your life remember all these things especially the **Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me.**

Unsaved: If you have never accepted God's perfect gift of salvation, you can receive the best gift ever by telling God you believe He came to earth as a baby, died on the cross for you and came alive to show He has victory over sin and death. Today, will you accept **Word Up: Jesus: God's Perfect Gift to Me.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prayer: Have children share prayer requests for others and point out that prayers are one of the best gifts we can give someone else

\_\_\_\_\_ Games: Choose one or two icebreaker games on p. 2 (4 Corners, Birthday Balloon, and Switch Sides If...)

\_\_\_\_\_ Action Song: Jesus is the Good News (After singing the song with motions ask the children what this song has to do with Christmas.) *Without Jesus' birth there would be no good news and nothing to celebrate because we would be headed for eternity separated from God. Without Him coming as the perfect sacrifice for our sin, we would have no forgiveness of our sin and no way to get to Heaven where Jesus lives.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent Child

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lesson – The Backwards Birthday Bash** [You might want to have simple costumes and have a child play each role (several children portray the shepherds) and have the children act out the story as you tell it.]

\_\_\_\_\_ Song: Happy Birthday Jesus Song (Introduction: What is a tradition that is usually done when it is someone's birthday? Sing *Happy Birthday to them.* Let's sing Happy Birthday to Jesus who gave us the greatest gift ever.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Games: Choose two or three from the 7 games given on p. 1-2 (Christmas Charades, Cup Competition, Double Trouble, Hula Hoop Relay, Wrap a Present, Topple the Cup, The Unwrapping Challenge.) **Do not use the Backwards Relay since that will be the review relay used for the Welcome Back party lesson.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8** (Make sure you give out the words for the skit to person #1 and person #2. Make sure the verse is read from the Bible not just the visual. Have the wrapped present ready for this activity.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Song: Christmas Bells (When we ring bells at Christmas time what are we trying to announce? *The good news that Jesus was born to die for your sins.*) Sing the song with motions

\_\_\_\_\_ Craft: Choose one on p. 3 (Christmas Cards, Give a Gift, Party Hats)

\_\_\_\_\_ Closing

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