



Date: _____
Series: Jesus is Our King
Winter Year 2, Lesson 31

Get Rappin'

Take Home Point: *We are the wrapping paper for the gift of Jesus to the world.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 2:1-20 The shepherds proclaim the Christmas Gospel.

Key Verse: Luke 2:17, "When they saw the child, they repeated what had been told about him."

We will help kids know:

- The Christmas story: Jesus is God's gift to the world for our salvation.
- We need to see ourselves like wrapping paper that makes the gift of Jesus appealing to the world as people experience our loving witness.




We will help kids feel:

- Excited about being the wrapping paper for God's gift of Jesus to the world.
- Joyful because we can tell the Christmas Gospel in our own way (even by rapping).

We will help kids do:

- Identify a friend, relative, or acquaintance that may not know Jesus and for whom they will pray.
- Share with this person the Jesus candy cane. At the same time, do at least one act of loving witness for this person.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Kids share what they are <i>hoping</i> to get for Christmas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one present wrapped in a very unattractive way. This could even be a paper sack wrapped around a box. Inside, put a single small piece of candy. • one present wrapped in Christmas paper with two small candy canes for each child in the group
Large Group 	4 8-10 11-13 13-14	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Countdown To Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin'"—Gordy, Gerdy and Commander King review the countdown stages to Christmas blast off.</p> <p>Large Group Presentation: "The Shepherd's Rap"—A shepherd and sheep rap their testimony about the birth of the Savior, Jesus.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Countdown To Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin'"—Gordy and Gerdy learn that the shepherds were like "wrapping paper," attracting others to the gift of the Baby Jesus. We too, can be like "wrapping paper."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • video of Gerdy in her spacesuit • Command Central setting • an actor (who can rap) wearing a shepherd's robe made from wrapping paper and a turban, carrying a shepherd's staff. <i>Option:</i> a baseball cap worn backwards can be used as a turban • four or five pairs of sheep ears made from the ends of old white socks and attached to something that will stay in place on top of the head (baseball cap) These don't need to look very attractive. The more ridiculous the better. • wrapping paper • extra copy of "The Shepherd's Rap"
Small Group Application 	5-7	Kids make a special wrapped invitation they can use to invite a friend or a neighbor to a Christmas worship service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easy-reading version of the Bible or storybook • Jesus candy cane poem and invitation (p. 15) printed on 5 1/2" X 8" cardstock • 10" square of wrapping paper for each child • crayons or markers • bows • removable tape • candy canes from Small Group Warm-Up

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Each shepherd will have two wrapped presents. One present should be wrapped in a very unattractive way (such as in a paper sack). Inside this package should be a single small piece of candy. The other box should be wrapped in Christmas paper and contain two small candy canes for all the kids in the group.

Boys and girls, how many of you have wrapped presents under your Christmas tree? Have you tried to guess what they might be? What presents would you like to receive this Christmas?

Let everyone share what they hope to get. Encourage conversation so you can better get to know your group and they can better know one another. Ask other questions that might be helpful for conversation, such as:

What do you think is best about Christmas? Giving presents or getting presents?

What gift are you excited about giving to someone else?

The following learning event will help set up the lesson for the day. It should take about five minutes, so please allow time for your group to accomplish this. Show the two packages and say:

As a group, decide which of these two presents you would like to receive. Please don't touch them or shake them, just look at them and vote as a group. There is something for the group inside each package, but you will like one much more than the other.

Do not be surprised if they choose the poorly wrapped box. Kids will likely suspect that you are trying to trick them by putting the good present in an unbecoming box. If that is the case, they truly will be surprised when the best present is in the more attractively wrapped box.

If they choose the *good* present, say the following:

Congratulations, you all will get candy canes. Let's set them aside and eat them when we come back from large group.

If they choose the plain wrapped gift, open it up and say:

It looks like you missed the good gift. The best present was in the good wrapping paper, but I will share the contents of the other gift after we return from large group.

Before going to large group, ask:

If Jesus is the gift that God gave to the world, then how are we like the wrapping paper around that gift? *(For Jesus to be received by other people as a gift, God can use us to make people want to open the present and look inside. When we trust and follow Jesus, he is wrapped up inside of us. Hopefully, we will be like attractive wrapping paper that makes others want to experience the gift of Jesus as well.)*

Today, we will think of ourselves as wrapping paper. When we go to large group, we will hear about another kind of rappin'. This isn't the paper, this is the musical way of singing a song with rap. We will meet some rappin' shepherds. When the shepherds met Jesus, they wanted to tell others about him. They were like the nice wrapping paper around the gift of Jesus so others would want to find out about him as well.

Today we will find out how **we are the wrapping paper for the gift of Jesus to the world, just like the shepherds.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Countdown To Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin’”—Gordy, Gerdy and Commander King review the countdown stages to Christmas blast off.

Large Group Presentation: “The Shepherd’s Rap”—A shepherd and sheep rap their testimony about the birth of the Savior, Jesus.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Countdown To Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin’”—Gordy and Gerdy learn that the shepherds were like “wrapping paper” attracting others to the gift of the Baby Jesus. We, too, can be like “wrapping paper” as our lives attract others to know about Jesus who is the greatest gift.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Pass out candy canes as promised from Warm-Up so the kids can have them as snacks while discussing the lesson. Another candy cane will be used for the craft later.

Read Luke 2:8-18 in an easy-to-read version of the Bible.

When an angel appeared to the shepherds, what was their first reaction? *(Luke 2:9. They were terrified.)*

What good news did the angel tell them? *(Luke 2:10. A Savior was born in the city of David.)*

When many angels appeared, what did they say? *(Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those who have his good will.")*

After the angels left the shepherds, what did they decide to do? *(Luke 2:15. Go to Bethlehem and find the Baby Jesus.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

After they saw the baby, they told others what had happened to them. How do you think their voices sounded? Were they excited or were they still scared? *(It seems they were excited.)*

What happened to the people who heard the shepherds' story? *(Luke 2:18. They were amazed. They might have wanted to find out more.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Luke 2:17 says, "When they (the shepherds) saw the child, they repeated what had been told about him." How can we be like the shepherds? *(We, too, can tell others about Jesus.)*

In today's lesson we learn that ****we are the wrapping paper for the gift of Jesus to the world.*** What does this mean to you? *(It is our loving actions and invitations that are like "wrapping paper" that make people eager to find out about the gift—Jesus.*

Today we are going to make a wrapping invitation that you can use to invite a friend or a neighbor to one of our worship services on Christmas. We will make an envelope out of wrapping paper and we will put a special card inside that we can decorate and label with our worship service information. The card will also have a candy cane on it. We will even put a bow on the envelope so it looks like a present.

As we make our envelopes, let's all talk about the person with whom we can share this invitation. We might even get ideas from each other that will help us know who to invite.

Craft Explanation:

1. Begin with a 10" square of wrapping paper.



2. Place in front of you with a corner towards you and make a mark 6" from the corner on both sides closest to you.



3. Fold the bottom flap up at the marks.

4. Fold each side over at least an inch at the base on each side.



5. When the two points meet in the middle, apply a small section of removable tape. (It needs to be removable tape so the envelope can be completely unwrapped if desired.)



6. Insert the card (see appendix) with the candy cane and fold over the top flap. Tape it with removable tape. (The card should be made on a half sheet of paper measuring 5 ½" x 8 ½".)

7. Place a bow on the other side. Use ribbon if desired.



To finish the card:

There are two options you may choose according to your time and the ability of the children:

Option 1: *Younger kids may color the card with the poem as they put a sticker on it with the time, date, and location of the worship service.*

Option2: *Older kids may write the poem on the back side of the 10" square of wrapping paper that will be folded into an envelope.*

To conclude the discussion and the craft activity, restate the take home point:

****We are the wrapping paper for the gift of Jesus to the world.***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for courage and boldness to do acts of love and share the Christmas invitation. Pray that the invitations will be received and friends that normally don't go to church will come to worship service on Christmas. Pray the visitors would be welcomed and they would meet Jesus as their Savior.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin’ (Stage Four) Puppet Presentation

Gerdy will appear in the cockpit still dressed in her aluminum foil space suit.

Commander King: **Boys and girls, welcome to Command Central where we are counting down to Christmas Blast Off. I wonder if today is the day we will blast off.**

Gordy: Yes, I believe it is, Mr. King.

Commander King: **Mr. King? Don’t you mean Commander King?**

Gordy: Yes, I mean to command Mr. King.

Commander King: **Gordy!**

Gordy: Well, that is why we have Command Central. If you haven’t caught on by now, I’m in command.

Commander King: **Well, if you say so. I just want to see us get blasted off.**

Gordy: Okay then, why don’t we get astronaut Gerdy on the screen?

Commander King: **Okay, Gordy. Our first stage to the Christmas Blast Off and our mission was to “Get Real.”**

Gordy: The next step was “Get Right.”

Commander King: **Last week, we “Got Ready.”**

Gordy: Now that it is time to blast off, today we will “Get Rappin’.”

Commander King: **Should we see if Gerdy is in position and ready for blast off?**

Gordy: Let’s do it. Command Central. This is Command calling Gerdy. Are you there? Come in, please. Come in.

Gerdy appears in the cockpit ready for blast off.

Gerdy: ***This is Gerdy here.***

Gordy: Are you ready for blast off?

Gerdy: *Why, yes, but I don't really want to blast off!*

Commander King: What? You don't want to blast off?

Gerdy: *You heard me right. There is no need for it.*

Commander King: What do you mean there is no need for it? What about the mission?

Gerdy: *Well, the mission is to find God, right?*

Commander King: Yes.

Gerdy: *Well, don't you remember stage one?*

Commander King: Yes, it was "Get Real."

Gerdy: *Exactly. That means Jesus is the real answer to life's puzzles and what the Old Testament prophets talked about.*

Commander King: That's right.

Gerdy: *Stage two was "Get Right." By trusting Jesus as our Savior and having faith, we really do find God.*

Commander King: Oh, I see. It's like our mission to find God has already happened.

Gerdy: *Well, there was also stage three and that was "Get Ready." We are supposed to be ready by following Jesus now. If we do that, we will be ready when he comes again.*

Commander King: I think you're right! We have already accomplished our mission of finding God because we have gone through these three stages.

Gerdy: *Yes. There's no need to blast off.*

Gordy: Well, there is a need to blast off!

Gerdy: *Why?*

Gordy: Because I want to see a blast off! I want to see my sister blast off, right out of here!

Commander King: Well, I agree with you, Gordy.

Gordy: What? You do?

Commander King: I agree with you but for a different reason. We should blast off so we can tell others about Jesus.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Commander King: Kids, Jesus is the best present anyone could ever receive. He is a present that is not just for us, he is for others as well. Jesus is especially for people that do not know him. Can you think of someone who does not know Jesus?

Gordy: Yeah, I have some friends who don't go to church. I don't think they know anything about Jesus.

Commander King: Well, today we are going to find that we can blast off by talking to them about Jesus.

Gordy: I don't know if I can do that.

Commander King: I'll bet you can. Think of it this way, if Jesus is the present that God gives the world at Christmas, then you are like the wrapping paper. By your witness and the kind things that you do in Jesus' name, it makes other people want to find out more about Jesus.

Gordy: It seems so hard, Mr. King.

Commander King: Let me introduce you to the first people who were Christmas wrapping paper. They told others about the birth of Jesus. Who were they? They were shepherds, and since we are talking about wrapping paper, why don't we have them do a special shepherd's rap? Can we have our rappin' shepherd come out, please? Help us blast off, guys!

“The Shepherd’s Rap”

A specially costumed character comes on stage. This person will wear a shepherd’s robe that is made from wrapping paper. This person will also wear a turban and carry a shepherd’s staff. Since this shepherd will be rapping, perhaps a baseball cap turned backwards can be on top of the turban.

Behind the shepherd will be three or four volunteer sheep. These sheep will have little sheep ears made out of the ends of old white socks and attached to a baseball cap. The ears need not look very attractive. The more ridiculous the better. They will do the echo part along with the audience. If some adult volunteers did this part it would make it more enjoyable.

Be sure and let the audience know they are to do the echo with the sheep.

“The Shepherd’s Rap”

Now sit up straight and lend me your ear
‘Cause I’ve got a story you just gotta hear.
I’m not gonna stand here and let my lips flap
Oh no, baby, gonna do the shepherd’s rap.

Do the shepherd’s rap. (Echo)
Do the shepherd’s rap. (Echo)

It happened one night to some shepherds and their sheep,
Camped on a hillside, tryin’ to get some sleep.
It was gettin’ real quiet then a light shone all around,
The shepherds saw an angel, ‘n then they hit the ground.

They’re a shakin’ now. (Echo)
They’re a shakin’ now. (Echo)

“Hey, dudes, fear not,” the angel did say,
“It’s powerful news that I bring to you today.
For God, from his mercy and love divine,
A Savior he sends for all mankind.”

A Savior comin’ down. (Echo)
A Savior comin’ down. (Echo)

“In the city of David, unto you is born,
True God, true man, Christ the Lord.
And this will be the sign so you will know,
A baby in a manger in swaddling clothes.”

Baby by 'n by. (Echo)
Baby by 'n by. (Echo)

The sky was filled with angels a praisin',
Singing glory to God, 'n peace most amazin'.
The shepherds said, "WOW! Let's be on our way,
And see if it's true what the angels did say."

