



DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Christmas Party Plan

Crossroads Kids Club

This plan is a guide for hosting a Christmas party either at Kids Club or outside of the club time (for example, at your church¹). The structure doesn't follow a typical club lesson schedule, but is meant to be a more fun, high energy party atmosphere.

Materials:

- Supplies for Carnival Stations (varies, see Handout 1)
- Optional: candy for carnival station prizes
- Handout 2, one copy for the Opening Game leader
- A poster board or sheet of chart paper
- A marker
- 4-5 small prizes
- Copies of the pageant script for narrators (page 3-4)
- A variety of props or costumes for nativity characters (e.g. robes, scarves, sandals for Mary, Joseph, shepherds, crowns for wise men, white sheets for angels, etc.)
- Optional: A device to play Christmas music or a piano (choose from Christmas songs listed below)
- Copies of song lyrics, one per person
- Christmas treats/snacks, one per person

Carnival Stations (45 minutes)

Choose from the variety of carnival station options listed on Handout 1 (or feel free to use your own ideas for station activities). Set up your space, materials, and people to be prepared to engage kids in the carnival stations as soon as they arrive. Each station should be operated by one adult. You may choose as many stations as you like

¹ Please note that only expenses related to parties during club time are eligible for the Crossroads grant.

depending on the number of leaders and children you will have. It's recommended that you have at least one station for every ten kids, with a minimum of four stations.

Opening Game (10-12 minutes)

We are going to play a little game called "Christmas Family Feud." I need some volunteers.

Choose 8-10 players and divide them into two "families" or teams.

In this game, I will be asking you to name something in a category related to the Christmas holiday, for example, "Name Popular Christmas Songs." These categories were given to 100 people to see what the most popular answer was. So when it's your turn, you have to guess what was the most popular answer. (See Handout 2 for four different list options you can use.)

Have an extra adult volunteer arrange a poster board or chart paper, labeled Team 1 and Team 2 and keep score as you go along. Choose which team will go first and give them a category. Each person on the team should take turns giving one suggested answer (no repeat answers!).

If the answer they give is on the list (see below), give them the number of points associated with that answer (the number of points equals how many out of 100 gave that response on the survey). After each member of the team has taken one turn to answer, read the answers from the list that weren't mentioned in order. Move on to the next team. Repeat the same process with a different category. Give a small prize to the team that wins.

Gospel Presentation: Christmas Pageant (15-20 minutes)

You can use or adapt the following Christmas pageant as your main program, or you may choose to present the Christmas story in another way. The main goal is that the biblical Christmas story is presented, and the audience is pointed toward the gospel message.

² Family Feud game from <http://journeywithjohnsonsb.blogspot.com/2011/11/holiday-family-feud-game-whod-you-like.html>

For the Christmas Pageant, assign children parts in the story and provide simple props or costumes for the main characters. The songs can be sung a capella or played to music if you have access to a piano or device to play music.

Characters: Narrators (up to 6), Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Star, Three Wise Men, Angels, Shepherds

Narrator 1: Today we'd like to tell you how Jesus Christ came from Heaven and was born on earth. The name Jesus means "Savior". Christ means "the Chosen One." God chose God's only son, Jesus Christ, to save people from their sins.

All sing: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Narrator 2: It was over 2,000 years ago when God had the angel, Gabriel, visit the virgin Mary. Gabriel said that the Holy Spirit would come upon Mary and she would give birth to a son, the Son of God. *(Gabriel walks around audience and returns)*

Narrator 3: Gabriel told Mary's fiancé, Joseph, to care for Mary. They traveled from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem. *(Mary and Joseph walk around audience and return)* But there was no room for them at the crowded inn. So Mary gave birth and laid Jesus in a manger.

All sing: Away in the manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Narrator 4: That night, shepherds were outside watching their sheep in the fields. *(walk/return)* Suddenly many angels filled the sky singing. *(Angels "fly" around audience and return)*

All sing: Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

Narrator 5: Wise ones from the east had seen the star of the newborn King and followed it to Jesus. They brought him wealthy gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The poor shepherds and the rich wise ones all worshipped the King of Kings. (*Star, shepherds and wise ones walk around the audience and return*)

**All sing: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and adore Him, born the King of angels.
O come let us adore Him (3X) Christ the Lord!**

Narrator 6: Jesus Christ came to forgive us our sins and give us eternal joy. We are called to follow Him, to have abundant life in His name.

