

Christmas: It's A WRAP

Lesson 1

Elementary: Grades 3 – 6

“Jesus Is Coming”

The Point of the Lesson:

Each child will hear the story of the angel telling Mary that she is going to have baby Jesus. They will learn about her willingness to obey God and her great attitude. They will understand that God wants them to have a willing heart and attitude of obedience for whatever God has planned for them.

The Power of God's Word:

I am willing to accept whatever He (God) wants. Luke 1:38b NLT

The Prayer of Each Child:

Dear God, Thank you for the story about Gabriel talking to Mary and telling her about the birth of Jesus. Thank you for Mary's attitude toward You. She reminds me that I need to have a willing heart to accept whatever God wants for my life. Help me to show a willing heart toward my parents this week when they ask me to do something I might not want to do. Help me to show You that I am willing to obey. Amen.

The Lesson in a Word:

Willing

Prepare: (Before service)

Object Lesson: A Christmas Wish List and a To Do List

Game Materials: Paper and Pencil for note taking. As the MC you will need to pre-select three students to participate in the game time. See the segment entitled “PLAY” for instructions on the game.

Student Handouts: *There are two handouts for students. One is a Family EnterAction Guide that is given out (one per family only) the first couple of weeks of a new series. We recommend passing out coupons (Provided on CD) to all the students that direct the parents to a central pick up location, such as the Children’s Information Booth at your church, so that those parents who are interested, pick them up and you aren’t sending several home to the same family.*

Photocopy & spiral bind **EnterAction Guides** (Provided on CD or purchase ahead of time from www.empoweringkids.net).

Photocopy **Student Handouts** (Provided on CD) There are two artwork options available to you on the CD, both the full color and black and white are available in .pdf format or Word (.doc format). The one in the PDF format, is completely ready to go and just needs to be duplicated, but cannot be altered. (We recommend using this one.) The one in Word, can be changed so that you can add your church name, logo or anything else you would like before duplication. (Note: This format does not include the color artwork for the background, so you would need to use this along with the artwork template.) If you have questions, please feel free to call Empowering Kids at 1-866-EMPOWER (USA only) or 949-855-0512 (International) or email us at info@empoweringkids.net, and we will be happy to help you.

Pencils (enough for all the students)

G3 Game: Mickey Mouse Gloves or other large, silly gloves for the MC or Group Leader. (1 per group)

Preview: (5 minutes)

During Check In Time:

We recommend that you have a variety of games and activities available for your kids to interact with after they have checked into your program. Some ideas for this are board games, a large Lego table, crafts or bead projects, a large whiteboard and markers (just for the kids), video games (be sure to screen the games for appropriate-ness), large floor games (rug or beach type games), drawing paper and markers. Have a signal, like a certain song that is played each week, to let the kids know when it is time to clean up and come sit down for the program to begin.

Welcome from MC:

Hey everyone, welcome to (Name of your church). We are so glad you are here with us today. We are going to have a great time together worshipping God and getting to know Him better. I have something exciting to tell you all! Today is the FIRST day of a brand new series! That's right, we are starting a series on Christmas called "It's A WRAP!" That's right! It is ALMOST Christmas time! And that is what our new series is about, Christmas.

Object Lesson:

A Christmas Wish List and a To Do List

Hold up your Christmas wish list so everyone can see. Have eight or nine things on the list. Say, "I brought my Christmas wish list with me today. There are a few things on here I would really like to have for Christmas. Is anyone willing to help me with my list?" Get feedback from the students.

Show the To Do List. Say, "I have another list here. It's my To Do List. It reminds me of what I need to do when I get home. Let's see, make my bed, take out the trash, clean up after the dog. Hey, is there anyone here willing to help me with my To Do List?" Get responses from the students.

Our word for today is WILLING. We are usually more willing to help someone if the job is easier and doesn't take that much time. We are going to hear a great story today about how Mary was willing to do whatever God wanted her to do. But before we get to that I have a Christmas Kid Connect Question for you.

Kid Connect Question: (Provided on CD on Power Point)

Would you rather get a gift card or a wrapped present?

Play: (5 Minutes)

Here is a quick game to play with your students to get them moving and help launch the lesson.

Game Name: Are You Willing?

Bring up three students and ask them to tell the group three things they are willing to do. (The students should have already been pre-selected and answers written out.) Two of the things they tell/read to the group will be true and one will be a fib or something they are *not* willing to do. The group then votes to find out which one was the fib.

Example

1. I am willing to mow my neighbor's lawn.
2. I am willing to go Christmas shopping for my grandma who can't drive.
3. I am willing to help my brother clean his room.

The group will vote after all three have been read by the student. After the vote the student can reveal which one of the activities they are not willing to do and why. The student may say, "I am not willing to mow my neighbor's lawn because I am allergic to grass."

Transition for MC:

"How about a round of applause for our three "Willing" participants? Have you ever felt like that? Have you even been unwilling to do something your parents have asked you to do? Have you ever been unwilling to help someone even though you knew you probably should? Yeah, me too. Well, today we are going to learn about the first of four words that will help us with our Christmas WRAP and that word is WILLING. God wants us to be willing to do whatever He asks us to do."

Praise: (15 Minutes)

This is a time of corporate worship through singing and music. We suggest 3 Christmas Songs that are lively and kid friendly. Some good ones that kids enjoy are Jingle Bells, Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, O Holy Night, We Three Kings or The Little Drummer Boy.

Process: (15 Minutes)

This process includes the 10-15 minute teaching video, practice point and memory verse. On the DVD Menu Screen, choose Lesson 1 and then select “Lesson” on the sub menu.

Lesson in a Word:

Willing

What Should I See?

