

SHARE BIG DREAMS *this Christmas*



4-WEEK CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

A companion to the World Vision Gift Catalog

Fun lessons to inspire your children's
ministry to share God's love this Christmas

Hi, I'm Billy the Goat. I'm so excited for your class to follow me and Grampa Goat as we travel around the world. Come with us to see how our animal friends from the Gift Catalog are changing lives—and help your class share big dreams this Christmas by raising funds to give goats like us to children in need!

Billy 

worldvision.org/churchgc





OVERVIEW

These four weeks of Christmas lessons are all about SHARING God's love—and big dreams for kids in need! Our prayer for this season is that your children's ministry will be renewed, and that your students will embrace that Christmas is about so much more than getting gifts ... it's about sharing with others, and being thankful for the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ.

THEMES

Week 1—**SHARING GIFTS**

Week 2—**SHARING JOY**

Week 3—**SHARING BIG DREAMS**

Week 4—**SHARING THANKS**

About this curriculum

- Designed for elementary-aged students.
- Introduces kids to children around the world who are just like them in many ways but whose lives may look quite different because they lack access to many of life's basics.
- Gives your class the chance to put what they're learning into action by raising funds for goats from the World Vision Gift Catalog.
- **Approved by ministry leaders who tell us about the wonderful responses they've witnessed from the children in their classes!**

How the curriculum works

- Lessons include opening activities, Scripture lessons, stories, videos, discussion ideas, crafts, fundraising ideas, and take-home flyers for parents. Fundraising ideas are for outside of class time. Prep work will be needed.
- Spend around 10-15 minutes on each activity or craft (adjust as needed, depending on the size and age of your classes).
- Customize the length of each lesson by cutting activities or adding Christmas songs.
- Ahead of time, download the videos we've provided to accompany each week's lesson (available at worldvision.org/goatvideos).

Let your whole church in on the fun!

Share a short announcement in your morning services about what your classes are up to. You might say something like:

"This Christmas, our Sunday school classes are going to respond to the great news that God shared the biggest gift of all when He gave us His Son, Jesus. We'll be following God's example of blessing others with a gift by raising money to give goats to children in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog. We love World Vision because they follow Jesus, serve children in need, and help entire communities build better futures!

Our goal is to raise _____ to buy _____ goats! How do these goats change lives? Ask a student! They are learning about how goats help kids in places like Burundi, Mongolia, and Zambia.

Want to get involved? You can volunteer in class, donate to students who are raising funds, or help support our fundraising projects. Contact _____ if you're interested."

What other children's ministry leaders are saying

*"I am so blessed to have these kids as my Sunday school students. Not once did they ask, 'What do we get for who raised the most?'" **They are so excited and have looked through your Christmas catalog for three weeks ...***

—Lynda Cobb, First United Methodist Church, Michigan

*"Thank you for the work you do around the world to help children, families, and communities and to spread the message of God's gracious and amazing love. **We will be praying for the families that receive our gifts to be blessed and to come to know Jesus** through their blessings."*

—Ann Flavin, Conneautville Church of Christ, Pennsylvania

*"Every child in our class can tell you more about goats than most Americans know. **We print out stories from the quarterly [World Vision] magazine, put them on our bulletin board, and talk about the lives we are touching ...** We feel that God has blessed our individual lives and the life of our church as we continue to do His will in helping others achieve self-sufficiency with the gift of a goat. You may call me 'Mrs. Sharon, the Crazy Goat Lady!'"*

—Sharon Baker, Spring Valley Baptist Church, Missouri

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Week 1—SHARING GIFTS (Reference: John 3:16)

OVERVIEW: God shared the biggest gift of all when He gave us His Son, Jesus. We can follow God’s example and share gifts with others when we give a goat to a child in need.



OPENING ACTIVITY: PETTING ZOO

In advance, contact members of your church community who could bring a small goat to church on Sunday morning. Or, contact a local farm or petting zoo to see if they can help provide an animal. Set up a small gated area (inside or outside) where the kids can take turns petting the goat before you start your lesson. Make sure to provide a hand-washing station or hand sanitizer for kids and helpers to use.