**All sing: Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing!**

**All sing: Feliz Navidad (3X)
Prospero ano y felicidad. (*All dancing*)
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas (3X)
from the bottom of my heart! (*All bow*)**

At the end of the performance, invite everyone to sing the Christmas songs together following the lyrics provided on the handout.

Closing (5-10 minutes)

Serve refreshments or a special Christmas treat. If giving door prizes or Christmas gifts, do so now before dismissing everyone.

Please join us in singing:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Away in the manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and adore Him,
born the King of angels.
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing!

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Prospero ano y felicidad .
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas
from the bottom of my heart!

Handout 1: Carnival Station Ideas

Minute-To-Win-It Station Ideas

Candy Cane Fishing

Materials: a cup with 10-12 candy canes placed in it, several boxes of candy canes (each player will need one)

Holding a candy cane in their mouth, students must pick up the candy canes in the cup and transfer them to another location. The number of candy canes in the cups can be adjusted for difficulty level.

Jingle Bell Toss

Materials: Small jingle bells, 10 red plastic cups arranged on the ground in a pyramid shape (shaped like a bowling pin formation)

Players try to throw the jingle bells into the plastic cups. Time them for one minute to see how many they can make into the cups within the time.

Winter Wear

Materials: a variety of Winter clothing-the more the better (gloves, scarves, Christmas sweaters, ski pants, etc.)

Let the students play in pairs or groups of three. One player will be the one who gets to wear the winter clothing. The others will have to dress the player in under a minute. The level of difficulty can be adjusted based on the number of clothing items they must use.

Snowball Shake

Materials: white ping pong balls, three empty tissue boxes, duct tape

Fill empty tissue boxes with an equal amount of ping pong balls and find three players. Tape the tissue boxes to each player's backside. When you signal to start, players must race to shake all of the snowballs out of the tissue box.

Rudolph Race (see video for an alternate version)

Materials: red pom poms, plastic spoons, vaseline, and a poster with a picture of Rudolph (can be a hand drawn outline)

Choose 2-4 players at a time. Give each player a red pom pom and a spoonful of vaseline. Players race to be the first to put a red pom pom on Rudolph's nose (make sure to put a bit of vaseline on his nose as well). To play, players must dip their nose into the spoonful of vaseline then get the red pom pom to stick to the vaseline on their nose. Once the red pom is on their nose, they must move across the room and stick it to Rudolph's nose. Players may not use their hands at any time!

Let it Snow

Materials: plastic spoons, cups, cotton balls and bowls

Give each player a plastic spoon and a cup full of cotton balls. On the other side of the room, place an empty bowl for each player. Players must race to get 10 cotton balls from the cup to the bowl on the other side of the room, using just the plastic spoon. The plastic spoon must be held in the player's mouth. If they drop a cotton ball, they should leave it and go back and get another one.

Red Christmas Tree

Materials: 36 red plastic cups

One at a time, give a player 36 red plastic cups to stack into a pyramid, or Christmas tree, and then take back down again.

Craft/Other Station Ideas

Pipe Cleaner Ornaments³

Materials: an assortment of pipe cleaners and beads

Students make ornaments using the supplies.



³ Photo from <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/4-ornaments-to-make-with-kidsf-162062>

Snowflake Cutting

Materials: Scissors and white copy paper

Students cut snowflakes out of paper.

Photo Booth Props

Materials: photo booth props [like this](#), or some santa hats and reindeer antlers

Kids use the props to pose and take photos.

Handout 2: Family Feud Lists

Name a Tradition that Makes it Feel Most Like the Christmas Season

1. Decorating/Putting up the Christmas Tree 33
2. Baking goodies 13
3. Caroling 12
4. Going to get the Christmas tree 5
5. Driving around to see Christmas lights 5
6. Decorating the house 5
7. Drinking Eggnog 4
8. Listening to Christmas music 3
9. Exchanging Gifts 3

Name a Favorite Holiday Food

1. Cookies 18
2. Ham 16
3. Fudge 11
4. Eggnog 8
5. Hot Chocolate 6
6. Tamales 5
7. Pie 5
8. Turkey 5
9. Prime Rib 4

Name Something You Might Find in a Christmas Stocking

1. Candy 31
2. Orange 13
3. Candy Cane 11
4. Toiletries 10
5. Socks 8
6. Chocolate 4
7. Underwear 3
8. Pez Dispenser 3
9. DVD/Movie 3

Name Something Associated with the Birth of Christ

1. A star 35
2. Manger 28
3. Three Wise Men 10

4. Mary 4
5. Stable 3
6. Angels 3
7. Shepherds 3
8. The Inn 2
9. Salvation 2