



birthday party for Jesus (christmas)

Attraction

A children's party celebrating the reason for Christmas.

*Focus on quality
over quantity*

Bridge

Your children will be hosting a party for Jesus' birthday. While it's fun to have church friends as well, the emphasis is on children who may have never heard the real Christmas story. The atmosphere should be that of a party—fun and festive with a purpose!

Communicating the Gospel

If your children are old enough and capable, they should share why Jesus came to earth. If they have asked Jesus to guide their life, have them say so and tell about it. Parental coaching will be required. If the children are too young or can't do this, a parent should briefly, but with clarity and joy, share why Jesus was born.

Event-Specific Preparation

- Systematically ask families in each neighborhood represented by your church to host a party. Making this a churchwide, same-day multi-site event is a good strategy and allows for advance training as a group. Aim for multiple parties and unchurched guests and do training in a simulated party atmosphere two-to-three weeks before the event.
- Keep it intimate—a guest list beyond 8-to-10 kids will make sharing time more difficult. Focus on quality over quantity.
- Make sure when, where, and RSVP information are included. A brief overview of the activities for the parents is also helpful.
- Because children are involved, it may be a good opportunity to walk with your children as they deliver the invitations and briefly share with the parents something similar to this: "Our family has really enjoyed having a birthday party for Jesus each Christmas. It's helped the kids remember what the holiday is all about. This year we thought it would be fun to have a big party. We'll do a craft, have some fun food and hear the story of Jesus' birth. We hope your kids can come, and moms and dads are welcome too!"

Enlist, equip, and mobilize the following ministry teams. Refer to the Ministry Team Preparation section of the manual for instructions on how the teams will function.

- Counseling/Follow-up Team
- Spiritual Preparation Team
- Effective Prayerwalking