



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

December 3-4, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Throwback Christmas – Week 1

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Christmas really happened!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Luke 1:1-14
Luke 2:10-12
Isaiah 9:6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Christmas 4-Corners

Our first throwback game is 4 Corners – but a special Christmas edition! The game is a "push play and let it go" kind of game, so you can just facilitate as a leader! Make sure to determine which 4 corners of the room will represent each answer. This game isn't structured as competitive, but you can definitely make it competitive by choosing your favorite answer and eliminating the other 3 corners. You can also treat it as a fun icebreaker. Whatever you want! This game is easily customizable in its gameplay, but it will get the whole group moving!

***Make sure to test the technology before playing the game!!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

When is the earliest Christmas you can remember? How old were you? What are your memories of that Christmas?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Throwback Christmas – Week 1 – It Really Happened December 3-4, 2022

What's up, everybody?! Welcome to Northview Students! As you know, Christmas is coming up! Who's excited?!?! I have to be honest, every time we get to Thanksgiving, it might as well be the first day of Christmas for me.

Now, we have a lot of families represented here so I have a question to get things started today: how many of you have someone in your family who tells really great stories...but...to be honest...they tend to be a little exaggerated? They suck you in to this great story, but sometimes you find out that **MAYBE** they were stretching the truth a little bit.

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal example about a family member or friend who is a great storyteller but tends to exaggerate).

Stories like these can be fun, but ultimately, any person that hears a story wants to know what **REALLY** happened. Today, we are starting a series called "Throwback Christmas" because we are throwing it back to the first Christmas: the OG Christmas. It is the most important story of Christmas: the birth of Jesus found in the New Testament of the Bible in Matthew chapters 1 & 2 and Luke chapters 1 & 2. Maybe it's been told to you by your family or some other people in your life. You might've heard about Mary and Joseph, some shepherds, some wise men, the fact that Mary & Joseph couldn't stay at the inn because there wasn't any room and Mary was super pregnant and was ready to have the baby...but what **ACTUALLY** happened?

(Teacher's Note: Show "True Story of Christmas" message clip)

Isn't it interesting (just like the game of Telephone) the original story of Christmas can become so ingrained in our heads that we just start believing things about it that may or may not be true? It can be just like people who tell great stories – some of it's true, some of it's exaggerated, and some of it's false. Through all of that, the most important thing to remember about all of the details of the Christmas story is this: Jesus really was born. It really happened! That's what our **THP (Take Home Point)** is all about for this message today. Here it is!

Christmas REALLY happened!

Some of you are like, "Uhhhhh...this is the most **OBVIOUS Take Home Point** we've ever had! Of course it happened! What's the point?" Others of you might be thinking, "Well, maybe some of it happened, but I bet some of it is exaggerated just like we talked about earlier." There are others of you who would say, "The Christmas story in the Bible is just a fairy tale like Snow White, Aladdin, or Frozen. All that **REALLY** matters is the meaning of the story, not if it actually happened."

Students, I believe the only reason Christmas is still around today is **BECAUSE** it actually happened. Santa Claus, the reindeer, the presents, Christmas trees, and ugly Christmas sweaters might do fine on their own for a while, but without the birth of Jesus, Christmas would simply be a holiday based on a make-believe story.

THE MESSAGE

Christmas isn't based on traditions or a certain meaning or life lesson. Christmas is based on an event; a historical event that REALLY HAPPENED – the birth of Jesus Christ; the Son of God. Christmas isn't true simply because it's relevant to us; Christmas is relevant because it's true.

Imagine with me that you are a part of a sports team, dance team, choir, theater club – just some sort of team – and you enter this competition. At the end of the competition, your team gets 8th place out of 10 teams total. However, when your team hears the result, they go crazy and start chanting, "We won the championship!! We did it!!" You start thinking, "Wait a minute...we didn't win," but your teammates say, "It doesn't matter. We feel like champions! We're all champions!" I mean, I guess in some sense that's true: you know, "we can all be winners no matter the results," (that's almost like a cute coffee mug saying) but no matter what your team says or feels, you didn't win! In order for something to be truly meaningful, it has to be real – it has to be true, right?

