

**DATE:** *Dec. 4, 2024*

**SERIES:** *Countdown to Christmas!*

**TOPIC:** *What do you want for Christmas?*

### GETTING STARTED

- **TAKE ATTENDANCE!** If you have any students in your group who are not on your roster, please WRITE their names on your sheet! Also, please make note about who is missing.
- **WELCOME** anyone NEW this week! (Be sure they get supplies if REGISTERED)

### GIFT WRAPPING!

- Each group will be provided a bag with gifts to wrap (along with supplies) when you check in at the Leader Table. Please wrap these during small group time and return them (along with supplies) back to the leader table before you leave!

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **THANKSGIVING RECAP** – How was your Thanksgiving break? Did you travel anywhere? What was ONE THING you enjoyed the most? What are you THANKFUL for this week?
- **CHRISTMAS PREP** – Has anyone decorated for Christmas yet? Real Christmas Tree or FAKE? Lights on the house? How does your family decorate? Favorite Christmas song to listen to?

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Big Questions:** How many days until Christmas?! (21 days away – 3 weeks from today!) What's on your Christmas list this year!? Is there anything on your WISH LIST you REALLY hope to get this year? OR is there something you're excited to GIVE as a gift to someone else?

**Main Takeaway:** Christmas time (or more specifically the season of ADVENT – the time leading up to Christmas) is full of so much excitement. Christmas Music, Lights, Shopping, Wrapping Presents, Candy Canes, Christmas Movies (any favorites?) but the most important thing about Christmas is WHAT? (Celebrating the BIRTH of JESUS!!) Without the BIRTH of Jesus we would not even have Christmas!! This year, what if we shifted our focus during Christmas less emphasis on GOOD PRESENTS and more focus on GOD'S PRESENCE! What are some ways we could do that? (Focus on GIVING more than receiving. Advent Calendars! Set up a Nativity!)

### BUILDING HOPE FOR THE WORLD!

- The total contributions will be REVEALED at all WEEKEND services! Please join us!
- HopeKids will be singing two Christmas songs during SUNDAY services (9:30 & 11AM!)

### POWERLIFE “SHOUTOUTS!”

- **NOTE:** leave your shoutouts at the Leader Table when you check out!

## OPEN YOUR BIBLES!

- Have students look up and **HIGHLIGHT** these verses (pick a different student for each one!)

### **LUKE 1:26-33** (page 1210)

- POP QUIZ! Who is Elizabeth? (Mary's Relative!)
  - Elizabeth gave birth to a son, what was his name? (John the Baptist!)
- (read verse 28) what was the name of the Angel who appeared to Mary? (Gabriel)
  - What's the **FIRST** thing Gabriel said to Mary?
    - (Greetings, favored woman! **THE LORD IS WITH YOU!**)
- (read verse 29) what was Mary's reaction to seeing Gabriel?
  - How would you respond if you met an Angel?
- (read verse 30) what's the **SECOND** thing Gabriel said to Mary? (Don't be afraid!)

## MEMORY VERSE! (DECEMBER)

- Have students look up and **HIGHLIGHT** this verse!

### **JOSHUA 1:9** (page 237)

- POP QUIZ!
  - Who wrote this **BOOK** of the Bible? (Joshua!)
  - Who was the leader of God's people before Joshua? (Moses!)
- God tells Joshua to **BE** two things (Strong & Courageous)
  - What does it mean to be Strong?
  - Have you ever done something **REALLY** courageous?
- God tells Joshua to **NOT BE** two things (Afraid or Discouraged)
  - Have you ever been afraid? Of what?
  - Ever felt discouraged? Why?
- Why does God tell Joshua to be strong/courageous & not afraid or discouraged?
  - Because **THE LORD your God IS WITH YOU!**

## PRACTICE "SEARCHING" THE BIBLE!

- Take a moment to open to page 1597 and have students browse through all the various topics covered in the Bible. **Pick a subject, find the page, and read together!**

## ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT!

- If your group would like to help make sandwiches for the homeless shelter, bring supplies for the Laundry Ministry, or donate food/clothing, please let us know!

## PRAY TO END THE NIGHT!

- Ask if any **STUDENT** wants to close your time together in prayer? OR as a leader, say a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the group! End with the Lord's Prayer!

## CHECK OUT AT THE LEADER TABLE!

- Please return your folder (and your roster with attendance) to the leader table. If you have feedback or notes, please leave those with us as well!! **THANK YOU!!**