



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

December 17-18, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Throwback Christmas – Week 3

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Christmas brings light to the darkness.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 2:1-16

Matthew 1:23

Luke 2:10-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

12 in 12: Christmas Edition

Do you have a good memory? It's about to be put the test! You will have 12 seconds to memorize 12 objects on the screen. A 30-second timer will come on the screen and you will have to write down as many things as you can remember. Each person can play individually, or you can split up into teams. Highest number of correct answers is the winner!

*****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?

What are your plans for Christmas with your family and friends? What are you most looking forward to?

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 3 – How Does It Change Us? December 17-18, 2022

This is one of my favorite times of the year! We are celebrating Christmas Northview Students style! Today, we are finishing our Throwback Christmas series where we have looked at the first Christmas and how the story is told in Matthew and Luke's gospels.

Now listen...not to start this message off on a negative note, but I think our **THP (Take Home Point)** this week best describes why Christmas is so important and how it has the power to transform our lives. We've talked about how it actually happened, why it was important, but today, I want us to consider how Christmas can change us. Here it is:

Christmas brings light to the darkness.

I think you would agree that there is definitely darkness in our world. During the Christmas season, I think it's easy for us to get sucked into what presents we are getting, our Christmas traditions, what we're going to do once school finishes and we're on Christmas break...all great things, right? Yet, for many people and families, the holidays don't always bring joy to them.

People are hurting in our world. Many are battling disease or have family members who are, some don't have enough to eat or drink, and others have completely lost hope in their lives. However, in spite of all that, the message of Christmas is one of **INCREDIBLE HOPE!** God became a human being; He came to save us from our sins; He came to bring light into the darkness of our lives and our world. In a simple and fun way, it reminded me of this video I saw recently. Watch this!

(Teacher's Note: Show "Spiderman Visits Children's Hospital" message clip)

I love that video. I loved the looks on some of the kids' faces as Tom Holland came around and visited them. So cool! Do you think it really mattered to those kids whether or not it was the "real Spiderman"? Probably not. Here's the thing...at Christmas, the real thing really DID come to this earth. Jesus was God in human form! Not an angel or heavenly being or something kinda close to God...Christmas is about **GOD HIMSELF** coming to this earth as a baby.

Think about that! A baby! How many of you have seen a baby just hours or a day or so after it's born? They are so vulnerable, so small, so fragile, and need A LOT of attention. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the God who created the universe, came as something as weak as a baby? Doesn't make much sense...however, it brought hope to a hopeless world and light to a dark world.

THE MESSAGE

Don't believe me? How about this? Did you know the most powerful person in the Roman Empire (Herod) felt incredibly threatened by Jesus? Do you remember the wise men (or Magi as some call them) who came and visited Jesus? Well, this part of the Christmas story is all about them and it's probably the most intense part of the Christmas story as recorded in the New Testament in Matthew 2:1-16. Let's read it together.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Let's stop in the middle here and summarize a little bit. The Magi come to Herod because they have heard about Jesus being born. Herod then tells them to go to Bethlehem and find Jesus and his family. For some context, Herod is an oppressive and paranoid ruler of the Roman Empire. He killed his wife and two sons because he was so convinced that his wife would try and poison him and his sons would try to overthrow him. According to a first-century historian named Josephus, we learn that Herod had ordered the capture of several important Jewish men and he said to keep them in prison until he died, and then kill them. That way, if people weren't sad over his death, there would still be crying at his funeral. NOT a good guy. Let's pick it back up and read what happens starting in verse 9...

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

God came to this earth as a little baby and yet one of the most powerful people in the world at that time felt threatened by his birth. That baby was the most powerful – that baby was God in the flesh. To kill all the little boys in Bethlehem is such a tragedy – it's really sad. There was so much darkness in the world when Jesus came...and you know what, not much has changed.

THE MESSAGE

I see bullying in your schools. I see racism in our communities. I see poverty in our cities. I see families being broken apart by abuse, violence, lies, and divorce. As wonderful as Christmas is with all of the traditions and music and food...those things won't really bring light to the darkness. It might for a little while, but ultimately, it will fall short. We need something, more specifically someone, to bring light into a dark world. Jesus is exactly that.

You see, Jesus came to shine light on the darkness in this world AND the darkness inside of us. This is called sin: it means disobeying or not worshiping God. Guess what...all of us do that because all of us are imperfect. The angel tells Joseph in Matthew 1:23, *"She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* When the angels visit the shepherds after Jesus is born, they say in Luke 2:10-11, *"...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 reason Jesus brings light to the darkness is because He is the only one that can defeat sin and the only one willing to take on our sin for us. As our **THP (Take Home Point)** said, **Christmas brings light to the darkness.** Christmas will ALWAYS be about Jesus. It will ALWAYS be about the Savior of the world bringing light into a dark place and hope in the midst of hopelessness.

I have some questions I want you to think about and answer to yourself silently: what darkness in this world do you wish you could get rid of? Jesus can bring light to that. Let's make it a little more personal: is there darkness inside of you or in your life? Jesus can bring light to that, too. In fact, that's why He came...to save you...because He knew we couldn't save ourselves.

As we close our message today, I want us to spend some time silently reflecting and thinking about what Jesus did at Christmas. As we watch this short video, I want you to reflect on some areas of your life or our world where Jesus can bring some light to the darkness and, most importantly, give you some hope.

(Teacher's Note: Show "Hope" message clip)

Wherever you're watching from today, I would like to ask you to bow your head and close your eyes as we close in a time of prayer. There may be some of you today watching this who are dealing with some situations in life that we would call darkness. Maybe it's what we talked about earlier about sin, or the darkness inside of us. Maybe it's a situation happening in your life right now and you just don't know how it's going to get better. Maybe you're going through something really painful. As we close today, I want to pray for you.

I also want to address those of you who don't have a relationship with God and haven't taken that first step to start a relationship with Jesus and believe that He has saved you from your sins. In fact, if that's you, as I start out this prayer, repeat these words after me silently to yourself and pray this directly to God and I believe He will hear your prayer.

(Teacher's Note: Do salvation prayer and then seamlessly transition into prayer for those hurting or going through a tough time. After that's over, close out 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?

What kind of darkness (or sin) do you see in our world today? What about in your school? How can Christmas bring light (or hope) to those situations?

Let's take it one step further and make it more personal...what kind of darkness (or sin) do you see inside of yourself? How do you need to experience the light (or hope) of Christmas in your life?

Have you tried sharing the message of Jesus with other people? If so, how did it go? Was it difficult? Why?

After we watched the video at the end of the message, "The Hope of Christmas," what was something you heard in that video that could give you hope?

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

Hope you had fun today! From all of us at Northview Students, we hope you have a Merry Christmas! We are so thankful you are a part of our church.

*****We will NOT meet for the next two weekends! Please attend one of our Christmas Eve services with your family (share campus service times). We will be back the weekend of January 7-8, 2023!**

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