The New Testament writer Luke starts out his Gospel like this in Luke 1:1-4: *"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."*

Now, listen...I know there were some big words in there, but Luke is basically saying this is not a fairy tale. This is "an orderly account" told to him by "eyewitnesses" – people who were actually there and saw it. His last sentence says he's writing this down "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." That means he wants the readers of the Bible to trust that what he's saying is true.

Let's check out another part of Luke's version of the Christmas story. When an angel appears to shepherds in a field in Luke 2:10-12, check out what the angel says to them: *"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*

The angel doesn't come with good advice, the angel doesn't come with "here's what this baby, Jesus, can teach you"; the angel simply comes with news – news about something that HAPPENED! Have you ever received good news before? Like REALLY good news? Maybe you were scared or unsure about something and then you received good news? It's an incredible feeling, isn't it? It's so reassuring and relieving to hear.

(Teacher's Note: Share an example about a time where you heard good news in the midst of a challenge or crisis in your life.)

The good news about Jesus didn't just come at the first Christmas. It didn't start with Mary & Joseph or the shepherds and the angels. Did you know that hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, said he would be born? Check it out in Isaiah 9:6: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

THE MESSAGE

That's crazy! Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, a prophet says to the people of Israel that a baby is going to be born and that baby is the Messiah. It's one thing to predict that a baby will be born – that's a pretty safe prediction. However, to predict that baby would be Jesus, the Messiah? That's pretty gutsy. You see, the Israelite people had been taught all their life that this Messiah would come and set them free from their enemies. He would be this great warrior and lead his people into battle. Then they hear, "A baby is born"? Huh? As weird as that would have sounded to them, it actually happened – and it didn't just sort of happen – it happened exactly like Isaiah the prophet said it would happen.

Students, this Jesus – He is no fairy tale. He is the Messiah. He is the Son of God. He IS the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. He is the One who loves us more than anything in this world. He is the God of endless second chances. He is REAL!

Let's look at our **THP (Take Home Point)** one more time: **Christmas REALLY happened!** Here is why that statement is so important...all of Christianity comes down to the answers of these two questions: 1) Did God come to earth as Jesus Christ, who was fully God and fully man? 2) Did this same Jesus raise from the dead after being killed on the cross? If those things didn't happen, students, there is no Christianity. There is no Christmas and there is no Easter. It really would just be another fairy tale with a bunch of decorations, Christmas trees, hot chocolate, and Grandma's weird casserole that you have to eat every year. However, as Christians, the purpose of Christmas isn't just the meaning or the traditions – it's about the event.

Jesus really was born to Mary and Joseph, a multitude of angels really did visit the shepherds, and Jesus really was the Son of God. In fact, He was God in the flesh!

As fun as these things are – fairy tales, Christmas trees, presents, Christmas movies – they come and go. The birth of Jesus is the one thing that will last forever, not because it's a great story, but because it REALLY HAPPENED! Let me pray for you guys before we start our group discussion.

(Teacher's Note: Close in prayer and then finish the message)

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

After watching the "True Story of Christmas" video, did you notice that there were some things you believed about the Christmas story that might not actually be true (or at least the whole truth)? Why do you think we have missed these key details of the story?

During the message, we talked about how Christmas is based on a historical event. Why is it important that Christmas actually happened? Would it be ok for people to just believe in the meaning of Christmas regardless if they believe it happened or not? Why or why not?

Do you personally think the Bible is trustworthy when it comes to recording the events of the Christmas story? Why or why not?

When Scott talked about the angel visiting the shepherds and bringing them "good news," what was the good news? Why was it good news for those people and also for us now?

How will the THP (Take Home Point) help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Our Ugly Sweater Christmas Party will be in two weeks! Be thinking about what you want to wear because there will be a prize for the best-dressed!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close your group in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game videos and/or slides
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister