

# Keeping Christ

# in Christmas:

## How to keep Christ at the center of the holiday season

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# Santa, reindeer, and elves...oh my!

It is easy to become so wrapped up in Christmas cheer (cue the singing loud for all to hear) and holiday rituals that we forget **the real reason for the season!**

Preschoolers need to know the fundamental truth of what Christmas is all about. As parents, teachers, and directors, we have a unique opportunity to strategically direct our children's attention toward **the greatest gift of them all: Christ.**

Throughout the holiday season, the most important thing we can do in the preschool environment is **keep Christ as the focal point.**

Don't get me wrong...there is nothing inherently bad about leaving cookies out for Santa or opening presents on Christmas morning. The issue arises when we fail to center our celebration around the One who makes celebrating possible.

## So, how do I compete with Santa?

Good news! You don't have to pack up your fluffy, white beard, red suit, and sleigh! Instead of competing against Santa, engage your children in festive activities that are rooted in Christ and the Bible in addition to fun, traditional Christmas rituals.

### Here are a few ideas:

- Ask a few of your church staff to dress up as characters from the Christmas story and share their perspective of the birth of Jesus with your classes. Could your Children's Pastor dress up as a wiseman or your director dress up as Mary?
- Recreate the Journey to Bethlehem with a nativity scene in the foyer of your building
- As a program, sponsor a toy drive or sponsor a family through your church's Angel Tree or another organization
- Take your kids Christmas caroling throughout your building! Silent Night and Away in a Manger are great songs for children to sing!
- Host a birthday party for Jesus
- Teach your children simple scriptures that embody the meaning of Christmas



# Teaching the Biblical Meaning of Secular Symbols



## The 3 Gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

- Gold: represents Jesus' kingly status
- Frankincense: represents Jesus' divinity
- Myrrh: represents Jesus' humanity



## Christmas Trees

Symbolize the birth and resurrection of Christ.



## The Star

Symbolizes the star of Bethlehem that guided the wisemen.



## Christmas Colors; Red and Green

Red symbolizes the blood of Christ and green symbolizes the everlasting life received when you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior.



## Bells

Rung to proclaim the birth of Christ.



## Candy Canes

Represent the shepherd's staff. The red stripe represents the blood of Christ and the white stripe represents his purity.



## Wreath

The ring shape of the wreath symbolizes eternal love.