



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

Messy Christmas / Week 3

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

SERIES BOTTOM LINE

Joy to the world anyway.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

There is no small group component for this script as this short devo takes place in the middle of the Christmas Party.

WEEK 2 BOTTOM LINE

Jesus shows up in the middle of the mess.

SCRIPTURE

- *Matthew 2:1-3, 8 NIV*

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- Hey friends! If we've never had a chance to meet, my name is _____. And I'm just so excited that you're here celebrating "Christmas at the Movies" with us!
- There's something about Christmas characters that just make Christmas way more fun, right?

TENSION

- But when you think about the *actual* characters in the original Christmas story, things were a little more complicated.
- Whether you're familiar with these people and events in the Christmas story or not, my point is that **the very first Christmas wasn't perfect. It was messy and complicated.**
- But **Jesus showed up in the middle of the mess.**

TRUTH

- Check out what the angels said to the shepherds nearby:
 - *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11 NIV).*

- Good news of great joy for all people.
- Good news. Great joy. For all people. Even when things seem messy and not at all how we want them to be.
- No matter how messy or broken things feel in your life right now, Jesus wants to help.
- **BOTTOM LINE: JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MESS.**

APPLICATION

- It's not easy to choose joy when our circumstances are difficult. Hearing how other people still have joy because of Jesus—even when things are messy—can inspire us to choose to have joy in Jesus, too. So today, we're going to hear from a few people who want to be brave in sharing a bit of their story.
- *[Introduce each student who will be sharing and have them talk about their stories one-at-a-time.]*
- Let's thank these students for sharing!
- I know some of you have been through some messy stuff this year, but you're still experiencing joy even though things are less than ideal. That's awesome!
- For others of you, you may feel like you're not doing a good job with this right now. Things are complicated, and you don't feel joyful. That's okay!
- Sometimes, the holiday season brings out the worst instead of the best. We feel down, and it's difficult for us to feel better.
- But **BOTTOM LINE: JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MESS.**
- He wants you to experience the GREAT JOY that He brings!

LANDING

- My hope is that you'll experience that great joy not only during this Christmas season, but all year long



TEACHING SCRIPT

Messy Christmas / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

WEEK 2 BOTTOM LINE

You weren't meant to be the one who keeps it all together.

INTRODUCTION + TENSION

1 MINUTE

Hey friends! If we've never had a chance to meet, my name is _____. And I'm just so excited that you're here celebrating "Christmas at the Movies" with us! I don't know about you, but this is the best Christmas costume party I've ever been to!

There's something about Christmas characters that just make Christmas way more fun, right? Characters like Buddy the Elf, or Rudolph, or even the Grinch! But when you think about the *actual* characters in the original Christmas story, things were a little more complicated. Think about it . . .

TRUTH

6 MINUTES

The people of Israel had been waiting for hundreds of years for a Messiah to show up and save them.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was being gossiped about by everyone in town because she was pregnant, unmarried, and claimed to have been visited by an angel.

Joseph was engaged to Mary and was about to leave Mary until an angel appeared to him as well.

And the famous shepherds that we see in nativity scenes? They were considered outcasts in society at the time.

To make things even more complicated, Mary, while pregnant, had to travel with Joseph to his hometown of Bethlehem. And when they arrived, there were no available rooms, so they had to sleep in a place where animals stayed at night.

And this was the very place Jesus was born.

Whether you're familiar with these people and events in the Christmas story or not, my point is that **the very first Christmas wasn't perfect. It was messy and complicated.** The circumstances were the opposite of calm and joyful. But **Jesus showed up in the middle of the mess.**

Check out what the angels said to the shepherds nearby:

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11 NIV).

Good news of great joy for all people. That was Jesus! Jesus came to us, in the middle of our mess, to show us that God is with us and has so much love for us.

Good news. Great joy. For all people. Even when things seem messy and not at all how we want them to be.

No matter how messy or broken things feel in your life right now, Jesus wants to help. He sees you, He knows you, and He loves you. And He wants you to experience that great joy no matter what your circumstances are.

JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MESS.

APPLICATION

5 MINUTES

It's not easy to choose joy when our circumstances are difficult. Hearing how other people still have joy because of Jesus—even when things are messy—can inspire us to choose to have joy in Jesus, too. So today, we're going to hear from a few people who want to be brave in sharing a bit of their story. We'll hear about how they're experiencing Jesus as He shows up in the middle of their challenging circumstances.

[Introduce each student who will be sharing and have them talk about their stories one-at-a-time.]

Let's thank these students for sharing!

I know some of you have been through some messy stuff this year, but you're still experiencing joy even though things are less than ideal. That's awesome!

For others of you, you may feel like you're not doing a good job with this right now. Things are complicated, and you don't feel joyful. That's okay! Life has its good and bad, and hurt is just as much a part of life as joy. It's real, and there's no reason to pretend like things are perfect. Sometimes, circumstances are tough, and that can overwhelm us. Sometimes, the holiday season brings out the worst instead of the best. We feel down, and it's difficult for us to feel better.

LANDING

1 MINUTE

But **Jesus shows up in the middle of the mess.** Jesus wants to show up in your life because He loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. He wants great things for your life. He wants you to experience the GREAT JOY that He brings!

My hope is that you'll experience that great joy not only during this Christmas season, but all year long. We'd love to see you next year and hope you'll come back to hear more about Jesus and the joy He can bring to your life.