



CHRISTMAS

PARTY

# Large Group

## Christmas Party!

### About this Series:

What is the greatest gift you've ever received? A game? A pet? Maybe a visit from someone you love to see? Did you know that you can give a gift this Christmas that could change someone's life? One of the most incredible gifts we can give someone is an invitation. When you invite someone to be your friend, to spend time with you, you show that they matter to you, and they matter to God. God sent Jesus to give us all an invitation, a chance to be part of God's family. That's what the first Christmas is all about.

### Memory Verse:

John 13:34- "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."

### Weekly Overview:

| <b>Lesson:</b>           | <b>Topic:</b>                    | <b>Big Idea:</b>                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Lesson 1:<br>Nov. 25/26  | The Great Party<br>Luke 14:15-23 | Everyone is invited to know God.        |
| Lesson 2:<br>Dec. 2/3    | The Wise Men<br>Matthew 2:1-12   | God invites everyone on earth.          |
| Lesson 3:<br>Dec. 9/10   | The Shepherds<br>Luke 2:8-20     | God invites people who don't expect it. |
| Lesson 4:<br>Dec. 16/17  | Simeon and Anna<br>Luke 2:22-40  | I can keep on inviting.                 |
| Lesson 5:<br>Dec. 23/24* | The Baby<br>Luke 2; John 18-20.  | Jesus came to show me God's love.       |

# Christmas Party!

## Series at a Glance for Elevate (continued)

### **Lesson 1: The Great Party**

One of the most powerful gifts we can give is an invitation. That's because telling someone "You're invited" also tells them "You matter." Jesus believed that every person mattered. When He was asked about heaven, Jesus compared it to a party where everyone is invited. Imagine what a difference you could make this week by inviting someone to be your friend, to talk about how much God loves them, or to come with you to a huge Christmas party in Elevate and learn about God's love.

### **Lesson 2: The Wise Men**

We have a lot in common with the people we love. We might not know it, but we also have things in common with people we've never met! God didn't just invite people from the town of Bethlehem to see Jesus. With a star, He invited people from around the world, and they came. This week, we'll connect with people around the world, and see how big this Christmas party really is!

### **Lesson 3: The Shepherds**

An invitation can mean the world to someone, especially someone who isn't expecting it. On the first Christmas, God invited a group of humble, average shepherds to meet his son. After meeting Jesus, the shepherds told everyone they could, "Great news! Jesus, the Savior is here!" They knew that everyone was invited to experience God's love. Who do you know that isn't expecting an invitation this Christmas? This could be your chance to show them God's love, and maybe even change their life.

### **Lesson 4: Simeon and Anna**

Not all of our invitations will go as planned. Some people may say no. Some may not want to be invited. No matter what happens, though, we can trust that God is doing something good. That's what Simeon and Anna did. God told them years before the first Christmas that Jesus was coming. They waited, and trusted that God's promise was true. Every day, they watched for Jesus, and when he arrived, they were ready. Who can we be ready to show God's love to this Christmas?

### **Lesson 5: The Baby**

Finally, everyone's here, and we're ready for the party! This week, take some time to remember why Christmas is a celebration: it's the day we celebrate Jesus coming as a baby to show everyone that they were loved by God and invited to be a part of his family. Join us in Elevate as we celebrate Christmas!

# Christmas Party

## Lesson Outline for Elevate

### Lesson 3: The Shepherds

| Lesson Segment   | Total Running Time |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Engage</b><br>Opening Song (2:00)<br>Welcome (1:00)<br>Question of the Day (2:00)<br>Group Activity (10:00)<br>Worship: Joy to the World (5:00) | 0:00 - 20:00       |
| <b>Involve</b><br>Media: Part 1 (4:00)<br>Lesson Intro (1:00)<br>Group Time (15:00)  | 20:00-40:00        |
| <b>Challenge</b><br>Memory Verse Challenge (3:00)<br>Media: Part 2 (7:00)<br>Application (5:00)<br>Worship: Come and Sing (4:00)<br>Wrap Up (1:00) | 40:00 - 60:00      |



Video Cue



Slide Cue



Audio Cue



Tech Notes

## Opening Song

2:00



*(Roll when directed)* Elevate Opener

It's time to get started! Come on up, throw away your popcorn, and find a place to sit! As you do, call out your favorite Christmas carol!

**Do This:** Repeat some of the kids' carols as they call them out.



*(Auto advance)* Elevate Slide and Underscore

## Welcome

1:00

Caroling is such a great part of Christmas! Have any of you had any carolers come by your house yet? It can be really surprising to answer your door and hear singing. Today there will be some surprises, but you can expect to have some time talking with other people your group, an incredible Christmas story, and a festive group activity. Let's get started right away!

## Question of the Day

2:00

We always start with a question, because it's great to get to know all of you! Get ready to answer our Question of the Day!



Question of the Day Video



*(Auto Advance)* QOTD Slide: If you opened a present, what's something you would not expect to find?

If you opened a present, what's something you would not expect to find? It could be something that wouldn't make a good present, something that would be funny to give as a gift, or just something surprising. Be as creative as you want with your answer! Tell some of the people around you what your answer is.

