

The Toy That Saved Christmas



What is the STORY about?

Appearing in his own TV commercials, unscrupulous toy maker, Wally P. Nezzzer, has convinced all of Dinkletown that “Christmas is when you get stuff!” With the town’s children begging for more toys, it’s sure to be the worst Christmas ever... until one brave little Buzz-Saw Louie doll decides to take matters into his own hands. With a little help from Grandpa George and a surprise for Mr. Nezzzer at the end of the show, *The Toy That Saved Christmas* reminds children of all ages that “Christmas isn’t about getting; it’s about giving.”

- *A Lesson in Giving*
- *Key Passages: Luke 2:8-20*
- *Running time: 33 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *What did Wally P. Nezzzer do that caused all of the children in Dinkletown to want more toys for Christmas? (He ran an announcement on television)*
- *Mr. Nezzzer claimed the children would stop whining if they had _____.*
(More toys)
- *Who began the search for the real meaning of Christmas? (Buzz-Saw Louie)*
- *How did Grandpa George convey the true meaning of Christmas? (Read the Christmas story of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem)*
- *Who alerted the town that Christmas is not about giving? (Junior...in an announcement from Mr. Nezzzer’s television studio)*
- *Instead of being angry with Mr. Nezzzer, what kind act did the citizens of Dinkletown do? (They gave him a teddy bear)*



What does the BIBLE say?

Read the portion of the Christmas story that Grandpa George told from Luke 2:8-20 as revised here OR read the story directly from a Bible translation that is easy for the children to understand.

In a field near Bethlehem, there were shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared and stood before them. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel told them not to be afraid. The angel had good news about a baby that was born in the city of David—a Savior, Christ the Lord. The angel told the shepherds that the baby could be found lying on a bed of hay, wrapped in cloths. Then a large group of angels appeared from heaven praising God and proclaiming peace on earth. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. There they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying on a bed of hay just as the angel had told them. After they had seen the baby, they spread the good news about the angels and the baby...and everyone was amazed. Mary thought about all of these things and hid them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned to their flocks of sheep, praising God and thanking Him for all that they had seen and heard.

The Story of Christmas



ACTIVITY

Lead a discussion with the children about receiving and giving gifts. Talk about Grandpa George's comment that "givin' gifts makes us feel better than gettin' gifts."

Have paper lunch bags (brown or white) and an assortment of old Christmas cards available for the children to use in making Christmas gift bags. When each child has chosen a bag and a Christmas card, instruct them to cut the front of the card to fit one side of the bag. Help the children glue or tape the card in place and decorate the rest of the bag as supplies (ribbon, glitter, stickers) are available.



What can we DO?

Encourage the children to think of one special person who would enjoy receiving a Christmas gift (elderly relative or friend, shut-in, someone in the hospital, someone who just lost a pet, someone whose family will not be around for the holidays). Brainstorm about homemade gifts that could be given to these special people. The following ideas will get you started:

- *Homemade cookies or candy (made with the help of an adult)*
- *Book marker made of fancy paper or braided ribbon*
- *A picture of yourself mounted on decorated paper*
- *Coupons for your help (washing the car, helping with shopping, reading aloud)*

Use the bag described in the ACTIVITY section to hold your special gift.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **2 Corinthians 8:12** "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."
- **Matthew 5:42** "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."
- **Matthew 7:11** "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

3 Things to remember about the Christmas Story

1. **ANGELS** appeared to the shepherds
2. They hurried to find Jesus, the **SAVIOR**
3. The shepherds **GLORIFIED GOD** for all they had seen and heard

KEY VERSE

(2 Corinthians 9:15) "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

KEY NUGGET

Christmas isn't about getting...it's about giving.

