



10 CHRISTMAS OBJECT LESSONS

GET IN THE GAME

Items needed:

Candy canes

Hand out candy canes to the kids before beginning the lesson.

How many candy canes do you guys think you will eat this Christmas? My guess is everywhere you go this Christmas - parties, Christmas concerts, visiting Santa at the mall - you're going to get candy canes. Candy canes are an inexpensive treat, and they come in all sizes. They come in all colors too, but nothing says Christmas like the classic red and white.

Candy canes probably aren't on your Christmas list, mostly because they are everywhere you go, but candy canes are a good reminder of the most important gift you could ever receive. Turn the candy cane upside down, and what do you have?

It's the letter J - the first letter of the name Jesus!

The red stripes in the candy cane are a reminder of the blood Jesus shed on the cross, and the white stripes remind us that through the blood of Jesus, we can be washed white as snow. Our sins can be forgiven, and we can have a new life in Jesus.

It's easy to overlook the humble candy cane, but every time you see one, I hope it reminds you of what Christmas is all about. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift ever given. Because Jesus was born, we can have a new life. That's a gift far sweeter than any candy cane!

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Items needed:

Radio tuned to Christmas music

Christmas is a time of celebration. It's a time to rejoice in Jesus our Savior. We can celebrate Jesus in many ways – one of those is through music.

Turn on the radio. Keep it playing low throughout your object lesson.

The music playing right now comes from miles and miles away. Technology allows the sound to be transmitted from one location, travel along radio waves over great distances, and then be picked up by this little radio.

We have many means today of hearing the music we want to hear: the radio, CDs, iPods, the internet. Music can be recorded and then go out from anywhere to almost anyone.

There was a time, though, when people hadn't figured out the technology to record music. Or how to send music over radio waves. If you wanted to hear music you had to go to a concert or play the music yourself. If you wanted to share a song with a friend, that friend had to actually be in the room with you.

Radios and other technology allow us to share music or discussions or news easily. Because some things are just too good to keep to ourselves.

We should strive to be radios for Jesus. The good news of Jesus Christ isn't meant to be kept locked up inside your heart. It's meant to be celebrated and shared with other people. It needs to be broadcast out into the world, so that others can meet Jesus and join in on the celebration.

If we could do that, it would be music to God's ears.

GIFT CARDS

Items needed:

Gift cards

Bring in a few gift cards from restaurants and stores for this object lesson.

There are some cards that bring happy wishes for holidays and birthdays. There are some cards that bring invitations to parties, weddings, and other celebrations. And then there are some cards that give you way, way more than a simple paper card. These aren't greeting cards. They are gift cards.

How many of you have been lucky enough to receive a gift card?

Where did your card come from?

What did you get with it?

Gift cards are great because we can take this gift and use it to get more gifts. A gift card to McDonalds becomes a Happy Meal. A gift card to Toys R Us becomes something really cool. A gift card is just a tiny piece of plastic, but it's so much more.

The baby Jesus was very much like a gift card. He was just a baby, but he was also the Son of God. Jesus would grow up and become our Savior by dying for our sins. When we receive Jesus, we receive a friend for life and for eternal life. Jesus can forgive our sins and give us a new life on Earth. And he will prepare a place for us in Heaven.

Whatever gifts you get under the tree this year, they are nothing compared to the gift of Jesus. I hope all of you receive him and discover the blessings that can only come from Jesus.

NEW TOY

Items needed:

An action figure with accessories

The cool thing about action figures like these is that we can play with the characters from our favorite TV shows and movies. They come with all kinds of cool accessories that let us reenact our favorite stories or create our own. Of course the biggest problem with these figures is that they're so small, they and their accessories can easily become lost. But any time we lose and then find our favorite toys, it gives us joy – almost as much as the first time we received them.

God sent His Son Jesus to save a people who were lost to sin. He sent a man named John, who was Jesus' cousin, to be his ambassador, and when Mary came near her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, the baby John flipped with joy. Even before birth John knew that Jesus had come to save him. He knew that nothing was more important than finding the love of Jesus.

New toys on Christmas can make us happy for a time, and lost toys found can also bring us joy. But nothing equals the joy of knowing Jesus. I hope all of you will receive the love of Jesus, because finding Jesus' love is the one thing that can bring you everlasting joy!

CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Items needed:

Christmas movies - Rudolph, Charlie Brown, Frosty

How many of these Christmas movies have you seen? Have any of you seen Rudolph? Who remembers Rudolph's elf friend, Hermie? Remember what he wanted to do for a living?

And how about Frosty the Snowman? Do you remember what Frosty's first words were when they put that magic hat on his head?

And who remembers Charlie Brown? Remember the passage that Linus recited from the Bible? It was today's scripture, wasn't it?

You know there are a lot of movies and TV shows made every year just for Christmas, but not every one of them is for kids. Some are even rated R! But you know what? The Christmas shows that people love watching over and over, year after year, are the ones everyone in the family can enjoy. Rudolph and Charlie Brown have been around for fifty years, and they're still a must see every Christmas.

That's the good news the angels delivered to the shepherds. Jesus has come, and he's come for everyone. He didn't come for kings and queens. He didn't come for the rich. He didn't come for the religious. Jesus came for every one who ever lived!

