

Joyful Catholic Families

Lesson #4 – Christmas

Christmas -- Jesus' birthday:

What holiday are we getting ready to celebrate? (Christmas)

What do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus' birthday)

Today we are going to celebrate Jesus' birthday since we will not be together on Christmas day.

First, we are going to make a birthday hat.

- Color and cut out the picture.
- Tape a strip of paper to each side of the picture (where the red is).



- Fit the hat to the child's head and tape the two strips of paper together.

Ask: How do you celebrate Jesus' birthday in your home?

- Some families have a cake for Jesus' birthday and they sing "Happy Birthday" to him.
- Today for our snack we are having little cakes (cupcakes) and we are going to sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus".
- After we sing "Happy Birthday", you can blow out the candle on your cupcake and eat it.
- Give each child a cupcake and a candle.
 - Children put a candle in their cupcakes.
 - Adults light the candles
 - Sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus"
 - Blow out the candles
 - Eat the cupcakes

Remember to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas!

Read the story: Jesus is born!

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF for the booklet.)

“Jesus is born!” game:

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF and more information.)

Hand out game boards and cards to children.

- Mix up the cards
- Match up the cards with the picture on the game board.
- As each card is placed on the board, say what is happening in the picture.

After the children have finished putting each card on their game boards, give each parent a game board and cards. Spread out all the cards (the parent’s and the child’s) upside down in the middle of the table.

The parent(s) and the child take turns picking a card.

- If the player does not have the card on his/her board, add it to the board and say what is happening in the picture. It is then the next players’ turn.
- If the player already has the card, put the card back and it is the next players turn.

Make “Happy Birthday, Jesus” Manger craft:

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF and more information)

Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas? (Jesus’)

We celebrate Jesus’ birthday but it is so easy to forget that because we get so excited about the people you are visiting, presents,...

So, we are going to make something for you to hang on your Christmas tree or on a doorknob in your home to remind you that Christmas is about Jesus.

- Color the manger.
- Cut out the manger.
 - When parents are cutting the manger, the children can cut the “hay” – yellow strips of paper cut into small pieces.
- Fold.
- Tape the edges of the manger.
- Make baby Jesus by using a marker to draw a face on one end of a wooden bow tie.
- Wrap Jesus in a blanket (soft piece of cloth)
- Put a Kleenex in the bottom of the manger to hold up Jesus and the hay.
- Crunch up the little strips of paper and put them in the manger.
- Put Jesus in the manger

Stickers and Booklets:

- Give each child a “Jesus is Born!” book (children’s size) and a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & Permanent markers
Prayers for prayer rings
Home lessons
Snack
Plates, napkins, water & glasses
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

Copies of nativity hat
Strips of paper (2" x 11")
Crayons
Scissors
Tape

Cupcakes
Candles
Matches

"Jesus is Born!" story printed on cardstock – classroom size
"Jesus is Born!" story for each child (printed on white paper)

"Jesus is Born!" game board – 1 for each child and parent
"Jesus is Born!" game cards – 1 set for each child and parent –
before class, cut them out and put each set of cards in separate Ziploc baggies

Copies of "Happy Birthday, Jesus" manger craft
2" strips of yellow or golden paper
Wooden bow ties
Small squares of soft cloth for blankets
Kleenexes
Markers
Glue

Stickers