



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

Shake It Up / Christmas Party

[PRELUDE](#) [SOCIAL](#) [WORSHIP](#) [STORY](#) [GROUPS](#) [HOME](#)

SERIES SUMMARY

A 3-week series about the joy of Jesus coming to Earth.

WEEK 1: Because of Jesus, we can choose joy.

WEEK 2: Jesus is the center of the Christmas story.

WEEK 3: Jesus shows up in the middle of the mess.

SCRIPTURE

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).

PREP

Note to Communicator: You can have instrumental Christmas music playing quietly during this entire message time.

In the Application section of your message, you'll select and prepare 3-4 students to share with your group about how they're experiencing Jesus showing up in the middle of their challenging circumstances. Give them the below questions ahead of time and ask them to practice their responses with you or with their small group leader. (This is important so you can coach them how to talk about the "mess" in a way that honors people involved!) Remind your students that they can keep their responses short and simple, and to not use anyone's names. The goal is to help other students relate to things not being perfect all the time. Be sure to encourage them and thank them for being so brave to share with the group!)

1. What's one thing in your life that feels messy right now?
2. What's one way you've experienced joy in the middle of that mess?
3. What's one thing God is teaching you right now?
4. What's one thing you're grateful for this holiday season?



TEACHING SCRIPT

Shake It Up / Christmas Party

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS SHOWS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MESS.

INTRODUCTION

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* people in the original Christmas story, things were a little more complicated.

TENSION & TRUTH

3 MINUTES

Think about it . . .

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

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was being gossiped about by everyone in town because she was pregnant and unmarried. If I had to guess, people were probably assumed a lot of things about her that weren't true.

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 even in the middle of that, Jesus showed up.

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! God sent Jesus to Earth, in the middle of circumstances that weren't perfect, 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 are 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

1 MINUTE

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 aren't going their way can inspire us to choose to have joy because of 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 showing 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 really difficult stuff this year, but you're still experiencing joy even though things aren't the way you want them to be. 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 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.

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!

LANDING

1 MINUTE

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 in the new year and hope you'll come back to hear more about Jesus and the joy He can bring to your life.