ALTERNATE OPENING ACTIVITY: WORLD MAP AND GOAT CUTOUTS

Have a large world map printed out or drawn on a big piece of butcher paper. On the map, show where Burundi, Mongolia, and Zambia are located so the students can see where they will be “traveling” to. Be sure to mark where your church is on the map! You can even have older kids help you assemble or draw the map.

Make copies of the goat template on the following page, then have students cut out and decorate the goats with crayons, markers, or other craft items. Have students put their goats on the world map where they would like them to travel.

TALK

How fun to get to talk about goats in our Sunday school class this morning! Did you know that in some countries around the world, goats make a really good Christmas gift for kids? Can you imagine finding a goat under YOUR Christmas tree?

Discussion

- What would you think if you got a goat for Christmas?
- What kinds of gifts have you given to other people for Christmas or birthdays?

What’s the greatest gift that God shared with us?

His only Son, Jesus, who came to Earth to bring us life! Christmas is a special time for us to remember Jesus’ birthday and thank Him for all He’s done for us. We look forward to celebrating Christmas every year, don’t we? Lots of times, the thing we look forward to most is presents. But this year, what if instead of thinking about what we get, we thought about what we could share? God thought about us and loved us so much that He shared with us the most important gift He could give.



What's so special about the gift of Jesus?

READ JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

How should we respond to the gift of Jesus' birth?

Jesus was born to share the gift of life with us. Let's celebrate Him by sharing gifts that bring life to other children! Does anyone remember what can be a great gift for kids in some other parts of the world? **A goat!**

That's why our class is going to raise money to send goats to boys and girls in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog. Let's find out where these goats might travel by going on a journey with two new friends, Billy and Grampa—who just happen to be goats themselves!



WATCH VIDEO:

“Meet the goats” (30 seconds)

worldvision.org/goatvideos

STORY

Now let's follow Billy and Grampa ... to Burundi!

Would anyone like to guess where the country of Burundi [bu-ROON-dee] is? (Once kids have guessed, identify the country of Burundi on your world map.)

We're going to meet a girl named Chania [CHEN-yah]. She's 6 years old, and she is the youngest in her family. She has four older brothers and two older sisters! She lives in a small farming town in Burundi, and her chores include helping her mom take care of their small farm. Her family used to have barely enough for two simple meals each day. But when her family was given a goat from World Vision's Gift Catalog ... it really changed their lives!





WATCH VIDEO:

“#FollowtheGoats to Burundi” (over a minute)

worldvision.org/goatvideos

Discussion

- Do you know anyone who has been to Africa?
- How long do you think it would take to travel to Burundi?
- What are some ways Chania's family has been helped by goats?
- What fun facts can you remember about goats?

Giving one goat is like giving a bunch of different presents!

- One goat can provide lots of milk to drink or to make into cheese or yogurt.
- Goat poop makes great fertilizer, which helps gardens grow.
- Families can sell the milk, cheese, or fertilizer to get money to pay for other things they need, like school supplies and medicine.
- Goats are tough! They can survive harsh weather that other animals don't like.
- When goats multiply, they can help a whole family lift themselves out of poverty!

CLASS PRAYER POINTS

Pray for kids like Chania to get what they need to grow, be healthy, and feel God's love. Pray that we would understand the importance of sharing life-changing gifts with others this Christmas.

CLOSING CRAFT: CREATE YOUR OWN BILLY GOAT BANK

The Gift Catalog is a great way to send goats to kids in need. But first we need to raise money—\$75 for each goat. So let's make something to keep our money in when we ask our family and neighbors for donations.

Create boxes using scrap cardboard pieces, or use empty tissue boxes. Provide a picture of a goat (can be the same one from the above map exercise) for your students to cut out, color, and glue onto their box, along with colored paper they can use to decorate their box like a pasture. Have students write your class fundraising goal on the box and tell them to keep their boxes in a visible area at home, like the kitchen table.

