

## *Lesson One: The Story of Christmas*

**Objective:** Announce the Good News of the Birth of Our Savior, Lesson One

**Target Group:** Grades 4-8

**Time Required:** 40 minutes

**Materials Required:** Copies of *The Night Before Christmas* by Charles Santore, Art supplies



### **Lesson Plan**

**Background for educators:** Gospel of Luke, specifically Luke 2:1-40

**Lesson Topic:** Introducing the Christmas story to students through the Nativity.

**Goals:**

- a. Remove modern commercialization from the Nativity story
- b. Learn who was present for the birth of Christ, and their significance

**Lesson:**

- a. Have students break into small groups to read *The Night Before Christmas* and the Christmas narrative in Luke 2:1-40.
- b. In small groups, give students time to compare the two stories, finding similarities and differences between them. Ask them which story better represents what Christmas means to them and why. Invite students to share their groups' takeaways.
- c. In large group, ask students what Advent is. Remind them of the wait that Mary and Joseph went through as they prepared for the birth of Jesus. Ask students to share the ways in which they prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Activity**

- a. In small groups, have each group decide on a way they want to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus (Making an Advent calendar, designing birthday cards for baby Jesus, decorating a birthday cake, writing Advent prayers, etc.)
- b. Provide each group with markers, crayons, pencils, and paper to create their special gifts.
- c. Have each group present what they made to the class.