

Is Christmas Really Over?

Theme

In Jesus, we receive the right to become children of God.

Object

A gift you received for Christmas; heart stickers; a box; wrapping paper; tape; scissors

Scripture

John 1:1-18

Before the sermon, put the heart stickers inside the box and wrap it.

This gift I am holding was one of my Christmas gifts. Did you receive gifts for Christmas? (Pause.) What was your favorite gift? (Give the children an opportunity to tell you about their favorite gifts.)

There's one thing I've learned about Christmas gifts. No matter how much you enjoy receiving them, they just don't last forever. If you got nice, new clothes, eventually they'll wear out, go out of style, or you'll outgrow them. Even if you got a fun toy you really enjoy, eventually it could break or you'll grow tired of it. Maybe you got candy in your stocking, but when you eat it, it's gone.

But there's one Christmas gift that's different. (Show the wrapped box.) It never wears out. It never goes out of style. You'll never grow out of it. It's the true gift that Christmas is all about. It's God's gift to us: His Son, Jesus. (Have kids pass the box around, each making one rip until the whole gift is unwrapped. Open the box and give each child a heart sticker to represent God's gift of love, Jesus.)

The Bible tells us that all who receive Jesus and believe in His name become the children of God! When we become the children of God, we have all of the rights and privileges of being His child. God will love us, protect us, and provide everything that we need. The best part is that it never ends. In Psalm 23:6, the Bible says that kindness and love will be with us every day of our life and we will live forever in God's house.

I enjoy giving and receiving gifts at Christmas, but I think it's important to remember the greatest gift of all was God's gift to us. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Dear God, we thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your Son so we too can become Your children. In Jesus' name, amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "Is Christmas Really Over?"

Scripture Reading: John 1:10-18

"IS CHRISTMAS REALLY OVER" CLEANUP: Tell the children that when the teacher says, "IS CHRISTMAS REALLY OVER", each child will find ONE item in the room that was for Christmas and will take it down and put into a box and then sit down. Repeat this activity until everything relating to Christmas has been taken down and put away. Tell the children to listen carefully to today's lesson to find out if Christmas is really over?

FIND JESUS GAME: Divide the children into two groups. Have two trash bags filled with used wrapping paper with a small "baby Jesus" hidden among the wrapping paper in the bag. Tell the teams that their task is to try to FIND JESUS in the wrappings. Time each group to see which group finds Jesus first. After each group has found Jesus, remind the children that we must be careful that Jesus is not lost in all the wrappings of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS BELL FILL IN THE BLANKS: Draw a large bell for children to cut out and decorate around the edges with Ric Rac or glitter. Give each child a piece of paper with these words from our lesson written on it with a few key words missing that the children will fill in after gluing it on to the bell. THE W_____ became flesh and came to live among us. The "W_____" that the B_____ is talking about is J____. He came, full of L_____, and we have seen His glory. We have seen the glory of God's only begotten S_____."

CHRISTMAS GIFT: Give each child a small box and some wrapping paper which is a plain color (NOT Christmas wrapping). Have the children wrap the box and write on a label "CHRISTMAS GOES ON ALL YEAR LONG" and attach it to the wrapped gift. Tell the children to take the box home and keep it to remind them that Christmas is NOT over.

ALL YEAR CHART: Give the children a sheet of construction paper and provide them with magazine pictures and words that the teacher has cut out before class of things that we have all year long. (For example: JESUS, friends, family, school, work, God's love, home, clothes, and church.) Have the children write ALL YEAR WE HAVE..... and then glue the words and pictures of things that we'll have all year on the poster.

CALENDAR MAKING: Give each child a calendar for the new year. (Many businesses give them away as advertising.) Give the children colored markers and encourage them to write JESUS, or GOD'S WORD, or GOD'S LOVE, across each month of the calendar for all 12 months. A different word can be drawn across each month if the child prefers. Let the children take their calendar gift home for the year.

CROSS GIFT: Provide the children with a sheet of construction paper. Have them draw a cross on the paper and cut it out and write on it, "Thank you FATHER for the gift of your SON". They will then fold the cross into a rectangular shape and wrap it in red tissue paper. Encourage the children to give this gift to a friend and tell them about Jesus!

SING A SONG: EVERY DAY WITH JESUS

SNACK TIME: Give each child a bag of used wrapping paper with several pieces of wrapped candy hidden in the paper.

Song: "Every Day with Jesus" by Wendell P. Loveless

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

About Carol Williams

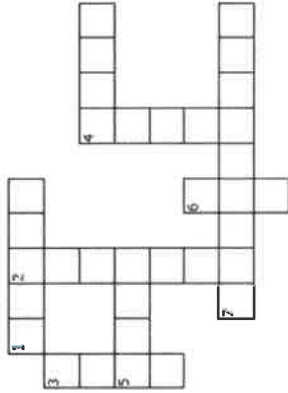
Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles the clown.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The earth and all its inhabitants
- The place where a person lives
- A word or words that a person is known by
- To know someone because you have seen them before

DOWN

- To get or be given something
- Male descendants
- A man, woman, or child; a person
- The creator of and ruler of the earth and its people

SONS GOD	RECOGNIZE HOME	NAME WORLD	HUMAN RECEIVE
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Children's Worship Bulletin

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John 1:10-18

Word Search Puzzle

X I A I E R R S D W E L L G L
 G N Z M J E E T Q J E S U S Q
 R S A P H O H C E C H V S S X
 A N E T A G D N E S N H T V T
 C B A E I W E Z Y I T M O J R
 E F N R N O Z R L V I B C U
 K L W L D C E R G K T E F B T
 A A F L Z V E E L X N M B Y H
 I M I B G N N D V D O O Y O W
 E H B L E S S I N G W R W S F
 C B G O D L C U B M O Y F N L
 W Q R O B Y I W F L E S H B G
 O O D F M O A E G J X M A N C
 X Y R Q T N R Q V X S G U R C
 I B W D V Q X N H E G R H X G

JESUS KNOWN FLESH BORN	GLORY BLESSING SEEN TRUTH	DWELL BELIEVE CHILDREN NAME	FATHER WORLD WORD GRACE	RECEIVE TESTIFY GOD RIGHT
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Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	L	I	V	A	Y	B	C	X	R	K	Z	G	T	J	O	N	Q	H	P	F	D	W	S	U	E

- 13-10-5-8-26 _____
- 23-16-10-2-22 _____
- 21-2-26-24-19 _____
- 7-16-10-17 _____
- 17-5-1-26 _____
- 14-10-25-14-19 _____
- 7-26-2-3-26-4-26 _____
- 23-16-10-22 _____
- 13-2-16-10-6 _____
- 8-19-3-2-22-10-26-17 _____

FLESH	BELIEVE	GLORY	WORLD	BORN
GRACE	NAME	CHILDREN	WORD	TRUTH

THE WORD
BECAME
Flesh

Coloring Page



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
 John 1:14



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.