FUNDRAISING IDEA: GOAT NOTES

Before or after services, have a table with blank cutouts of the fundraising goat template (next page). Set your price at \$1 per goat, or another amount of your choice. Ask church members to buy a “goat note” and write the name of a loved one on it. Hang the notes around your foyer or on the giant world map in your classroom. Or the people who donate can give them as actual notes!

Sharing gifts of love

Our Sunday school class is raising money to give goats for children in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog. Help us by giving a donation today! Visit worldvisiongifts.org to learn more.



TAKE-HOME SLIP

Cut this portion out and make copies for each student to take home to show their parents.



WEEK 1—SHARING GIFTS

What I learned: God shared the biggest gift ever when He gave us His Son, Jesus!

Key Bible verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —*John 3:16 (NIV)*



What I'm doing: My class is following God's example of sharing gifts of love by raising money to give a goat to a child in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog.

Challenge: Share why a goat makes a great Christmas gift with at least one person this week.

worldvision.org/goatgift

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Week 2—SHARING JOY (Reference: Luke 2:1-20)

OVERVIEW: Shepherds and animals were the first to share in the joy of Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus. Today, we are going to learn about sharing joy with modern-day shepherds in Mongolia!



OPENING ACTIVITY: PAPER CHAIN COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

After welcoming your kids to class, have them use prepared strips of paper and tape or a stapler to make a paper chain countdown to Christmas (if your class is older, have them prepare the strips of paper themselves). They can add numbers to each chain loop or a Bible verse (which you've pre-printed) from Luke 2:1-20. They can also draw scenes or people from the story of Jesus' birth: the shepherds, the manger, farm animals, Mary, Joseph, or the baby in the manger.

TALK

How many days are left until Christmas? How many days do we have left to raise money for goats? How many of you have been collecting money in your "billy goat banks"? Did you know that the goats we buy will arrive after Christmas? Why do you think that is?

Last week we talked about God sharing the greatest gift of all time with us—Jesus! This week we are going to talk about what happened when the gift of Jesus actually arrived.

READ LUKE 2:1-20

Or have older students read different sections of the passage aloud for the whole class.

Discussion

- What are the differences between where Jesus was born (in a stable) and where babies are born today?
- What do you think the stable was like? What did it smell like?
- Why did God have His angels appear to the shepherds?
- Shepherds in Jesus' time didn't get a lot of respect from other people. How do you think it made them feel to be told about Jesus' birth?

STORY

What do you think it would be like to be a shepherd today? Let's go on a trip to find out!

Either read this to your class, or, for older students, cut the story into portions and have volunteers take turns reading aloud. Consider bringing a laptop or tablet to class and visiting [this link](https://magazine.worldvision.org/stories/a-day-in-the-life-gift-catalog-cover-girl) to share the amazing pictures from this story: <https://magazine.worldvision.org/stories/a-day-in-the-life-gift-catalog-cover-girl>

To get to where 12-year-old Dulamsuren [doo-LAM-sir-REN] lives in Mongolia, you have to drive a long way through the Mongolian countryside ... past eagles, camels, horses, and herds of yaks.

Her family are nomadic herders in Mongolia's countryside. That means they don't stay in one place, but move with their animals every season. Several years ago, the family woke up in their tent after a bad snowstorm and found most of their animals frozen to death. This could have been very bad news, but World Vision helped by bringing them 20 sheep, provided by people like us who gave through the Gift Catalog.

Now, the family wakes up to hundreds of sheep, goats, yaks, and horses! Taking care of all the animals keeps Dulamsuren's family busy. She starts each morning helping milk the goats and the yaks. Yep, yak milk! The milk is churned into butter, and then dried into cakes (that look kind of like cookies!) to eat and sell.