Get on down the road. (Echo)
Get on down the road. (Echo)

The shepherds ran FAST to Bethlehem town,
Racing through the hills, uphill and down.
Through the every gate and down through the street,
They found this baby with straw for a sheet.

Stable time now. (Echo)
Stable time now. (Echo)

And there in a manger like the angel had said,
Was a tiny little baby, swaddled up to his head.
Just took a look for the shepherds all knew,
This was the Savior, it really had come true.

Comin' down true. (Echo)
Comin' down true. (Echo)

The shepherds left the stable and ran through the streets.
Sharing good news with the people they'd meet.
That God sent a Savior to rescue you and me,
His name is Jesus 'n he will set you free.

His promise was delivered. (Echo)
His promise was delivered. (Echo)

It be good news still true today,
Only thing's left that's to give it away.
God used shepherds and God will use you.
Just share Jesus you know what to do.

Do the shepherd's rap now. (Echo)
Do the shepherd's rap now. (Echo)
Do the shepherd's rap now. (Echo softly)
Do the shepherd's rap now. (Echo softly)

The large group presenter then wraps up the presentation by asking for a volunteer from the audience to come up front.

Do you know that Jesus came into the world to be your Savior? Do you trust in Jesus as your Savior?

If the answers to these questions are yes, then explain that the child is like wrapping paper. The presenter will take wrapping paper and quickly wrap the child in a loop or two.

Since (child's name) has received the gift of Jesus, she can do actions of God's love to others and it is like wrapping. Other people will want to find out about Jesus because they see something special about her life. Let's pray for this blast off.

Prayer for blast off:

Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. He is the best gift we could ever have. He really is your Son and he gave his life for us. Thank you that he lives in our lives because we trust him as our Savior.

Lord, we pray for other people that do not know the gift of Jesus. We ask that they would see Jesus living in our lives, and they would want him to live in their lives, too. Help us to be like wrapping paper. Help us blast off and show others how wonderful it would be to know Jesus. Let us be like the shepherds who told others about Jesus so that other people were truly amazed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Rappin'

(Stage Four)

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gerdy: ***I get it. We blast off, not to just find God, but to tell others about God's gift of Jesus.***

Commander King: **Right! We are like the wrapping paper.**

Gordy: If that's the case, then I want to get rappin' (Breaks into a rap-like chant.)

Stand back, Mr. King, I'm ready to sing.
My foot's a-tappin' so I feel like rappin'.
I'm talkin' about real and here's my deal.
Just look at those prophets for they ain't no Muppets.
They lookin' at a picture of the puzzle
So they couldn't hold a muzzle.

Jesus is the one, he is the real deal.
So get him in your sight, he will help you get right,
Just take him by faith and not by sight.
So if you're listenin' to me and your name is Freddy,
I'm tellin' you, Freddy, that you better get ready.
Jesus is comin' and he's comin' back soon.
Don't be left and don't be a goon!

So now that you know—Jesus stole the show,
When he came as a baby, he left no more maybe's.
He gave his life for you and he gave his life for me,
If you want to blast off, he can set you free.
So Jesus is a gift, and you better be swift,
When you're talkin' to your neighbor,
Then you're the wrappin' paper.

Commander King: **Gordy, that was... well, at least it summed it all up.**

Gerdy: ***Excuse me, boys. I have to interrupt. I can't take it anymore, I'm ready to blast off.***

Commander King: **Well, so are we, Gerdy, but let's send you off with a prayer. Gordy, will you pray?**

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. He's the best gift we could ever have. Let him live in our lives so we trust him every day. Help us to be the wrapping paper so others will see Jesus living in us, and they will want Jesus in their lives, too. Help us to be like the shepherds that told others the good news. And finally, Jesus, help us blast off. Amen.

Commander King: **Okay, Gerdy, permission to blast off. Count down with us, boys and girls. Five, Four, Three, Two, One, Blast Off!**

(Option: Lighting some flash paper next to Gerdy's space shuttle would be effective.)

Gordy: Bye, boys and girls.

Commander King: **Bye, boys and girls.**

**Here's a candy cane,
Shaped like a Shepherd's staff.
Reminding us that Shepherds came,
And found good news that lasts.**

**I wrap this invitation,
As I wish the same for you.
Please join us for a celebration,
Christmas Worship and good news!**

TIME:

PLACE:

**Here's a candy cane,
Shaped like a Shepherd's staff.
Reminding us that Shepherds came,
And found good news that lasts.**

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