



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

December 10-11, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Throwback Christmas – Week 2

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Christmas isn't going away!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:10

Romans 3:23

Matthew 1:20-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Reverse Christmas Charades

Get some upbeat Christmas music going in the background and prepare for our next throwback game: Charades! Except this time...it's reverse charades. That means you pick a few volunteers and then they guess what the entire crowd is acting out. Send the other contestants out of the room so they can't cheat. Highest number of correct answers in 60 seconds is the winner!

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

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

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

What was the highlight of your week?

You only get ONE Christmas song to listen to every Christmas for the rest of your life! Which Christmas song are you choosing?

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

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Throwback Christmas – Week 2 – Why Does It Matter?
December 10-11, 2022

Hey everyone – welcome to Northview Students! I’m super glad you’re here today, and I’m ready to get into Week 2 of our series called “Throwback Christmas.” Simply put...we are throwing it back to the original Christmas story. The OG! Last week, we talked about how Jesus’s birth really happened! It wasn’t just a story; it was a historical event. Today, we will probably answer a more important question, which is this: why does it matter? Who cares whether it happened or not? Why is it important for my life?

I’m sure most of you have already started, but just by a show of hands, how many of you have started listening to Christmas music? Oh yeah, I see those hands...well, actually I can’t because all of you are in the future, and I’m in the past, and you’re watching me on a screen. It’s a Christmas miracle! Anyway...yeah, who doesn’t love Christmas music around Christmas time?!

(Teacher’s Note: Share your favorite Christmas song and why. Make it really compelling...maybe some students will shed a tear at your explanation!)

Here’s the really interesting thing about Christmas: it seems like our culture becomes more and more unaware of what Christmas is really about. I mean, if Jesus was really born and that started the idea of Christmas, how did we get from there to “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” and “Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer”? Seriously? How did we get THERE?!

Yet, in the midst of all the glitz and glamor of Christmas, most of which is really fun (you know, the Christmas trees, garland, that weird inflatable reindeer in your neighbors’ front yard, Santa Claus, Christmas movies...), people can’t really escape or forget about the true meaning of Christmas. At some point, they’re going to hear songs like “Hark The Herald Angels Sing.” The lyrics say, “*Hark the herald angels sing/Glory to the newborn King/Peace on earth and mercy mild/God and sinners reconcile*” It’s these really powerful lyrics about Jesus...and then, right after you hear that one on the radio, “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch” starts playing! Kinda weird, right? Talk about a huge difference! People clearly know that silly Christmas songs are meant to be fun and not real...but what about the other songs about Jesus and about us? What if those songs ARE real and ARE true?

British news reporter, Rob Gifford, tells a story about how he experienced this very sensation at a concert of Christmas Carols in England during Christmas of 2012. Listen to what he said: “*Just last Christmas, I went to this Christmas carol service. And there were just a lot of people sort of sitting there and you can tell they are thinking to themselves, “Wouldn’t it be great if this were true? Isn’t it tragic that it’s not true? To our shame, we in the Church have been taken down roads that don’t show the gospel and Christmas as it actually is.”*”

THE MESSAGE

He's saying that Christians need to do a better job of living out their faith because whether people believe in Christianity or not, they still have to wrestle with Christmas and why it really matters. Is it true? Did it actually happen? If it didn't, then it's just a silly little holiday; but if it is true, it's a game-changer because it means Jesus was the Son of God! Because of this, Christmas isn't going away anytime soon! In fact, this is a good place to mention our **THP (Take Home Point)** for today's message. Here it is: **Christmas isn't going away!**

Since it's not going away and we will NEVER be able to escape the true meaning of Christmas, then we need to think about why it matters. Ok, so it's real, but who cares? Why should Christmas have any impact on our lives outside of every December? Here's one major reason: we don't have the ability to save ourselves. Let me explain what I mean: it was prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus was born that He would be the Messiah, which means the Anointed One or Saving One. Paul says in the New Testament in Romans 3:10, *"There is no one righteous, not even one..."* and later in verse 23 he says, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* If none of us are righteous and all of us have fallen short of God's glory, then we need God's help to save us from our sin.