One of Dulamsuren's friends is World Vision staff member Nasanbayar [nah-SAN-bye-YAR], who helped the family get the 20 sheep. Nasanbayar loves to help Dulamsuren milk her family's goats. They also like to play a game called "ankle bones" together, and Nasanbayar helps Dulamsuren braid her hair. But they especially like to look over Dulamsuren's "dream book," where she writes that she wants to become a teacher someday.

Now let's follow our goat friends Billy and Grampa as they go to meet Dulamsuren!



WATCH VIDEO:

"#FollowtheGoats to Mongolia" (over a minute)
worldvision.org/goatvideos

Discussion

- Would anyone like to guess where Mongolia is? (Identify Mongolia on your world map.)
- How did the goats from the World Vision Gift Catalog change Dulamsuren's life?
- What does she want to be when she grows up?
- How has her family shared their joy with others?



What happens when someone gives an animal through the World Vision Gift Catalog? Let's watch how a goat can get from the Gift Catalog to Mongolia!



WATCH VIDEO:

“Journey of a Goat” (about a minute)

worldvision.org/goatvideos

CLASS PRAYER POINTS

Pray for kids like Dulamsuren to grow up and reach their big dreams. Pray that we would spread the joy and love of Jesus this Christmas. Pray that we will be able to raise all the money we need for our gift of goats through the World Vision Gift Catalog, and that the people who receive our gift will feel God's love!

CLOSING CRAFT: NATIVITY ORNAMENT

Print copies of the nativity ornament outline (on the next page) on regular paper. Have the kids cut them out and color them with permanent markers. Punch a hole in the top and tie a loop with orange yarn so they can hang it on their Christmas tree.

FUNDRAISING IDEA: PHOTO BOOTH/GOAT-O BOOTH

Recruit high schoolers or parents to help out with this one!

Create a fun photo booth space in your church and decorate it to look like a pasture or a stable with animals. This can be as simple as a large cardboard box with one side cut out, or a large piece of poster paper with a simple hand-drawn farm background.

Get creative and draw life-size goats and other animals in the booth, or have props nearby for families to use—stuffed animals, simple goat-face cutouts attached to popsicle sticks, “shepherd” robes (bathrobes), etc. Provide a donation box with a requested donation amount for anyone who wants to take photos of their families and kids with their smartphones.

If you want to go all out, have someone take professional photos and make printouts available the next week for anyone who orders them (people LOVE physical photos!). Consider purchasing and attaching magnetic strips so families can hang the photo on their fridge.

cut here ✂



“Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

—Luke 2:11 (NIV)



Coloring example

TAKE-HOME SLIP

Cut this portion out and make copies for each student to take home to show their parents.



WEEK 2—SHARING JOY

What I learned: Shepherds and animals were the first to share in the joy of Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus. We can share the joy of Jesus' birth by providing animals to modern-day shepherds, like 12-year-old Dulamsuren in Mongolia!



Key Bible verse

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” —*Luke 2:11 (NIV)*

What I'm doing: My class is following God's example of sharing gifts of love by raising money to give a goat to a child in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog.

Challenge: Keep raising money for our goats! Go Christmas caroling with your family around your neighborhood or go door-to-door with a parent asking for canned food for your local food bank. Tell each neighbor about your goat fundraiser and ask if they would like to donate.

worldvision.org/goatgift

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Week 3—SHARING BIG DREAMS (Reference: Matthew 2:1-12)

OVERVIEW: The wise men followed their dreams and started the tradition of sharing presents with a child—Jesus! Our class is going to follow in the wise men’s footsteps by helping others chase their big dreams this Christmas.



OPENING ACTIVITY: GOAT COSTUME CONTEST

Have kids divide into teams of three or four, and give each team masking tape, brown streamers, construction paper, markers, and scissors. Then set a timer and tell them that they have four minutes to decorate one person as a goat. You can even invite congregation members to judge who is the best goat! The winning team gets a small prize of your choice. Other teams can get a smaller prize for competing.

