



THEME: **Christmas Gifts**

ABOUT THIS CLASS: The theme for this Frolic Faith Class is **Christmas Gifts**. You will read the Frolic storybook titled *Rufus and the Very Special Baby*.

Prep Time

Christmas Gifts in the Bible

The Bible does not describe a scene where people sit around a decorated tree and exchange gifts, but it is filled with stories about people who receive gifts from God and share their gifts with others. When God creates Adam and Eve, God places them in the Garden of Eden, where they have everything they need. When the Israelites are stranded in the wilderness, God gives them manna, quail, and water to sustain them. Kings, including David and Solomon, receive gifts from their people and from foreigners. The prophets share their gift of wisdom. Each Christmas, we celebrate the gift of God's own Son, Jesus, and we remember the wise men honoring Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Through his life, ministry, death, and rising, Jesus shares with all of God's children the gifts of grace, love, compassion, service, and sacrifice.

A Parent's View of the Theme

There are many gifts for parents to celebrate at Christmas—time with family, children's wonder and excitement, delicious food, giving and receiving presents, and, of course, Baby Jesus! But this season can also be stressful and overwhelming. Today's class may offer just what parents need—the chance to take a deep breath, celebrate Jesus, and be reminded that their children are gifts from God.

A Child's View of the Theme

Young children love to receive gifts, especially at Christmas! Brightly colored packages pique their curiosity, and as they open them, they often have the undivided attention of those around them. The paper and packaging is often just as interesting as what it contains—as colorful paper, boxes, and even tape can engage children's imaginations. They want to touch every part of a new toy and the box it came in so that they might better understand it. The wonder children experience with each new thing they are given is a gift they give back to us.



Bible Verse

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

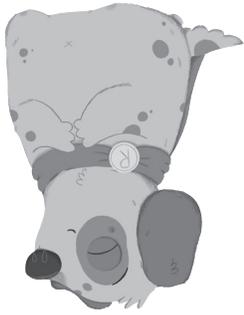
—John 1:14



Today's Ritual

Have each child hold a small paper or plastic box in the palm of their hand. Pass the gifts around the circle as you sing "Jesus Loves Me" together. **Peek inside the box. It's filled with God's love! Thank you for sharing God's love with our friends here today.**





Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

For Leaders

Christmas Gifts Coloring Page on page 76, crayons, and blank paper

Supplies

This center supports coloring skills. For toddlers.

Let's Color Together

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Let's Color Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Encourage your child to color the images from the book. Delight in their colorful creations!

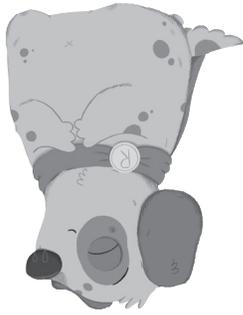
Your child is learning this!

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- Using crayons helps me learn the names of colors.
- **When I color pictures from this story, I remember that I have special gifts I can offer to Jesus too.**



Jesus blinked his big brown eyes at Rufus, then cooed and fell asleep under the warm red cape.





Set out supplies where families can make a card.

For Leaders

Construction paper, birthday stickers, and crayons

Supplies

This center supports fine motor skills and language development. For toddlers.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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Happy Birthday, Jesus!

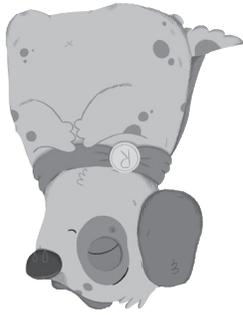
Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Fold the paper in half to make a card. Help your child make a birthday card for Jesus by adding birthday stickers and coloring pictures. Inside the card write words or draw pictures of the gifts you can share with others. Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus together.

Your child is learning this!

- When I color and place stickers, I am developing my fine motor skills.
- When you show me how to hold a card and open it, I am developing pre-literacy skills.
- **When I talk about Jesus' birthday, I am connecting Jesus' life with my own experiences.**





Set up one or two wrapping stations with boxes, wrapping supplies, and small hearts to go inside the boxes.

For Leaders

Small boxes, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, small precut paper hearts, and bows

Supplies

This center supports emotional development and social skills. For toddlers.

Gift of Love

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Gift of Love

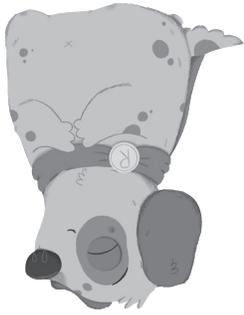
Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Pick a heart and give it a hug to symbolize your love. Place the heart in a box and wrap it up, using the paper and bows. Talk about who loves you and who you can give this gift of love to.

Your child is learning this!

- Naming and talking about love helps with my emotional development.
- Talking about and practicing sharing encourages my social development.
- **Sharing love with others imitates in a concrete way how God shares love with us.**





Lay out the dress-up clothes with the bags nearby.

For Leaders

Collection of dress-up clothes and shoes, and small bags or wheeled suitcases

Supplies

This center supports pretend play. For toddlers.

Going on a Journey

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Going on a Journey

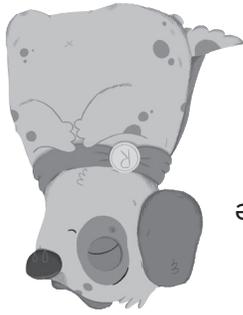
Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Pretend with your child that you are going on a journey. Talk with them about Mary and Joseph going on a long journey when they had Jesus. Where will you go? What will you take with you? Pack up a bag or suitcase with the dress-up clothes.

Your child is learning this!

- Dress-up is a great way to practice pretend play and grow my imagination.
- Anticipating what we will need for the journey develops my executive functions.
- Talking about my journey connects me to the story of travelers in the Bible.





Place the building blocks out on the floor with a picture of Jesus in the manger from the story today.

For Leaders

Various types of building blocks (interlocking bricks, wooden blocks, cardboard boxes or bricks, etc.) and a picture of Jesus in the manger from page 77

Supplies

This center supports fine and large motor skills and creativity. For infants and toddlers.

Build a Manger

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Build a Manger

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Talk to your child about how there was no place for Baby Jesus to sleep when he was born, so Mary and Joseph had to lay him in a manger. If you were there, what kind of bed would you build for the Baby Jesus? Use the blocks to create your bed. Parents with infants can let their child see and explore the larger blocks and look at the picture of Jesus.

Your child is learning this!

- Building with blocks develops my fine and large motor skills.
- Creating a manger scene of my own helps develop my imagination.
- **Building a bed for Jesus helps me put myself in the story of Jesus and view his birth as a gift to all of us.**

