



This event outline is based on the movie, The Star. The Star is a funny movie about the birth of Jesus as told from the perspective of the animals! This is a great movie for families and suitable for all ages from child through adult. Very young children may find some of the characters scary in some parts. It is not necessary to have watched the movie to participate in this event.

Event Outline

This event includes 4 interactive stations and a closing Finale Celebration. Adapt as necessary for your context. This event has been designed in a way that any church or group of families could host with minimal cost and set up. This event is designed to be intergenerational. Adults and children should be participating together!

Visit www.thestarmovie.com for more details of this movie as well as the resources used.

Supplies Needed:

Registration sheets (whatever form you use to sign in families)

Name Tags (optional)

Table activity sheets and any needed supplies (pens, pencils, crayons, scissors)

Latex gloves with holes poked in them (one glove for each team)

Buckets (2 for each team)

Balloons (you determine how many you want to use for the game)

Cotton Balls (at least 5 per person)

Petroleum jelly Bowls (2 for each team or person)

Jingle bells

Plastic eggs

Rice or some similar item

Tape

Star shaped glow sticks

Cut out paper stars



Overview of Activities:

5:30Pm: Arrival with Table Activities

Families are greeted at a Welcome Table where they register/sign in and proceed to the room where activities are set up. Print copies of a variety of the movie activities you would like to use and any needed supplies. (See <http://www.thestarmovie.com/thestaractivities>)

6 pm: Pizza Dinner

6:30 pm: Interactive Stations

Participants are divided by families into 4 groups. Families should move through the 4 stations together. The number of families participating will determine how you divide into groups. For example if you have 6 families then 2 groups will have 2 families together. You will need to determine the order in which families will rotate through the stations, the time they will spend at each station and how you will communicate station changes.

4 Stations: (12-15 minutes per station)

Cyrus the Camel Station (Relay Race)

Have family members partner up. If there is an uneven number in families, either have them partner with another person or create a team of 3. After everyone is in partners, divide the pairs into 2 teams. Families consisting of more than one pair do not need to be on the same team. Designate a starting line and finish line in a space large enough for a relay style race. Pairs will take turns getting to the finish line with various body part combinations. For example, elbow/knee. One person will put his/her elbow to the other person's knee and move as quickly as possible to the finish line, turn around and come back, tagging the next pair in line. You need one person to be calling out body part combinations for each new pair. The first team to complete the relay sits down. Variation: Instead of teams competing against each other this could be a challenge for pairs to complete between two points. Examples of body part combinations: Elbow/Knee, Hand/Shoulder, Nose/Toes, Nose/Knee, Head/Knee, Ear/Nose, Finger/Nose, Back/Back, Shoulder/Shin, Hip/Knee.

Edith the Cow (Fill the Bucket)

Divide families into 2 teams. Each team has 1 latex glove with holes poked into it to be used to transfer water from one bucket to another. One person should hold the glove and fill it with water while everyone else uses fingers to cover the holes, keeping as much water as possible in the glove. The first team to complete the challenge sits down.

Variation: You could make this a timed event, with multiple teams competing at the same time to get the most amount of water transferred within a specified time.

Zach the Goat: (Balloon Keep Up)

Keep a balloon up in the air using only your head. This challenge offers many different options. You could divide people into teams or have everyone doing it at the same time. This could either be a timed event, keeping track of how many times the balloon drops within the time limit or you could count how many times the balloon is head-butted before it hits the ground. There could be one balloon in play or you could continue to add more balloons to make it more challenging.

Ruth the Sheep (Nose Dive)

This game is a popular "Minute to Win It" style game. The goal is to transfer cotton balls from one bowl to another using only your nose that has been covered with petroleum jelly. Depending on the number of people participating in your event you could choose the way to do this challenge. Options could include having participants divided into 2 or more teams, with representatives from each team competing or, if numbers and time allows having everyone participate at the same time.



7:30pm: Celebration Finale (Bo the Donkey)

The Celebration Finale will include storytelling and music of the Christmas Story, emphasizing the theme of light as you share about Jesus, the Light of the World. Making jingle bells and egg shakers available for people to use during music (or any time it would be appropriate) is a great way to invite participation beyond singing and is a fun way to celebrate.

Note: you can purchase small bells from a dollar store and make your own simple eggs shakers using plastic easter eggs and rice. Tip: Tape around the middle of the egg where it joins together to avoid any 'spills' of rice!

You should plan this celebration in a way that makes sense in your context. An option is to have someone lead a few familiar Christmas songs and a storyteller that will creatively share the biblical story of Jesus birth. Another person can lead into a response time based around the theme of light (Jesus is the light of the world) which could include participants receiving a star shaped glow stick. Participants can also be given a 'take away' challenge of coming forward to receive a paper star with a word on it. This word should be a characteristic of Jesus that families can reflect upon and discover ways of living out that characteristic or shining the light of Jesus throughout the Advent season.

Movie Discussion Guide

If you do watch or have watched the movie here are some question prompts for discussion you can use or give to families to take home:

Which of the characters did you like best? Why?

What feelings did you experience in this movie?

A new star appears. Why is this star different? What is so special about it?

What does Messiah mean? Who is the Messiah? Why is he important?

Why does Bo pray? Do you pray? How do you pray? Is prayer important?

Is Dave a good friend to Bo? Why? What do we learn about friendship?

What do you think about the dogs? Why do you think the animals save them? Would you save them? Explain.

Discuss that Bo wants to be part of something important in his life but he keeps missing out on what he thinks is important. In the end he discovers he is part of something important but he didn't even realize it.

Discuss Mary's quote: "just because God has a plan doesn't mean it will be easy."