

Sandpoint Stake Primary Music Newsletter

December 2015

Dear Music Leaders,

As the Christmas holiday approaches, what better time to learn of the Savior? It can be a confusing time for the children, too, as they try to figure out what Santa, presents and trees, etc., have to do with Jesus Christ. This is a teaching opportunity. Most of the trappings of Christmas are actually symbols that can remind us of Christ, if we choose. So as you use presents, bows, wrappings to choose songs, take a moment to talk about the greatest gifts of Christmas (see week 2) and how we can give gifts to God by serving others.

*LeeAnn Kopsa, President
Sandpoint Stake Primary*

IDEA SHARE

Sandpoint Ward Conference:

Turkey Toss: Sister Kristin Stroock had a fun way to choose songs, using balloon turkeys and soft fuzzy snowballs. The chosen child tossed the fuzzy snowball at the balloon turkeys. Whichever turkey was knocked over (or off the table) was the next song. The balloons were balanced by big paper feet weighted with pennies. The song was on the bottom.



Service Snowball: Did you notice there are two snowballs in Sister Stroock's hands? The 2nd snowball was passed around hot potato style. When the music stopped, the child with the snowball got to tell a way to do service for their neighbors

Coordinating with Weekly Theme and Sharing Time:

As she introduced the Turkey Toss and Service Snowballs, Sister Stroock asked the children who their neighbors are, and led a brief discussion that included neighbors as those seated by us, those who live next door, our friends, and everyone. This was an excellent way to help the children think about this week's "When I serve my neighbors, I serve God".

When it was time for Sharing Time, the children were already thinking service, already knew what neighbors meant, were thinking about using their hands to help others, and about speaking kindly to those that are different.



Variety: Sister Stroock held the children's attention with variety. Some songs were about Christmas, some were service oriented, some were new to me. A few are summarized below:

The Nativity Song:

Once through using words and pictures from the Christmas binder.

I Have Two Little Hands:

Actions suggested by the words and a discussion of using our two hands for service.

Who is the Child? Using a single picture of the nativity, pointing to the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes, Mary & Joseph.

I'll Walk with You: Asked how we can show our love for others, especially those who seem different from us. Clues for the Service Snowball.

DECEMBER 2015

Suggested Primary Songs:

Prelude: Children hum or softly sing reverence and practice songs as classes come in.

Sharing Time Songs:

Reverence: Picture a Christmas p 50
When Joseph Went to Bethlehem p 38
Jesus Once was a Little Child p 55



Birthday: You've had a birthday p 285

Visitors: We Welcome You p 256 only, repeated twice
Hello p 260

Sharing Time Presentation:

When He Comes Again p 82 OST Week 3
I Will Follow God's Plan p 164 OST Week 4



SINGING TIME SONGS:



Wiggle: I Am Like a Star p 163
Once there was a Snowman p 249
If You're Happy & You know it p 266

THEME: I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Song of your choice) pgs 34 to 54

Stars Were Gleaming p 37
Who is the Child? p 46
The Nativity song p 52
The Shepherd's Carol p 40
Mary's Lullaby p 44
To Think about Jesus p 71
Hosanna p 66
Easter Hosanna p 67
He sent His Son p 34

Faith in God: Teach *Samuel Tells of the Baby Jesus* (p 36) and discuss how this story from the Book of Mormon teaches about Faith in Jesus Christ. Share your testimony. Encourage the children to look up the story in Helaman 13 & 14 and 3 Nephi 1, tell their family, and share their own testimony as part of their Faith in God requirements. (p 6 Faith in God guidebook).

Be prepared to sing a Christmas song in Sacrament meeting.

Other songs of your choice