



A Birthday Cake for Jesus

(Contributed by Leslie Ratliff)



Many families and churches emphasize the meaning of Christmas by having a birthday party for Jesus, often complete with a birthday cake. Why not make this celebration even more meaningful with this object lesson that uses the cake to teach the plan of salvation.

Supplies Needed:

- 1 or 2 layer chocolate cake
- white frosting
- angel figurine or sugar cookie
- 12 red candles
- star
- plastic evergreens

(Opt. You may also want to have each child create their own birthday cake by providing small round cakes for the children to assemble and decorate themselves.)

1. Begin by talking about birthdays, what they mean and why we celebrate them.

2. Tell the story of Jesus' birth either in your own words or with a story book. For older children have them read it from the Bible (Luke 1-2).

3. Now share with your children why Jesus came as you assemble and decorate your birthday cake.

Round Cake - The shape of the cake is round with no end, showing that God's love is never ending. He loved us so much that he sent his only Son to die for our sins (*John 3:16*).

Dark Cake - Before knowing Jesus, our hearts are like this dark cake, and we couldn't get into heaven with our hearts so full of sin (*Romans 3:23*).

White frosting - (*While frosting the cake, talk about the meaning of the white frosting.*) God did a wonderful thing when he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Now all the darkness is covered up, and Jesus washes our sins white as snow. We are pure white in the sight of God. When we ask Jesus to forgive all the bad things we've done, we are white like this frosting (*Romans 6:23*).

Angel Decoration - (*Place the angel decoration on the cake or have a child do it.*) The angel reminds us of the good tidings that were brought to the shepherds that night. It also reminds us of the good tidings, or good news, that we can bring to others (*Luke 2:10*).

Star - (*Place the star decoration on the cake or have a child do it.*) The star reminds us of the star in Bethlehem and how the Wisemen followed it and worshiped the Lord Jesus. It reminds us that we should worship and follow Him everyday. We can do this by praying, reading our Bibles, and going to church.

12 Red Candles - (*Place the candles on the cake.*) The red color reminds us of Jesus' blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Because He died and rose again, we can have eternal life and go to heaven if we believe (*Romans 5:8*).

Light the Candles - (*As you light the candles, say...*) Jesus can shine in our hearts if we just ask Him to be our Savior. The 12 candles remind us to let His light shine every month of the year, not just at Christmas time (*Matthew 5:16*).

Evergreens - (*Place evergreens around the cake.*) Evergreens around the cake remind us of something living and growing. If we have accepted Jesus into our hearts, we are going to grow and get to know Him more. How can we grow to know Him better? By praying, going to church, reading our Bibles, and sharing Him with others—(*John 15:5 or 2 Peter 3:18*).

Optional: Invitation - Ask if there is anyone who has not ask Jesus into their life and if they would like to know how to make him their Savior and Lord of their life.

Craft Ideas

(Contributed by Brenda Carpenter)

Shining Stars

During this craft time the children will be making shining stars to represent the star shining over the stable

- Star cut out of hard card stock
- Glue
- Glitter
- String

Help children smear glue on their stars and sprinkle glitter over them to make them bright and shiny. When the stars are dry, hang them in an area that will help the children remember what God did that wonderful night.



Angels Among Us

In this craft activity the children will be making angels to show the multitude that came and spoke to the shepherds about the birth of Jesus.

- Small Styrofoam balls (one per child)
- Different colors of construction paper to form as a "cone"
- Paper "wings" to glue to the back of the cone
- Yellow Pipe Cleaners
- Glue /Stapler/Tape
- Scissors
- Craft Sticks
- Markers



Have the construction paper already pre-cut so the child can roll it and staple together to make a cone shape. This will be used for the body. Cut off the tip of the cone big enough to place the Styrofoam ball on top for the head. To attach the head, insert a craft stick in the ball and place the ball on top of the body. Then tape the stick to the underside of the body to secure in place. At this time you should have the body and head put together. The children will need to cut out the wings and glue them on the back of the bodies and use the markers to

make their faces. To complete the angel, add a halo made from the yellow pipe cleaner.

We receive gifts at Christmas to remind us that God gave us "The Best Gift" of all—His Son Jesus. Play this song and sing it with your children. Remind them that the best gift we can give to Jesus is ourselves.



The Best Gift

Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins

Wrapped up in a manger
A long, long time ago
God sent His only Son
So His love we'd know
Jesus gave His life
So we could be set free
Find true forgiveness
God's gift to you and me

(chorus)

The best gift to me
The best gift to me
His name is Jesus
Thank you God for Jesus
The best gift to me

Thank you God for all the gifts
You give us every day
The sun and moon and stars so bright
And friends along the way
Most of all I thank you for
Your precious Son who came
So I can know and love like Him
I'll sing about His name

(chorus)

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Use Mary's family Christmas album, "[Mary Christmas](#)." (The performance instrumental CD is sold separately.) Have your children sing the songs and do the hand motions. Hand Motions are found in the "Mary Christmas" songbook, complete with full sheet music.