God sent the Angel Gabriel to talk to Mary. Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby and to name Him “Jesus.” Mary asked Gabriel how it could be possible that she was pregnant. Gabriel said that the baby would be the Son of God and he reminded Mary that nothing is impossible if God is involved. Mary said, “I am willing to accept whatever He (God) wants.” Then Gabriel left. (Story Found In Luke 1:26-38 NLT)

Memory Verse:

I am willing to accept whatever He (God) wants. Luke 1:38b NLT

What’s The Key?

The key to unlock this lesson is our word for today, WILLING. Mary was “willing” to accept whatever God wanted for her life. I’m sure her life was about to get harder, not easier, yet she didn’t whine, cry or complain. She knew that no matter what, God was in control and whatever He wanted for her life would always be for the best. Willing, that’s the key.

What’s That To Me?

It’s all about attitude! Willingness is a choice you make. It means you are ready and have the right attitude to do or be whatever God wants you to do or be, even if it’s hard. No whining, no crying, no complaining.

(Practice Point) It’s A Christmas WRAP

The words to the WRAP appear on the screen during the teaching segment. The words are included at the end of this Leader Guide. The WRAP is the same for each of the four lessons.

How Should I Be?

I need to be willing to accept whatever God has for me. One of the ways I can apply this is to have a willing attitude when my parents ask me to do something. Another way is to be willing to do what my teacher asks me to do at school. Maybe it is just writing down my homework in my notebook or cleaning my room, something you are supposed to do every day but get tired of....whatever it is try to be willing to do it with a good attitude. Ask God to help you and He will!

Practice: (35 Minutes)

On the Resource CD, select Power Point Game and then select Lesson 1 to show the first slide. Press the arrow key to advance to the next slide.

1. Total Recall (10 Minutes)

Question 1: What is the word for today? (Willing)

Question 2: What was the name of the angel that came to talk to Mary? (Gabriel)

Question 3: True or False: Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph? (True)

Question 4: Did Mary have a willing heart? (Yes)

Question 5: True or False: Willingness is a choice I make. (True)

Question 6: According to our story what is impossible for God? (Nothing)

Question 7: W-R-A-P: What does the "W" stand for? (Willing)

Question 8: Where is our memory verse found? (Luke 1:38)

2. "Live It" Testimony on Video (5 Minutes)

This segment will show Alyssa talking about how she lives out this lesson on "WILLINGNESS" to do whatever God asks. On the DVD Menu Screen, choose Lesson 1 and then select Live It on the sub menu screen.

Question:

Tell me about a time when you were "Willing" to accept whatever God had for you, even though you may not have liked it at first.

3. Memory Madness (10 Minutes)

There is a segment in the Multimedia presentation that shows the verse, which you use at this time. Each team participates in their group trying to recite the week's memory verse with the hand motions. Show the slide and give the kids a couple of minutes to practice the verse together. Then take the slide away and give each group a chance to recite the verse. The MC gives points to the teams according to how well they do on the Memory Madness Challenge.

I am willing to accept whatever He (God) wants. Luke 1:38b NLT

4. G3 Video Game (5 Minutes)

Here is a fun video game to play with your kids! The students will each vote, by a show of thumbs up or thumbs down, whether they think the "guest" or the person being interviewed will get the question right or wrong. On the DVD menu screen, select Lesson 1 and then on the sub menu screen, select G3. The video will pause when it is time for you to ask the students whether they think the guest will answer the question right or wrong. Assign one adult or student leader to the front of each group, who will take a quick census of the thumb up/down votes and decide what most of the group thinks the answer will be. This leader then uses his/her large Mickey Mouse glove to show the group vote of either thumbs up or thumbs down. After the short pause, the video will resume playing and will reveal whether the 'guest' got the answer right or wrong. Expect to hear lots of cheering if the students guessed correctly or moans if they were wrong!

Question 1:

What was the name of the angel that visited Mary? (Gabriel)

The answer was, Nolan Ryan. They answered the question WRONG.

Question 2:

Finish this verse *I am willing to _____ whatever He wants.* (Accept)

The answer was, accept. They answered the question RIGHT.

Question 3:

What is our word for the day? (Willing)

The answer was, chilling. They answered the question WRONG.

WEEKLY HANDOUT: Large Group OR Small Group

Large Group or Small Group Time:

At this point, have several leaders help pass out the Student Handouts and pencils to everyone. (We don't recommend doing it earlier in the class, like upon check in, because they may leave them somewhere, roll them up, make paper airplanes, you get the idea...) This can be done in large group by having them turn around and use their chairs to write on or split the students into small groups and have them answer the questions around tables with leaders facilitating the questions. Either way, allow time for the students to fill in their personal answers and then give them an opportunity to share their answers with the group. You can keep these groups consistent or mix them up each week, depending on your church needs and program.

Things to Do Here:

Question 1: What does it mean to have a Willing Heart?

Question 2: When is it hard for you to have a willing heart?

Question 3: What one thing can I do to show my parents I have a willing heart this week?

**Allow the students a chance to fill in the information on the tear off flap portion of the Student Handout and turn them in to leaders. This provides them with a chance to share prayer requests, questions or comments with you! Be sure that someone on the Children's Ministry Team has time to follow up on these notes, questions and prayer requests.

Things to Do at Home:

As students are dismissed they should take their student handout home and finish the last 3 questions or items during the week. You may want to offer an incentive of some type to students who return with their handout the following week.

Number 1: Read Luke 1:26-38 with your parents.

Number 2: Share your verse with your parents. Remember, Mary said, "*I am willing to accept whatever He (God) wants.*" Luke 1:38b NLT. Ask your parents about a time when they were not "willing" to do what God wanted. What happened?

Number 3: Ask your parents what they would really like for you to do to help out around the house. Be willing to do it with a great attitude!