**Do This:** Emcee as the kids are sharing their answers. Encourage them to share with the people around them, and encourage any kid whose story you hear.

**Know This:** It's more important that the kids interact with each other than with you. Allow them time enough to share with each other, and don't have them share with the whole group.

Some people have Christmas parties where everyone brings a funny or crazy gift and gives it away to someone. Unexpected gifts can be fun, and hilarious!

**Do This:** Before the lesson, prepare a group of 4-10 people to come on stage at this time, and stand behind the door on stage. During the next sentence, they should interrupt you with a doorbell. They should know when to come on, and feel confident singing a carol like "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" as a group.

**Know This:** The carolers will receive folders and the more they can be dressed up in winter gear, the better. You may choose group leaders and older kids to be in this group if one is not prepared ahead of the service. Feel free to have fun with this! You can put a script in their folders if you would like, to make sure they know when to come in.

Today, there are going to be a few unexpected things going on. You'll have to see if you can figure out what they are. For now, let's move on to our group activity.



Doorbell Sound



Interrupt the leader during the previous sentences with this sound. Make sure the carolers are at the door before you ring the bell, however.

I wonder who that could be?

## Group Activity

10:00

**Know This:** As soon as you open the door, the carolers should begin singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." They can sing the chorus twice, but then begin the group activity script.

Wow! Who would have thought we'd get carolers in here! Actually, this is perfect. Could you help us with a group activity? Great! This game is called "Christmas Karaoke."



Game Title Slide: "Christmas Karaoke!"

Here's how it works. These carolers are great singers, but they need some help getting the songs started. We've got a wheel of all the songs they'd like to sing. I'm going to pick a group, and then we'll spin the wheel. You'll have about twenty seconds to think of a song that has that word in it, and begin singing! If you can't think of one, another group will be able to steal it. Let's help these carolers learn some new songs!

**Do This:** Encourage kids as they think of songs. Their group leaders may help them as much as they would like, especially for younger kids. You can call on groups randomly, or in order (first grade, then second, then third, then fourth, then fifth.) Once the group gets the song started, you and the carolers can feel free to join in for a line or two! After each group has had a couple chances to sing, move on to worship.



Note: Adobe Air- Christmas Carol Spinner Wheel.



Switch over to Adobe Air for this activity. Practice loading and minimizing this program several times before the hour begins. Once the wheel is on the screen, just spin whenever necessary! To return to ProPresenter, simply click the "Off" switch on the game spinner.

Great job! Thank you for stopping by, carolers!



Worship Slide

## Worship

5:00

Christmas carols are so much fun! They are also great songs to help us think about who God is. When we think about God, praise him by singing, and tell others how great he is, we call that worship. Stand up, so we can sing "Joy to the World" and worship God with some music!



Song 1: Joy to the World



*(Auto advance)* Worship Slide

Christmas reminds us of the greatest reason we have to be joyful and happy. Jesus came to let us all know that God loves us, and wants us to be with him forever. You can sit down, and we'll take a moment to talk to God. Let's bow our head and close our eyes while we pray, so we don't get distracted.

God, you give us so much joy, and we praise and worship you for that. Thank you for all the amazing things you've done for us. Help us to learn a lot about you this Christmas. Amen.

## Media: Part 1

4:00

Since there are unexpected things happening here, I wonder what crazy things are going on at the Light Force base. Let's see what they are up to today.



Light Force: Part 1 (4:00)



*(Auto advance)* Series Title Slide: Christmas Party

That's an important problem to figure out. We'll have to come back and see what they do about it.

## Lesson Intro

1:00

In a few weeks, we are going to have an incredible Christmas party right here! We've been getting ready for the party, but we need your help, too. You see, this isn't a party just for us. That'd be ok, but what we have planned is way more exciting. This is a party where we want hundreds of new people to come and hear about God's love! You can make that happen by inviting your friends, family, or even people you don't know well! You can tell them that we'll have an indoor snowball fight, awesome Christmas games, hot chocolate, and incredible Christmas fun!

Some of you might know someone you want to invite. That is awesome! Some of you might not be able to think of someone. Your friends may be going to Christmas here already, or at another church. That's ok, too. Today, we're asking the big question: Who can I invite? Who could you invite to learn about God's love this Christmas? You'll get to talk about that more in your groups! You can find your group leader now, just look for your grade's flag!





## Optional: 15:00 Countdown

**Do This:** Make sure each kid finds their group. Help group leaders if there is a need. Encourage kids as they work to answer the question.

**Know This:** This is a time for kids to search for answers in the Bible, and see how they can use the Bible to investigate and better understand life. This time is designed for kids to interact and deepen their understanding. They won't get all the answers, but allow them to question and discover as much as possible. Be ready to support group leaders in any way needed.

**Do This:** Give the groups a warning about one minute before this time is up. When this time ends, transition into the memory verse challenge.



## Bumper Video (1:00)



*(Auto-Advance)* Memory Verse Slide: John 13:34- "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."