TALK

You all did such a great job creating a goat costume! Last week we learned about Dulamsuren, the shepherd girl in Mongolia, and how the gift of animals brought joy into her family’s life. This week, we are traveling to another far-off place to see how a gift like this helped another family dream big!

But first ... we are going to read about a journey that happened a long, long time ago, soon after the first Christmas. Can anyone guess which part of the Christmas story I’m talking about? That’s right! The wise men. Let’s read about them together.

READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

Or have older students read different sections of the passage aloud for the whole class.

Discussion

- Many people think that the wise men visited Jesus when He was a baby in the manger. But the wise men were actually traveling when Jesus was born, and they arrived much later, when Jesus was older. Does anyone want to guess how old? *Some people think He might have been as old as 2!*
- The journey that the wise men took was very far, and it took them a very long time. They wanted to worship Jesus so much that they might have spent nearly two years looking for Him. Have you ever looked for something for two whole years?
- Why do you think Herod wanted to keep it a secret that the wise men were looking for Jesus?

STORY

The wise men followed their dreams and started the tradition of sharing presents with a child—a child named Jesus! This Christmas, our class is following in the wise men’s footsteps by helping others who live a long way away to chase their big dreams.

We are going to travel to a distant country called Zambia. There, we’ll learn about one kind grandma named Lita, and about all the ways that goats have helped her and her grandkids ... as well as the big dream she’s saving up for.

Don’t forget! This is our last week to raise money to send World Vision goats to those in need.



WATCH VIDEO:

“#FollowtheGoats to Zambia” (about two minutes)
worldvision.org/goatvideos

Discussion (if students are stumped, consider watching the video again)

- Where do you think Zambia is? Can you find it on our world map?
- Can you name some of the things Lita was able to buy because of her goats?
- Lita did a lot of nice things for her family. Can you think of something your parents or grandparents worked hard to help you with? What are ways that you work hard to help others?
- What is Lita’s big dream? Do you have a big dream for your life? Did you know you can talk to God about your hopes for your life? He LOVES when you talk to Him.



CLASS PRAYER POINTS

Pray for Lita, her grandkids, and her whole community in Zambia to feel God’s love and be successful in everything they do. Pray for our class to have a great time with our families over the Christmas holiday, and that we would all be inspired by the story of the wise men to give gifts that honor Jesus.

CLOSING CRAFT: STAINED GLASS WISE MEN

This is a very simple and beautiful craft! Print copies of the next page on transparency film and cut out around the outside of the black template, but don’t cut out the inside space. Provide different colored tissue paper and instruct students to glue small squares of the tissue paper to the back of the transparency, in the clear space. You can expand this craft by purchasing small suction cups with tiny hooks and punching a hole as shown so that the stained glass creations can be hung on a window.



cut here 

Cut only the outline of the trees and base. Do not cut out the inside space.



Tissue paper example

FUNDRAISING IDEA: THREE EASY, LAST-MINUTE WAYS TO HIT YOUR GOAL

- Tell students that if you beat your class goal, you will wear a funny hat, outfit (dress like a goat!), or costume to class the week after Christmas.
- Tell your class that the student who raises the most money gets to pie you in front of the class, or even the whole church. Another (less messy) option is to let that student choose between a popcorn and a donut party for the whole class; or, you can create a special basket with some low-cost, fun Christmas items in it, such as hot cocoa packets, mugs, marshmallows, and a Christmas ornament or a Christmas storybook.
- Have students offer to do extra chores or jobs for family or neighbors in exchange for goat money.

TAKE-HOME SLIP

Cut this portion out and make copies for each student to take home to show their parents.



WEEK 3—SHARING BIG DREAMS

What I learned: The wise men followed their dreams and started the tradition of sharing presents with a child—Jesus! This Christmas, my class is following in the wise men’s footsteps by helping others chase their big dreams.

Key Bible verse

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. —*Matthew 2:11 (NIV)*



What I’m doing: My class is sharing gifts of love by raising money to give a goat to a child in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog.