Here's the second reason...and we're are going to get into more of this next week...but the first Christmas wasn't exactly a "Holly Jolly Christmas" or "The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year." In fact, in a lot of ways, it was the exact opposite! Mary and Joseph are this young couple who don't have very much money. They're forced to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which is a little over 100 miles through the mountains – about a 10-day journey. They're on this journey because of a census being taken where they had to register as citizens of a particular town. Oh, and by the way, Mary is VERY pregnant and, as many of you know, being pregnant isn't EXACTLY great for traveling super long distances! Oh, and another thing, Nazareth (where they lived) was not a "cool" place to live. In fact, one person in the New Testament writes, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?!" Not exactly the nicest thing to say!

If you read the Old Testament, it is all about imperfect people, just like you and me. They are trying to love God and make Him the most important thing in their lives. However, they don't always get it right. Actually...most of the time they don't get it right...kind of like you and me. God knew from the very beginning we couldn't save ourselves. So, what did he do? He became one of us! He came to this earth as a human: God in human form! Jesus!

God steps into the story. He could have done it in this crazy, powerful way, but instead He chooses to do it as a baby.

Maybe this next example can help you understand a little better – Did you know our bodies have a gene that produces Vitamin C, but it doesn't work? No, seriously, go look it up. It's there...you can see it, but it doesn't work. Since it doesn't work, that means we have to eat lots of fruit and take vitamins to make sure we get enough Vitamin C. In other words, we have to have an outside source to save us from bad things happening to our bodies because of a lack of Vitamin C. Isn't that crazy? The human body can do incredible things on its own: make sure we have enough blood flowing, process endless amounts of brain activity, BREATHING! And yet, it can't produce Vitamin C. We need help from an outside source to have enough Vitamin C to take care of our bodies.

THE MESSAGE

Let's read the Gospel writer, Matthew, and his account of why Christmas matters. This is from Matthew 1:20-23 where Joseph (Mary's husband) is visited by an angel: "...an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet [Isaiah]: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means "God with us")."

Matthew is saying that Christmas matters because it reminds us that Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sins. He is the outside source we need. He is the only one who can bring hope to a hopeless world. The first Christmas doesn't pretend that life is all candy canes, Christmas lights, and easy. No...it says life is hard. It's challenging. However, it also says God sent His own Son to be with us when it IS hard. Not only that, we can't save ourselves and Jesus came to save us because He is the only one who can! That's awesome!

Let's look at our **THP (Take Home Point)** one more time: **Christmas isn't going away!** I want you think about something this week: why Christmas is important to me? Why is it important for me that Jesus came to save me? Why is it important to me that the message of Christmas will never truly be lost in the midst of all the traditions? Why is it important for me to share that with other people?

Next week, we are going to finish our Throwback Christmas series and we will be talking about how Christmas can help us start a relationship with God through Jesus. Here's a challenge for you: Maybe you have a friend who isn't a Christian...maybe you have a friend who doesn't go to church...next week would be a GREAT time to bring them to your life group or send them the link to this message or invite them to a Christmas Eve service. Even though they may not believe in Jesus, they probably still celebrate Christmas, so it's an easy way and a very appropriate time for them to learn about Jesus and how He can save them.

Students, Christmas isn't going away as long as we (as followers of Jesus) continue to tell His story. Let me pray for you before we start our discussion. **(Teacher's Note: Pray and then finish script)**

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?

Do you think people at your school actually wonder what Christmas is really all about? Are they more concerned with the traditions, presents, Christmas movies and music? Why or why not?

Let me know if you agree with this quote or not and then tell me why: "Our culture will never be able to silence the true reason for Christmas."

What is the significance of Jesus coming to this earth as a baby and being our Savior?

Do you find yourself getting distracted from the real reason we celebrate Christmas? Why or why not?

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 is next week! 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

