

The *Ultimate*
Christmas Download for Children's Ministry



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The *Ultimate* Christmas Download for Children's Ministry

The Light of the World

Ready to start planning Christmas celebrations for kids and families in your church? Whether you're planning a classic Christmas pageant, creative Christmas service, clever Christmas Sunday school lesson, or cool Christmas outreach event for families...have we got ideas for you!

We've collected these FREE Christmas activities from some of our favorite Group resources to help you plan the best Christmas program ever! And, yes, we're giving them to you for free—consider them our gift to you and your church this Christmas season.

You will find:

- 🔗 a super-creative preschool coloring page activity from **Coloring Creations**
- 🔗 a sciency-fun elementary object lesson activity from **Sciency-Fun Wows!**
- 🔗 an interactive Christmas skit for kids of all ages
- 🔗 a Christmas carol audio file and song lyrics for kids to sing along with or perform for your church family from **More Songs of the Christmas Story**
- 🔗 a sentimental ornament activity for the whole family



This downloadable zip file is packed with Christmas fun for you and the kids you lead. Discover the light of Jesus in The Ultimate Christmas Download for Children's Ministry today!

Jesus Is Born for Us!

Luke 2:1-20

What you need:

For each child...

- 1 copy of page 79
- pieces of fabric

You'll also need...

- glitter glue, and remember to bring your
- Coloring Creations Kit!

What to do:

Write children's names on their pages. Cut pieces of fabric a little bigger than baby Jesus so that the children can wrinkle the fabric slightly and it will still fit over him (about 1 1/2 x2-inches).

1. Give each of the children an activity page, and have them begin to color it. As children work, read the Bible story (from Luke 2) to them. Point out that baby Jesus is wrapped in a blanket, and his parents are taking care of him.
2. Have children glue the piece of fabric over the baby Jesus in the picture. Tell children that God gave us parents to take care of us, just as Jesus' parents are taking care of him. And God gave Jesus to all of us so that Jesus could help us get closer to God. God had a special plan for Jesus to die on the cross and forgive us of our sins. Jesus didn't stay dead, though; he came alive again and now lives in heaven with God. Jesus is the way to God, and when we believe in him, we will have life forever with him in heaven.
3. Encourage kids to use glitter glue to each make a cross in the sky above the manger. Set the pages aside to dry until the children are ready to go home. Encourage children to show the "Jesus Is Born for Us!" activity page to their families as a reminder that Jesus was born for us.

Talk about:

Ask: • Why do you think God gave baby Jesus to Mary and Joseph?

- How did Mary and Joseph take care of baby Jesus?
- Why do you think God gave baby Jesus to us?
- How has Jesus taken care of you?

Say: God saw that Mary and Joseph would be the perfect parents for baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph loved God and wanted to teach their children to love God also. God gave baby Jesus to us so that Jesus would live a perfect life and die for all the bad things we do. When we believe God sent Jesus to be born and to forgive our sins, we will have life forever with Jesus in heaven.

Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be born for us so we can have life with you forever. In Jesus' name, amen.



"Jesus is the way to God"
(adapted from John 14:6).



Permission to photocopy this coloring page from *Coloring Creations: 52 Bible Activity Pages* granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com

Jesus Is Born for Us!

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:1-7

Supplies

- tall, clear glass
- large, clear plastic cups (4 for every 4 kids)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)
- honey
- milk
- liquid dish soap (any color but yellow)
- vegetable oil

Easy Prep

- Pour a little bit of each liquid into the 3-ounce cups, 1 liquid per cup. You'll need 1 set of the 4 liquids for each group of 4 kids.

PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER

What Kids Will Do

Kids experiment with liquids to see that Jesus is the top gift.

Mix It Up

Say: **At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus is the best gift ever. Sometimes other gifts might seem better.**


Ask:

- **What's a gift someone might think is better than Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus will always come out on top because Jesus is the best gift ever. When we are friends with Jesus, we know he's always with us, he gives us peace and joy, and we can live forever with him in heaven one day. That's a pretty great gift!**

Have kids form groups of four. Distribute supplies to each group.

Hold up the vegetable oil and say: **Let's pretend this liquid represents Jesus.** Pour it into a large, clear cup. Have one child in



Jesus is the best gift ever.

each group pour the vegetable oil into the group's large cup.

Ask:

- **What do you think will happen if we pour another liquid into the cup?**

Have another child in each group choose a second cup of liquid to pour into the large cup. The vegetable oil will rise to the top. (It may take a few seconds.)

Continue until each child has poured one of the liquids into a large cup. Regardless of the order you pour in, the liquids will end up in four distinct layers in this order (from top to bottom): vegetable oil, dish soap, milk, honey.

Ask:

- **What do you think will happen if we combine all our cups?**

Have groups each pour their liquids into the tall, clear glass. Within a few seconds, the oil will create its own layer on top. (The other layers may combine a bit, but the oil will remain separate.)

Talk About It

Ask:

- **Why do you think the vegetable oil always stayed on top?**
- **How can other people see that you think Jesus is the top gift?**

Say: **Sometimes people make Christmas wish lists, starting with the things they want the *most*. Those are probably really awesome gifts! But we've already gotten the best gift ever—Jesus! Any other gift will sink below him because he's the best gift ever!**



This Is the Son God Gave

An interactive skit, where kids experience how Jesus was sent to earth to “untangle” our sins—and how he is a light of hope in the darkness of the world.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

PROPS

- 3 strings of Christmas lights
- an extension cord, with one end plugged into a wall outlet

CAST

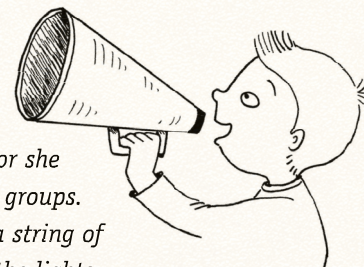
- Narrator
- 3 Group Leaders

BEHIND THE SCENES

Plug one end of the extension cord into a wall outlet. Have the audience form three groups, each led by a Group Leader and holding a string of Christmas lights. (Test the lights beforehand to make sure they work.) If you have a large audience, create more groups, add Group Leaders, and add strings of Christmas lights.

Action!

- ➔ The Narrator begins center stage. He or she has the audience form three separate groups. Have groups sit and then hand each a string of Christmas lights. Have groups unroll the lights so everyone in the group is holding onto a part of the strand.



NARRATOR

This is the Son that God gave.

- ➔ Group One stands, holding its string of lights with the Group Leader at the front of the line.

NARRATOR

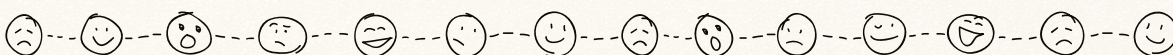
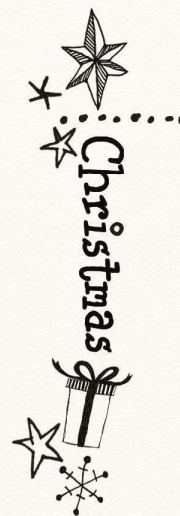
Mary's the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

- ➔ Group Two stands, holding its string of lights with the Group Leader at the front of the line.

NARRATOR

Joe is the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

- ➔ Group Three stands, holding its string of lights with the Group Leader at the front of the line. All three groups, led by the Group Leaders, start to cross each other's lines, ducking and weaving in and out, beginning to tangle up the lines and strings of Christmas lights. The Group Leaders will stop at the end of each of the Narrator's lines.





NARRATOR

This is the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

→ All three groups stop, and the Narrator pauses. The Group Leaders begin moving again when the Narrator starts speaking. This happens on every one of the Narrator's lines.

NARRATOR

This is the inn, the inn in the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

→ Groups stop, Narrator pauses, groups begin again on Narrator's line.

NARRATOR

There was a man who ran the inn, the inn in the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

→ Groups stop, Narrator pauses, groups begin again on Narrator's line.

NARRATOR

This is the barn, a stable of sorts, owned by the man who ran the inn. Remember the inn? The inn in the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

→ Groups stop, Narrator pauses, groups begin again on Narrator's line.

NARRATOR

This is the cow that mooed in the barn, a stable of sorts, owned by the man who ran the inn. Remember the inn? The inn in the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

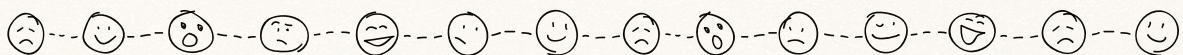
→ Pause for a moment, and have kids look around at their tangled mess. The Group Leaders don't move this time.

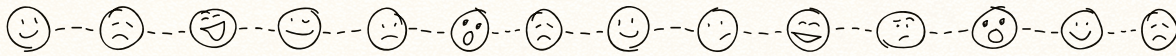
NARRATOR

The reason that God sent Jesus to earth was not because he was bored. The reason that God sent Jesus to earth was because earth needed a Lord.

Pause.

So...in the barn, a baby was born!





GROUP LEADERS

(To their groups) Repeat after me, "Jesus was born!"

AUDIENCE/LEADERS/ NARRATOR

Jesus was born! Jesus was born!

➔When the Narrator continues, Group Leaders and kids, without letting go of their Christmas lights, start to unravel and untangle to get back to their groups on the Narrator's cue.

NARRATOR

Time to untangle, from head to toe!

Ready? Steady? Here we go!

Jesus was born! Next to the cow! Born in the barn! Remember the barn? A stable of sorts, owned by the man. Remember the man? He ran the inn. Remember the inn? The inn in the town, where Joseph was from, who's also the dad, who married the mom, who had the Son that God gave.

➔Once the groups are untangled and back to their groups, have Group Leaders plug their Christmas lights into each other's. The Narrator holds one end of an extension cord that is plugged into a wall outlet. If possible, turn out all the lights in the room.

NARRATOR

The people on earth looked like you did just now—

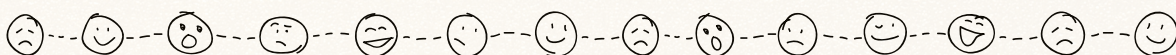
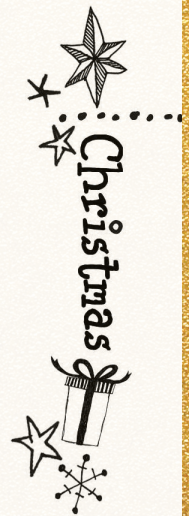
A bewildered, tangled-up jumble.

But Jesus, God's Son, in swaddling cloth curled,

As angels and shepherds and praises all swirled,

Proclaimed that this baby would be the light of the world (Plug in lights)

And save us all from our sins.



MORE
SONGS OF THE
CHRISTMAS
STORY



SONG LYRICS

**"HARK! THE HERALD
ANGELS SING"**

Whoa! Whoa!

Whoa! Whoa!

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all ye nations rise.
Join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

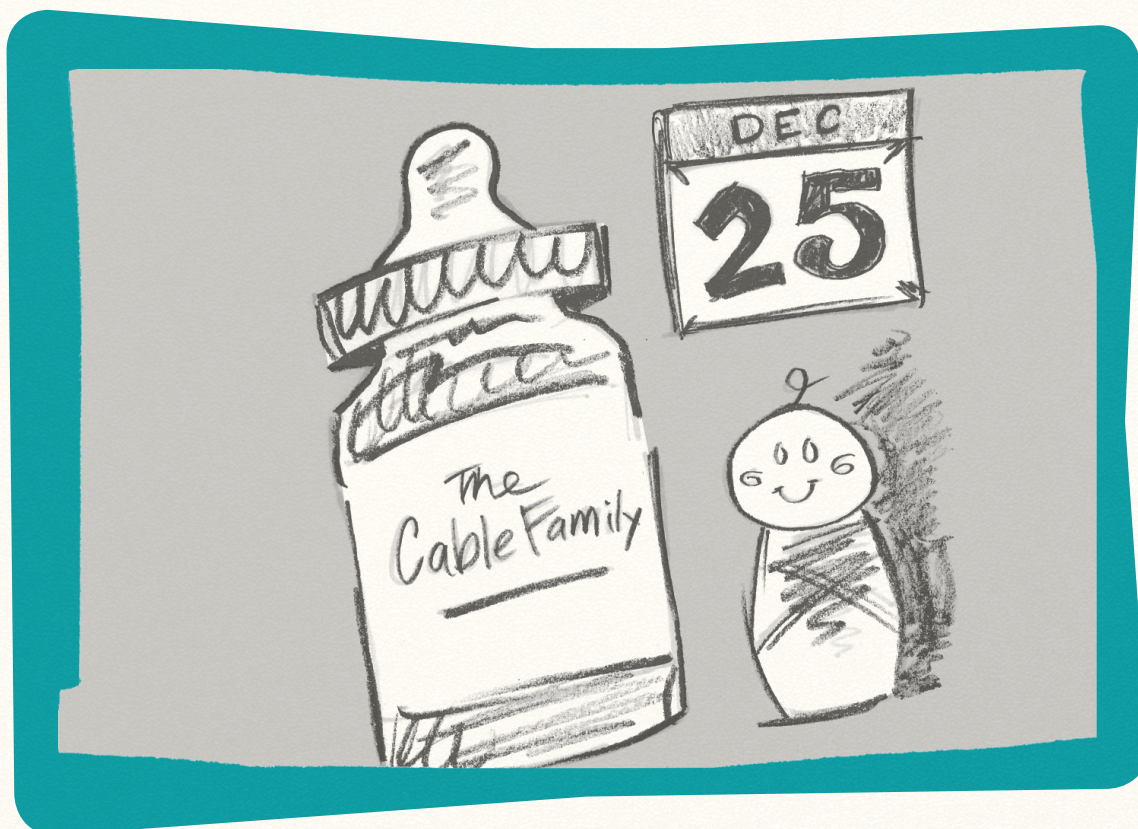
**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" by Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn.



