



Notes:

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The Games

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1. **Snowball Fight.** Split the group into 2 teams. Hand each team a stack of free newspapers (remove the staples beforehand). They have to prepare their ammo by scrunching up paper snowballs. Tape a line on the floor. Teams stay on their own side. When the Christmas music starts they must throw their snowballs onto the other side of the room. When the music stops count up the snowballs on each side. The team with the least wins.
2. **Present Wrap.** Give each group an awkward shaped item to wrap; a large teddy, a skateboard, a football, a leader (boys wrap men/ girls wrap women). Give them paper, tape and a ribbon. Award points for the best gift.
3. **Bethlehem Run Around.** Get the children to sit in a circle. Give them each a character from Luke 2:8-16; Sheep, shepherd, angel. Recap events; there were sheep (*all the sheep stand up and walk in the same direction around the outside of the circle*), the sheep were skipping on the hills (*sheep have to skip*), the sheep were looking for food, they turned and looked the other way (*sheep change direction*), they sat down for a rest (*sheep sit down*). Repeat with shepherds, looking for sheep, running from wolves, etc. Repeat with angels; flapping their wings, zooming across the skies, singing very loud, etc. Wrap up with reminding the children that all this fuss and noise and running was about something very special (*place a doll in the middle of the circle*) all about the birth of Jesus, the saviour.
4. **Ice Ice Baby.** Have bags of party ice from the supermarket with buckets ready. Split children into teams. Children run relay-style over obstacles to get a piece of ice and bring



it back to their team. The winning team has the frostiest bucket. For *extra* challenge; see which leader can keep their hand in the bucket longest!

5. **Decorate the tree.** Have a cheap artificial tree and give the teams unusual items to decorate it with – tin foil, toilet paper, paper plates. Whatever you can find. Best tree wins.
6. **In the Bible / Not in the Bible quiz.** Read out some pre-prepared statements. Children have to stand up if it is in the Bible, or sit down if it is not. E.g. there were reindeer in the fields nearby; a choir of angels sang Jingle bells etc.



The Illustrations

1. **Shopping list.** [Play “Decorate the tree” to link with theme] Have a Christmas shopping bag. Using post-it notes, ask the children to make a list of the things you need to make Christmas special. Stick them on the outside of the shopping bag. Read the angel statements from Luke 2:8-12. All these things in our bag are great, but only when they are helping us celebrate the most wonderful part of Christmas – Jesus. *[Place a doll wrapped in white cloth into of your bag.]*
2. **Greatest gift.** [Play “Present Wrap” to link with theme] Cut out the shape of a cross, with the right dimensions so that you can fold up the sides to make a cube (The long part can be folded to make a side and lid). Place a doll or jelly babies inside and wrap up the box. Open the gift to reveal the baby. Why is this the best gift ever? John 3:16. He’s the best because He was given to us, as a free gift, to save. *[Open the cube to reveal the cross].* Jesus died so that we would not perish but have eternal life.
3. **Has He been?** This is the first question we ask one another in my house on Christmas morning, “Has he been?” We love getting presents from Father Christmas. We have a better reason to ask the question. John 1:14. He has been! Jesus our saviour. He came to this world, becoming a baby to rescue us. He has been, so that we can go... to Heaven forever.



4. **White as snow.** [Play “Snowball Fight” or “Ice Ice Baby” to link with theme] Have a Christmas tree or branch and some snow spray. What do you love about snow? *[Show some snowy scenes]*. When it snows, even ugly places look beautiful. A sparkling, white, pure blanket covers over the mud, the mess and rubbish underneath. Isaiah 1:18. *[Wrap some red material around your tree]* God said to his people, “I know you have a problem you can’t fix: Your sin.” It’s like this red material. To change it, I would need to cover it over. *[Spray with snow spray]* That was what God promised His people, “though your sins be as scarlet (deep crimson red), they shall be as white as snow.”

5. **He came down** Have a doll on a string, hung from the ceiling to lower into a bucket of mud or a manger. Jesus, the king of heaven, he humbled himself. He came down to this earth, not in power as the commander of heaven’s angels, but as a baby, to a manger. *[Lower doll into bucket of mud]* Why would he do that? Why would he make himself so weak and needy? Because this is where we are. *[Point to bucket]* We are weak and needy. Philippians 2:8. He came to die on a cross. He did this so that all of us who trust in Him, *[Stick a model person, like an action man, onto the doll]* those who understand how much we need Him, can be raised to be with Him forever *[Raise doll and action man to the ceiling]*

6. **Christmas Onesie.** Get a Christmas onesie. That’s a Christmas themed all-in-one sleep suit. *[Put a volunteer in a onesie]* You don’t need a top and bottoms. Everything you need to stay warm and cosy; all in one. What would be your perfect Christmas onesie? What would it look like? Isaiah 9:6. Let me tell you God’s perfect Christmas onesie. This is what he knew we needed
 - a. A wonderful counsellor: *[Stick a label on the volunteer’s head, above onesie]* One who would make wise decisions.
 - b. A Mighty God: *[Stick label on arms of onesie]* One who would protect us because he is powerful enough.
 - c. An everlasting father: *[Stick label on chest of onesie]* One who will care for us... forever.
 - d. A prince of peace: *[Stick label on a speech bubble and ask onesie wearer to hold it beside mouth]* One who came bringing the end of arguments.

This is Jesus Christ. We don’t need anyone else. He is our onesie. Everything you need... in one.