Challenge: This is our last week to raise money—keep asking for donations, and be sure to bring in your “billy goat bank” next week with donations you’ve collected!

worldvision.org/goatgift

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Week 4—SHARING THANKS (Reference: Philippians 1:3-4)

OVERVIEW: Being thankful for others and for what we've been given is very important. Now it's our job to show our thanks by helping others and sharing God's love.



OPENING ACTIVITY: COLLECT DONATIONS

You will need extra people (consider asking reliable student leaders) to help you this week with counting the money during classtime.

Welcome your students and have them stack their “billy goat banks” filled with donations at a special table you have set up beforehand. When each child turns in their box, make sure they get a candy cane, sticker, or other special treat of your choice.

TALK

Thanks for remembering to bring back your boxes today! I can't WAIT to see how much money we raised to help send goats to children and families in need. Thank you for working so hard at this.

Discussion

- Is everyone looking forward to Christmas?
- I'm going to pick three people to tell me what their favorite part of Christmas is. Not what you get for presents, but what you enjoy the most!

When we truly celebrate Jesus' birth, it helps us remember what's most important: being thankful to God and sharing with those in need.

There's a great Bible verse that encourages us to help others. It reminds us that the people we're helping are thankful for us. When people who receive our goats think about you, they will do it with great joy!

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ...

Discussion

- Who in your life brings you joy when you remember them?
- We have been given so much by God. What's a good way for us to thank Him?
- What are ways that we can pray for those who receive our goat gift?

STORY

In the last three weeks, we've learned about three families who had their lives changed because of World Vision and kind people like you who offer to buy life-changing gifts for children around the world. *Can you name the people we met and the places we visited? What do you remember about their stories?*

We've also learned about how useful the gift of a goat is ... but did you know goats are kind of funny, too? You know how sometimes it's hard to sit still when someone wants to take your picture? Well, it's even harder for a goat!



WATCH VIDEO:

“#FollowtheGoats OUTTAKES!” (over a minute)
worldvision.org/goatvideos

How about one more silly video? World Vision goats make the best gift, right? Well, it sounds like there are a few other animals from the Gift Catalog who think they make great gifts too! In this funny video, you'll hear chickens, sheep, cows, bunnies, ducks, and more tell you why *they* could be your favorite animal to give.



WATCH VIDEO:

“Goats make the best gift ... right?”
(about two minutes)
worldvision.org/goatvideos

Discussion

- Did you see any other animals that might be fun to give to others?
- Should we raise money to buy another animal gift sometime?

CLASS PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for all we have learned, and for Jesus' birth and the chance to celebrate it at Christmas. Pray that families around the world who are still in need will receive help from generous people through the World Vision Gift Catalog and other ways.

CRAFT: THANKFUL CHRISTMAS TREE

Make copies of the Christmas tree and ornament templates (on the following pages) and have your students cut out the ornaments. Before gluing the ornaments on their trees, have students write one thing on each ornament that they are thankful for—suggest thinking of things they have that kids in other countries (like Burundi, Mongolia, or Zambia) might not have (food, clean water, shoes, etc.).

CLOSING ACTIVITY: A SWEET THANK-YOU

Announce the grand total your class raised and celebrate with cupcakes or another fun treat. Your students worked really hard so that someone else could have a better life, and that is worth a big celebration!

TAKE-HOME SLIP

Cut this portion out and make copies for each student to take home to show their parents.



WEEK 4—SHARING THANKS

What I learned: Being thankful for others and for what I have been given is very important. Now it's my job to show my thanks by helping others and sharing God's love.



Key Bible verse:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ...

—*Philippians 1:3-4 (NIV)*

What I did: My class followed God's example of sharing gifts of love by raising money for goats for children in need through the World Vision Gift Catalog. This week we had a fun celebration in class!

Challenge: Go out of your way to say thank-you to a friend or family member for something they've done for you. Write a short letter or draw something cool for them!

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