

DAY TWO

The Way in A Manger

Morning Devotions

Location

On Day One of camp set up a devotional area near the campfire setting. Set a manger filled with straw near the campfire setting. As the teenagers arrive, have Christmas music playing in the background.

Welcome

Greet the campers, "Today is celebration of Jesus' birth!" We must prepare a place for him!" Ask the campers to place the straw or hay in the manger, arrange the animal cutouts and gifts around the manger where the child lay. Have the campers sing the first verse of "Joy to the World!"

Scripture

Read the following accounts of the birth of Christ as a background in your planning of today's devotional period.

Luke 2:1-21

Matthew 1:18-23; 2:1-12

God's Wake-up Call

1. Tell the campers they are celebrating Jesus Christ's birth and ministry on earth. Christmas is a favorite time of year for all Christians. If there are non-Christians present at camp, take time to explain briefly that Christians celebrate the birth Christ each year. It is a time to recognize God's greatest gift to humankind, his son Christ Jesus.

2. Inform the campers that they will celebrate the birth of Christ in many ways today: listening and telling the story of Christ's birth as told in the Bible; singing Christmas carols; learning about Christmas in cultures around the world; decorating a

Christmas tree; making Christmas crafts; eating a Christmas dinner; making Christmas ornaments.

3. Have the campers learn "Merry Christmas" in other languages. Print the following phrases on posterboard and have the campers repeat the phrases.

Feliz Navidad -	Spanish
Joyeux Noel -	French
Mele Kalikimaka -	Hawaiian
Selamat Natal -	Indonesian
Meri Kuhsumasu-	Japanese

4. Have the campers get into groups of four or five persons and create a Top Ten List for Christmas. Give each group an ornament cut out of construction paper or a long Christmas ribbon. Have the group write their list on the back of each ornament or on the ribbon. Later, hang the ornaments from a Christmas tree in the dining hall.

Prayer

Ask a camper say a closing prayer on the devotions and a prayer for the breakfast meal. Have the campers proceed to the dining hall for breakfast.

Suggestions for Classes

1. Ice sculpture - obtain blocks of ice from a local ice house or business that sell large blocks of ice. Materials needed: hammer, chisel, ice pick, and an imagination.

2. Christmas crafts, including: Ornaments
Woodcraft - outdoor or yard decor made out of plywood, painted and decorated
Seasonal decorations

Bake and decorate Christmas cookies and treats

Make and decorate stockings
Christmas banners for congregations

3. Learn about Christmas celebrations around the world

4. Music class: Christmas songs and carols
5. Candle making
6. Make decorations to be given nursing homes in the campers' locality
7. Constructing and playing a dulcimer
8. Drama - choose an appropriate Christmas story and act it out
9. Photography

Theme Class

Supplies Needed:

Inspired Version Bible

Youth Bible

Book of Mormon

Paper and envelopes (to make Christmas cards,) markers

pens and pencils glitter

writing paper

stamped envelopes

1. Begin the class by passing out writing paper and pencil to each person. Ask the campers to answer the following questions: What is the most precious gift you could give to another person? Why? What gift would you like to receive? Why?

2. Have the teenagers share their answers with one person. After they have shared, have the teenagers throw their papers away and proceed to the next activity.

3. Ask the teenagers to gather into groups of four or five persons. Choose discussion questions from the following: Why did God give Jesus to the world? How is Christ important to the world? How is the gift of Christ to the world making a difference in the lives of people today? How does the secular demonstration take away from the religious observance of Christmas? How can I rectify this situation?

4. Have the groups gather into the larger class and share their thoughts and opinions.

5. Have the teenagers create a Christmas card that could be sent to someone they know. Tell the campers to send the card to someone they would like to know has influenced their life. Explain to the teenagers that they are making a deliberate attempt to live the spirit of

Christmas.

6. If there is time, show a video that expresses the spirit of giving. Discuss the Christmas meaning in the film and how it can be applied to the lives of children, teenagers, and adults.

Questions for Chats

1. How can teenagers use the gift of Christ in their lives?

2. What challenges do Community of Christ teenagers face and how can they use the gift of Christ to help them meet those challenges?

3. As the campers end their high school years, what does the gift of Christ mean to them as they become young adults?

4. Should the campers be concerned about the gifts they can bring to the world they live in? Why?

Evening Activity

For many Community of Christ teenagers, youth camp is held in the summer. Hold a Christmas party in June! Or July! Have the teenagers bring a gift to exchange. Play Christmas games, eat Christmas treats, decorate a Christmas tree. Refer to the *Revised Edition: Holiday Ideas/or Youth Groups* by Wayne Rice and Mike Yaconelli, Youth Specialties, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1997. Use the *Christmas* section to help you plan your evening. Have fun and Merry Christmas!

Campfire Ideas

Place the manger (mentioned in the morning devotions section) to the side of the campfire. It will be used during the closing of the campfire. Find a creative way to light the campfire for tonight. Have a person dressed up as a Christmas character to light the campfire (Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, a Snowflake, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, a candy

cane, the Three Wisemen, Shepherds, Angels). Use your imagination!

Use the following as suggestions for campfire worship:

Read O. Henry's story *The Gift of the Magi* to the campers. Have teenagers mime the story while it is being read to the campers.

Have the teenagers make a large circle around the campfire and manger. Give each camper an unlit candle. While singing a Christmas carol, begin lighting the candles, one by one.

Ask a camper to share a Christmas memory. Be sure to work with the camper so that the story is not too long, as other campers will soon be disinterested.

End the campfire by singing a favorite Christmas carol.

Cabin Devotions

Have the campers share how they will keep Christ in Christmas. Ask the campers to think about ways Christ is a gift to all people, even non-Christians. Have each camper say a one-line prayer about the gifts they have received and/or the significance of Christmas in their lives.