Time Capsule Ornament

One fun part of Christmas for many families is the stories that come after someone says "Remember when...?"

The problem: Usually there's at least one person who *doesn't* remember.

With the help of your family, you'll fix that by creating an official Time Capsule Ornament.

Time capsules aren't a new thing. Sometimes when a new school or skyscraper is finished, a big box of stuff is packed away to be dug up in 50 or 100 years. Newspapers, letters, photos—they're all sealed inside and then...ignored.

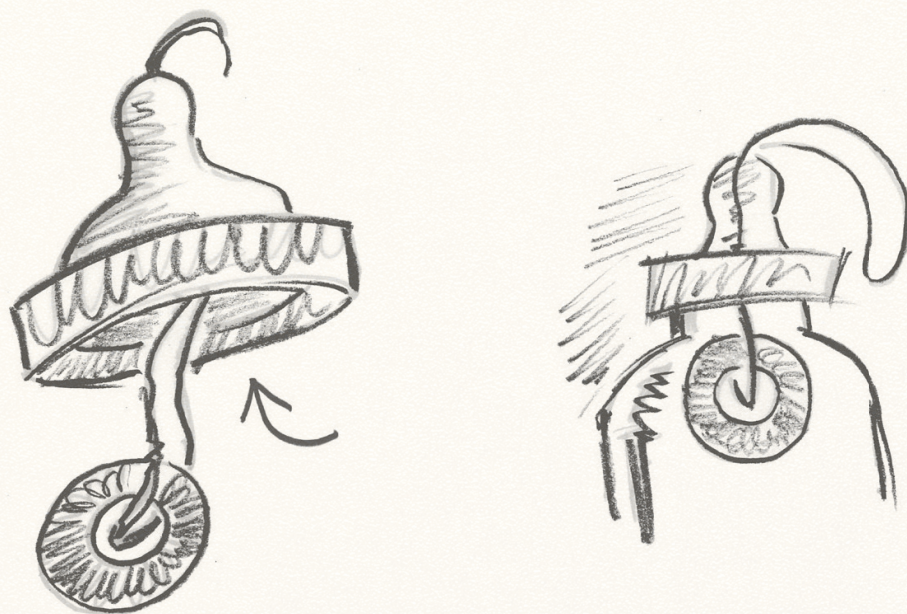
That won't happen with *your* time capsule!

For starters, you don't have much space—you'll fill a small baby bottle and hang it on your Christmas tree as an ornament. And you'll open it next year at Christmas...and the Christmas after that...and then the next Christmas. This is a family keepsake!

In fact, why not do a fresh time capsule each year? It'll be fun!

You can include whatever you'd like, but it all has to fit in a baby bottle. We suggest using a 5-ounce plastic bottle—a small, lightweight baby bottle!

Wait a minute...a *baby bottle*? Yup—because Christmas is all about a baby being born, remember? Plus, it will hang really well from a tree branch.



Here's how to create your ornament:

1. Get a lightweight plastic baby bottle. They're usually on a shelf at the dollar store.
2. Cut a piece of paper—safely!—that fits snugly inside the bottle so you can't see what's inside the bottle. Write this year on the paper so it's visible through the bottle.
3. Collect what you'll put inside.
4. Attach the screw-on top, and either tie a thin ribbon around the top of the bottle so you can hang the bottle on your tree or create a stopper inside the bottle to let the ribbon come up through the hole in the top. We show you how to do that above.
5. Ta-da! A time capsule! In a year...or two...or 20, your family will treasure the reminder of this Christmas. You'll treasure what's in the bottle, but Mary treasured that first Christmas in her heart (Luke 2:19). Hold on to the treasure of Jesus' love in *your* heart, too!

What to put in your bottle:

You can't add much weight, so ask family members to write their answers to these questions on small slips of paper that will fit into the time capsule. And because you'll forget who wrote what and why, include both the question and answer on each slip of paper, plus the name of the family member. Write small!

- What was special about this past year?
- What was your favorite song/TV show/band/snack food this year?
- What do you think will be the high point of the coming year?
- What's a lesson you learned this past year?
- What do you want to be doing in five years, and why?
- If you have a favorite activity or toy, what is it?
- Who's a good friend to you right now?
- What's the cost of a gallon of gas? a gallon of milk? a loaf of bread?
- Add a small family photo; ticket stubs to a movie or play you attended; and anything else that is small, lightweight, and will fit.

Note: If any family members aren't old enough to write or don't have the time, ask them a question and write down what they say.

