



# GOD'S GIFTS

1 Thessalonians and the Christmas story

POD LEADER GUIDE

## GOD'S GREATEST GIFT- JESUS

LUKE 2:1-7



### God Gave Us the Greatest Gift! HIMSELF!

We want our River Kids to understand that Jesus is the best gift we have ever received.

We want the River Kids to know that Jesus was given to us freely to help us, to save us and to break down all the barriers that keep us away from God. We want our kids to feel confident knowing that Jesus is GOD WITH US.

### Connect with **TEACHING**



#### OBJECT LESSON - THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

Wrap two presents - one that looks bad but with something your child would want, and one that looks good with nothing in it.

**Ask:** Which present would you most like to see under your Christmas tree on Christmas morning?

**Explain:** Just like us who expect the best present to look amazing, the Israelites were expecting their saviour to arrive in a blaze of glory, a powerful warrior to overthrow those who oppressed them and rule as their new king.

But their Saviour came in a small humble package, in the form of the baby Jesus. While he didn't meet their expectations he is the best gift we will ever receive because he grows up to save us not just from troubles on earth but from sin and all that separates us from God.

**Activity:** Have the kids use these template to draw OR write the expectation of Israel vs the true and amazing reality of having Jesus as our saviour (or the expectation of a kings birth vs Jesus as a recap of the Tonight at the Palace story.

# DECEMBER

DEC  
04  
2022

## PODS - Our greatest gift

Our last PODS for the year!

## Big Group - Prayer Stations

Special Christmas prayer stations based of the advent themes

DEC  
11  
2022

## Community Christmas Carols!

Our BIG Christmas celebration.

Option 1: 2:30 - 4pm fair + 4pm Carols Service  
Option 2: 5pm Carols service + 7- 8:30pm fair

DEC  
18  
2022

## Christmas Eve + Day

Simple + powerful services to celebrate this special day. Kids Program on Christmas Eve

DEC  
24+25  
2022

## FAMILY FUN GUIDE



We hope this guide blesses you and your kids with a powerful time of learning and prayer.

### Also some ANNOUNCEMENTS



Last Sunday to bring in backpacks for Life Care Christmas appeal is Sunday 27 November. We will be having a special packing day for the kids that day to help them get more and more involved.

See above for more dates

### Connect with PRAYER TIME



#### OBJECT DRAW - GOD'S GIFTS

Wrap up a handful of random objects (enough for each POD member) and place in a bowl.

#### Pray together that God will speak to them.

**Say:** I have a bowl of everyday objects here. I am going to ask you pick an object from the bowl without looking as I feel God will guide you to one so He can remind you of what he thinks about you and what you are called to.

#### Have each child pick an item from the bowl and unwrap it

**say:** Oh you have got \_\_\_\_\_. What draws your attention when you look at your object? What is its purpose? If God directed you to this object, what do you think He is trying to say to you?