

# A Birthday Party for Jesus!

Hold a Christmas party as a way to get to know the children and parents in your neighborhood, or in your child's school class. Many a child has led his or her whole family to Christ after hearing the Gospel with wide eyes and an open heart.



## **Time**

## **Activity**

**10 minutes**

**Children arrive and get nametags**

Every child signs in on a "map" of the houses on your street. A copy of the completed map makes a nice gift for parents, especially if there are photographs of their children. Children will receive nametags, on which can be written favorite Christmas gifts from past years or what they want for Christmas this year.

**10-15 minutes**

**Craft**

Children make a Christmas ornament to take home and put on their tree. Choose an ornament with a Christ-centered theme; steer clear of secular themes (Santa, etc.) Note: If Santa is raised in conversation in a way that necessitates your honest reply, remind the children that St. Nicholas was a real person who lived 300 years after Christ and who, because of his love for Christ, was generous and kind.

**15 minutes**

**Sing Christmas Carols**

Use the lyrics provided in your packet. Don't be bashful about leading the kids in singing, accompanied by a guitar or piano, if available.

**15 minutes**

**Sharing Time**

Encourage children to share what is written on their nametags or what gifts they are *giving* to others, or what Christmas means to them.

**15-20 minutes**

**The Real Christmas Story**

Gather children on the floor in a circle to hear the Christmas story from an easy-to-understand translation of Luke 2:1-20. Encourage interaction by asking questions, using props or dramatizing with the kids. You may also want to read the story on page 39 if the children are old enough.

**15-20 minutes**

**Eat in a "Safe Area"**

Choose an eating area where messes are easy to clean. Bring out Jesus' birthday cake. Have each child place one candle in the cake ("because Jesus came for *you*, Johnny"). Then sing "Happy Birthday."

Now the party is officially over. Children play until parents pick them up. Make sure they take home their ornament and a copy of the Christmas story. After the holidays invite kids and their parents to see the video or photos you took during the party! Or attach photos to the neighborhood kids' map and deliver!

*"Happy birthday to You,  
Happy birthday to You,  
Happy birthday,  
dear Jesus,  
Happy birthday to You!"*