# Memory Verse Challenge

# 3:00

It's time for a Memory Verse Challenge! Let's read the verse together.

John 13:34- I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.

Nice job. This verse is a quote, directly from Jesus. He said this to the people that followed Him, and they wrote it down. He says we should love each other just like he loves us. One way we show that love is by inviting people to learn about God with us, and showing them his love through the way we treat them.

If you are on this side of the room, you're going to say "I give you a new command. Love one another." If you're on the other side of the room, you'll say "You must love one another, just as I have loved you." I want to see who can say their half of the verse louder! When I point at you, say your half of the verse.

**Do This:** Alternate sides of the room, saying their half of the verse with them. Feel free to change the order you point in, or make one team go several times. Encourage them to be loud!

## Media: Part 2

7:00

Let's see what the Light Force team decided to do.



Light Force: Part 2 (7:00)



*(Auto advance)* Series Title Slide: Christmas Party

Giving someone an invitation can mean a lot to them, especially if they aren't expecting one.

## Application

5:00

It sounds like the angels had a lot of fun inviting the shepherds to meet Jesus. Of all the people to invite to the birth of someone so important, shepherds were not what most people would expect. They worked with animals, they were smelly, and most people thought they weren't very important. Even the shepherds had to be shocked they were invited, but did you notice how they responded? They were surprised, but also full of joy! Sometimes, it's the most fun to invite someone who isn't expecting it. In group time, you talked about some people that you could invited to our Christmas party. You had some fantastic ideas.

You were answering that big question: Who can I invite to learn about God's love? It's easy to invite our friends and family, but there's someone we usually never think about inviting. I want you to think of someone who would never expect you to invite them to a Christmas party. Maybe it's someone you haven't talked to before, or a kid who usually eats lunch alone at school.

**Do This:** Take out a lunchbox, and sit at the table on stage. Set a party hat on the lunchbox.

For you, inviting that person might just mean walking up and saying "Hey, there's a Christmas party at my church, I'm going if you want to come with me." Then, give them an invitation. Some of you have probably eaten lunch alone before, or just felt left out. How great would that feel if someone invited you to a party when you were feeling that

way? You can do that for someone. If you would like, you can even ask to sit by them, or invite them to join you and your friends. Your words could mean the world to them.

**Do This:** Grab another party hat and walk across the stage. Pick up a basketball from the orange section. Feel free to bounce it. Then, put the hat on the basketball.

What about someone else? What if you invited someone who is younger or older than you? They could be in a different grade than you or one of the older kids on your sports team. They may not expect to be invited to anything this Christmas. You don't have to be best friends with them to say "Hey, if you want to come to this Christmas party at my church, here's all you need to know about it. I wrote the day and time I'm going on this card. I think it'd be awesome if you could come."

**Do This:** Walk to the center of the stage.

You can invite anyone to this party, they are all welcome. If you invite someone's parents, or an adult in your family, they will love going to their service, too! Just like the shepherds in the Christmas story knew, inviting people to get to know God is the most important thing we can do! Before you leave today, pick someone who isn't a good friend of yours, and decide to invite them to come with you to our Christmas party. Then, all that's left for you to do is go out and invite them!

There's one more thing you should know. We aren't inviting people because we'll get anything out of it. We're inviting them because knowing about God's love can change their lives in so many amazing ways. God is the one we can trust when things go wrong. He is the one who leads us when life is going great. He is the one who will always love us, even when we mess up. Everyone needs to know that they are loved like that. When you invite someone to this Christmas party, that's what you are giving them: a chance to learn how incredibly much God loves them.

## Worship

4:00

You've been sitting for a while, let's get up on our feet! The shepherds invited people to meet Jesus by singing and shouting! Let's try doing some singing of our own. This is a Christmas song called "Come and Sing!"



Song 2: Come and Sing



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Christmas Party

Make sure you take an invitation as you leave today. It's almost time for the big Christmas party! You or your parents can write down where and when you are going to Christmas here at Eagle Brook on this invitation.

**Do This:** Show kids the invitation card.

This invitation not only looks great, it tells you a lot of exciting stuff about our Elevate Christmas party! Did you know that the party will have Christmas games, an indoor snowball fight, and awesome Christmas snacks? Once you decide to invite someone, make sure you fill out this invitation and give it to them! It could mean so much to them just to be invited to a party, and when they get here, they'll learn about God's amazing love for them. I have one more thing for you to take, though! Make sure you get one of these when you leave, it's our family connection card! You get a different card each week of this series.

**Do This:** Show kids the Family Connection Card for week 3.

This week, we have some fun Christmas challenges that you can lead your family in. This card can also help you tell them about what we learned today. I'd love to finish up here by talking to God. While we pray, let's keep from getting distracted by closing our eyes and bowing our heads.

God, it's amazing how you love everyone, even me, even people I don't know. You are so wise, and we are so thankful that you are our God. Show each of us someone we can invite to come to Christmas in a couple weeks, so they can learn about your love. Amen.

I've loved hanging out with you. Come back next week, because we've still got more Christmas partying to do!



Elevate Slide



Start Christmas hangtime music videos