



Is There Room for Jesus Under Your Christmas Tree?



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock;
anyone who hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."
(Revelations 3:20).

Children's Sermon

By Brenda Carpenter

For today's lesson, have a box filled with different Christmas decorations: Lights, Ornaments, Small Tree, Gifts, Wreath...etc. However, make sure there is nothing in the box about Christ's birth.

"I love this time of year! There are so many lights and decorations to see wherever you go. My favorite part of Christmas is when I pull my decorations' box out of storage and start going through all of my Christmas goodies. (Pull your box out in the middle of the group and start going through it.) Do you have some of these things at your house? I love decorating, shopping, and putting lights on my house. How many of you have lights on your house? I like to get in the car and drive around the neighborhood looking at all the lights.

Did you notice that there is something missing in my box? I have all kinds of things to decorate my house and my tree with, but I don't have anything that tells me what Christmas is all about. Can anyone tell me what is missing? That's right, it is Jesus. I was so busy with all my decorations that I forgot why I was decorating. Sometimes we get so busy with everything that is going on around us that we forget the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. It is Jesus' Birthday.

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(Sermon Continued)

The Bible tells us about a night that happened a long time ago. It was the night that Jesus was born. Everyone was so busy running around that no one took the time to help Mary and Joseph find a place to rest. They went from door to door and no one helped them till finally an inn keeper told them that they could use his barn. YUCK! Mary was ready to have baby Jesus and she had to have him in the stinky barn.

Do you have room for Jesus this Christmas? Are there so many presents under your tree that Jesus does not have room? Make sure this year that Jesus is invited to His Birthday Party.

Let's read Luke 2:1-20 together and learn more about this wonderful night.



Joseph and Mary Blues

(Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

Play and sing the song to introduce the Children's Sermon
(Mary Christmas Album)

They didn't have a car
They didn't take a plane
They didn't go by carriage
No they didn't go by train
Traveling on and on
Looking for a place to stop
They had to knock, knock, knock
They had to knock, knock, knock

Knock, knock looking for a place to stop
Knock, knock looking for a place to stop
The keeper of the door
Said there's no room anymore
They had to Knock, knock, knock
They had to knock, knock, knock

Over the mountains
To the valley below
Traveling wasn't easy
With no place to go
All the way to Bethlehem
Looking for a place to stop
They had to knock, knock, knock
They had to knock, knock, knock

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Knock, knock, looking for a place to stop
Knock, knock looking for a place to stop
The keeper of the door
Found a manger for our Lord
They had to knock, knock, knock
They had to knock, knock, knock

Someday you're gonna travel
Down that lonesome road
When Jesus knocks at your heart
Well you got to let Him know
He can rest inside
Like on that first Christmas night
He's gonna knock, knock, knock
He's gonna knock, knock, knock

Knock, knock, looking for a place to stop
Knock, knock looking for a place to stop
When you got those traveling blues
There's a place inside for you
He's gonna knock, knock, knock
He's gonna knock, knock, knock

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A Gift for Jesus ~ Craft

If you could give Jesus a Birthday present, what would it be? Today we are going to think of different things we could give Jesus and wrap it up and put it under our tree.

You Will Need:

- Small boxes (1 for each child)
- Wrapping paper / Tape
- Ribbons and bows
- Pre-cut hearts to write their gifts on
- Gift tags saying, "To Jesus from child's name"



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(Craft Continued)

Help the children think of different things that they could give Jesus. Let them use their imagination. Remember, a bouncy ball is just as important to them as gold was to the wise men. (Examples: A book so I can sit on His lap and we can read it together. My heart because I love Him. A ball so we can play catch together.)

Help the younger children write their gifts on the paper hearts and place it in their boxes. Once their gifts are written and the box is full, allow the children to wrap their boxes with the gift wrapping paper provided. Have them find a special place to put their gifts to Jesus under their Christmas tree at home.

A Heart for Jesus ~ Craft

When Mary and Joseph were looking for a place to stay, they went through the city knocking on doors asking if there was room. Jesus is doing the same thing; he is looking for a place in our hearts. He is knocking; all you have to do is open it and invite Him in. Do you have room for Jesus in your heart?