This Christmas, as you enjoy those holiday classics, remember that Jesus came for you and for me. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, Jesus loves you, and he wants to be your Savior!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Items needed:

Christmas cards

Bring out a selection of Christmas cards. Read them and discuss the designs. Have kids vote on which one is their favorite.

What is the point of a Christmas card? We don't buy a Christmas card and then just keep it. It's meant to be shared. We buy a card in order to give it away.

Christmas is a time of such joy. And Christmas cards are a way to share that joy with others. We look for a card that says just the right thing. We might write our own little personal note inside. Or even include a Christmas letter telling people everything that we've been up to this past year.

Some people collect all of the cards that they receive from other people and put them up as Christmas decorations. The joy that others have shared with them, they put on display to share the joy with others.

Today we're talking about sharing Jesus with others. The birth of Jesus is good news to a hurting world. They need to hear about the Savior who came to save us from our sins.

It doesn't have to be complicated. It doesn't have to be fear inducing. It's simple – telling other people that God loves them and he send Jesus to save them. Sharing Jesus can be as easy as sharing a Christmas card.

TREE TOPPER

Items needed:

Tree topper

What's on top of your Christmas tree at home? Is it a star? Is it an angel? For most people, it's one or the other. Both are reminders that when God's only son was born in Bethlehem, God wanted people to take notice. He sent the angels to announce Jesus' birth, and he sent the star to guide the way for the three kings.

God gave his son the power to save us all from our sins. Jesus is the only man who never sinned, and he was the only one who could be our hero and save us. Some people, like King Herod, rejected him. They don't like the idea of surrendering control of their lives to anyone. But many, like the magi, are wise enough to realize they do need a Savior. We are sinners. We can't save ourselves. Thank God he sent Jesus to save us.

The most powerful king ever born was born in a manger. If we are wise, we will worship him for what he has done.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Items needed:

A beautifully gift-wrapped box containing a rock
A new toy haphazardly wrapped in dirty newspapers

With Christmas coming up, I have two gifts here to unwrap.

(Reveal the gift box and the newspaper-wrapped gift.)

If I told you that you could only unwrap one of these gifts, which one would you choose?

(Give the kids a chance to provide answers.)

A lot of people would pick the pretty gift-wrapped box. They would assume that because the outside packaging is beautiful, that what's inside must be beautiful too.

(Unwrap the gift. Show the kids the rock inside.)

However, many people would be disappointed with what's actually inside. On the other hand, not many people would choose this gift because it isn't wrapped very well. It's just covered in old, dirty newspaper. It's not even taped together very well.

(Pull away the newspaper to reveal a new toy.)

That's too bad, because those people would miss out on something wonderful.

Sometimes really great things come along, but we miss them because they don't come to us the way we think they should. They might look funny or unimportant. We might dismiss something just from the way it looks, "Gross, I don't want that." But when we make judgments based on how something looks, we might be very wrong.

The people of Judah were waiting for a Messiah, a King who would establish a new everlasting Kingdom. They expected that he would come to them in power and majesty. But when Jesus was born, he didn't come in a palace sitting on a royal throne. (Indicate the gift box.) No Jesus was born to poor parents and slept his first night in an animal stable. (Indicated newspaper.) But for those who were able to look past the wrappings, they had the great opportunity to meet the new King, God's Son, face to face.

NO HALO REQUIRED

Items needed:

Yellow Halo (from an angel's costume, or make your own with a ring of Styrofoam spray painted yellow)

Show the kids the halo.

Does anyone have any guess as to what this is?

Let the kids guess.

This is a halo. It's a heavenly ring that hovers over a person's head. When angels are depicted in paintings or even in plays and in movies, they often have a halo over their head to show that they are special – sent from God.

Sometimes in pictures, you'll also see halos over people's heads. This happens a lot at Christmas. There are even pictures of Jesus laying in the manger. Standing above him are Mary and Joseph. They look so happy and serene. And they have these glowing rings floating above their heads.

Now what happened to Mary and Joseph was pretty incredible. They got to be the parents of the greatest gift the world will ever know – Jesus. They were special because God chose to use them. But they were also just ordinary people. They didn't walk around with halos over their heads. They ate and slept just like we do. They were happy sometimes and mad sometimes. They loved God, but they messed up just like we do.

God loves using ordinary people. He used ordinary people on that first Christmas. And he continues to do so today. God will use you, if you are willing to let him. The best part is you can just be yourself (tossing the halo aside). No halo required.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Items needed:

String of Christmas lights

Set out the string of lights in front of you.

Can anyone tell me what these are? Where might you put these up in your home for Christmas?

Give kids a chance to answer. Plug in the lights.

Christmas lights are great for a couple of reasons. First of all, they're beautiful. The light they give off is soft and warm. It makes you feel good. Second, not only are Christmas lights beautiful, but they make other things beautiful as well. When the lights around the Christmas tree are on, they make the bulbs and ornaments sparkle and shine. Everything has a magical shimmer to it.

The Bible says that Jesus is our light. Sometimes it's good to think of that light as if it were a flashlight – showing us a path, letting us know the best place to go next. Sometimes, we can think of that light like the light in your bedroom – the light comes on and the darkness goes away. When Jesus is around evil has to flee.

But Jesus is also light like the light of this string of Christmas lights. Jesus is beautiful. And when we get close to Jesus, he makes us beautiful as well.