

## What is Christmas to You?

Teacher Pep Talk: Talk about fun! You get to talk to a room full of young children about what Christmas means to them! Be ready to be amazed! They will have a lot to tell you. You will hear about all of the Christmas traditions they have, and what they want for Christmas, and... well, just about everything else! If it's red and white, or goes "Ho-Ho-Ho"... believe me, you're going to hear about it!

Then comes the most fun of all! You get to tell them what Christmas is all about! You get to tell them about the fact that Jesus, the Son of God was born, and that the reason we have Christmas is because we are celebrating His birth!

### **"HO-HO" SPOILER ALERT!**

*You don't have to be the "hatchet man" about the "Ho-Ho" part of Christmas, but if someone asks, you can say, "There is a pretend part of Christmas, and a real part of Christmas. (Wink at the older children here!) The pretend part may go away one day, but the real part never will. The real part of Christmas is that Jesus was born, and no one can ever take that part away!" I have given this answer many times and it works. (Let their parents talk to them later...)*

You will need: Birthday cake or cupcakes, and/or frosting and small plastic bags.

Major Points: At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birthday!  
Mary was Jesus' mother.  
God is Jesus' father.

Scripture Ref. Luke 1:26-38 (Mary is told about Jesus)

Memory Verse: Luke 1:31 You will ...give him the name Jesus.

Lesson: **What holiday is coming up soon?**

- Christmas... Of course, Christmas!

### **What does Christmas mean to you?**

- *(Listen to each child tell about Christmas. They may want to tell you how they celebrate Christmas at their house. Listen with interest. Say affirming things.)*
- All of these things, that we do with our family, are good things that help us celebrate Christmas! I'm so glad you celebrate with your family and friends!

### **Today I want to tell you the reason we have Christmas.**

- The reason we have Christmas is to celebrate Jesus' birth!
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- A long time ago Jesus was born here, and that is why we celebrate Christmas. It is Jesus' birthday!!

**Mary was Jesus' mother.**

- Mary was the name of the woman who had baby Jesus.
- She was Jesus' mommy.

**One day an angel came to see Mary.**

- The angel told her that she was going to have a baby.
- The baby was going to be God's Son.
- The angel told her that she was to name the baby, Jesus.

**God is Jesus' Father.**

- God the Father called Jesus His "One and Only Son."
- God is Jesus' daddy.
- God loved us very much to send His Son here.
- We celebrate this by having Christmas each year!

Prayer: Let's pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus!

Dear God,  
Thank you that you love us.  
Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be here with us.  
Thank you for Christmas.  
We love you. Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Pick and choose the activities that work best for you!)

**Have a Birthday Party!**

- Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus
  - Sing the traditional "Happy Birthday" with Jesus' name in it!
- Have Birthday Cake (optional)
  - **For extra fun, coordinate this activity with your snacks.** Have a cake (or cupcakes) with a candle on top for Jesus' Birthday. Have the person whose birthday is closest to December 25<sup>th</sup> blow out the birthday candle.
- Talk some more about Jesus' Birthday
  - Tell the children it has been over 2000 years since Jesus was born. (*That would be a LOT of candles!!*) Explain that we still celebrate Jesus' birth because it was such an important thing that happened!
- Play Christmas music quietly in the background while children eat and play.
  - One suggestion: "Happy Birthday, Jesus" by Carol Cymbala. Copyright 1992 by Word Music LLC, a division of Word Music, Inc.
- Play some typical "birthday party" games
  - EX: Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Musical Chairs, Duck-Duck-Goose, etc.

**"Cake Decorating"**

Copy the attached coloring page of a plain birthday cake with Jesus' name on it. Provide markers or crayons and allow the children to "decorate" the cake by coloring it. (**Alternatively:** *Tape a copy of the page on the table. Cover with a sheet of plastic wrap and tape that down too. Place a little frosting in a small plastic bag for each child and twist it shut, or seal it. Snip off one tiny corner at the bottom. Now, gently squeeze the bag to "decorate the cake" with real frosting! Devour the results!! Wipe clean!*)

# Jesus is God's Son!