For today's craft you will be making a heart to hang on your Christmas tree.

You Will Need the Following:

- Craft Foam Sheets cut into heart shapes
- Stickers of Jesus (Can Be Found At Your Local Christian Bookstore)
- Glitter or Glitter Glue
- Sequins / Small Beads / Decorative Buttons
- Yarn

Place a picture of Jesus in the center of the heart and let the children decorate with the materials provided. Once done, punch a hole in the top of the heart and insert the yarn to hang on the tree.



Birthday Cake ~ Snack

Everyone loves a Birthday Party. Use this time to have a Birthday Party for Jesus.



You Will Need:

- A birthday cake or cupcakes
- Party hats
- Party plates and napkins
- Balloons



Don't forget to sing Happy Birthday to the honored guest.



Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for this time of year. Help us to remember not be so busy this Christmas that we forget the real reason for this celebration: Your Son, Jesus.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Layout and design of Mary Rice Hopkins' Devotion in Motion by Linda Stevenson



On the way home from the shopping mall, they passed a church on their way,
Joseph and Mary were in a stall with Jesus asleep on the hay.
"Daddy, let's stop, for I want to see the baby Jesus right now."
So his father pulled in with a grin; he could not resist somehow.

As they knelt beside the manger bed, a small tear fell from Christ's eye.
So the son then looked to his father and asked, "Why does baby Jesus cry?"
"Son, you noticed at the mall nearby no mention of Jesus' name;
No carolers singing 'Joy to the World,' no good news that Jesus came.

"I'm sure He's sad because we've failed to even acknowledge His birth;
No one to sing, no tidings to bring of why Jesus came to this earth.
We have removed Christ's name from Christmas. How sad I know He must be;
So you and I must spread the good news. Yes, it's up to you and me."

Then at once the baby Jesus smiled as he heard the small boy say,
"I will spread the news both far and wide to all who I pass on the way."
They returned to the mall proclaiming, "Merry Christmas one and all.
Jesus our Savior was born for you in a lowly manger stall."

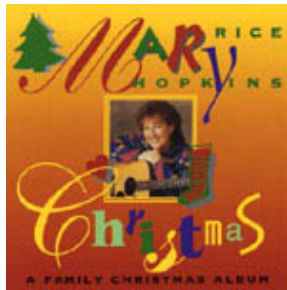
"Merry Christmas, back to you, my son," o'er the entire mall did ring;
And what started as a solo voice then created a choir to sing.
"Just think," the young boy said to his dad, "if everyone would say,
'Oh, I wish you a Merry Christmas' as they passed along their way.

"Our malls would echo with joyful sound; you'd hear Christ's name everywhere,
And the reason for the season, Dad, would then forever remain there.
We can't leave it to the shop owners. It is up to you and me,
For Christ to remain in Christmas, we must share Him with all we see.

Great Resources for Active Learners

By Mary Rice Hopkins

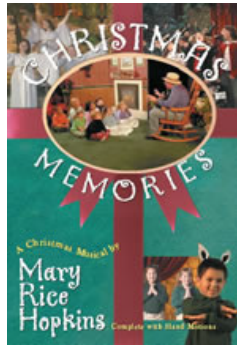
Awesome Christmas Resources for your Children's Program



CD

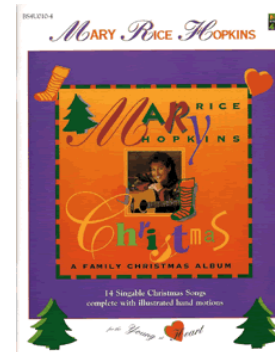
Also...

Stereo version. Instrumental Accompaniment CD (No Vocals)



DVD

Don't forget to order the script to go with the DVD



Songbook includes illustrated Hand Motions

Have you been looking for a fun and easy Christmas musical to perform? Or perhaps you're searching for some creative songs to incorporate into your school, chapel or Sunday school program. Look no further!

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Songs Include:

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- We Three Kings
- Never Wanna Grow Up
- Joseph & Mary Blues
- Jingle Bells
- First Christmas Day
- The Little Baby
- Grandpa's Hands
- Best Gift
- Follow That Star
- Away in a Manger/Silent Night
- Mistletoe



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