

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE GAMES

By Shirley Davis

Christmas Math Puzzle

Players can work in pairs or teams of mixed ages. All the answers are found in Matthew chapter 1 and 2, and Luke chapter 1 and 2. First answer the following four math problems, using the key below:

- A – the number of years that Anna was a widow
- B – the number of generations from Abraham to David
- C – the number of days after Jesus’ birth that he was circumcised
- D – the number of months that Elizabeth hid herself when she was pregnant
- E – the number of years that Anna had lived with her husband
- F – the number of gifts given to Jesus from wise men
- G – the number of pigeons offered as a sacrifice in the temple by Mary and Joseph
- H – the number of months Mary stayed with Elizabeth
- I – the age in years of the male children killed by Herod in Bethlehem

Problem #1    A – B = \_\_\_\_\_

Problem #2    C x D = \_\_\_\_\_

Problem #3    E + F + G = \_\_\_\_\_

Problem #4    H + I = \_\_\_\_\_

Then SUBTRACT answer #2 from answer #1 and MULTIPLY the result by answer #3. Finally ADD the answer #4 to get your final answer, which tells us when Jesus loves us.

FINAL ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Balloon Race

The following verses are written separately on scraps of paper, and then inserted into balloons, which are then inflated, using a different color balloon for each block of verses. Each of the four teams of participants is assigned a color, an identical bible (**KJV**), paper and pencil. The teams line up behind the starting line each with their 9 balloons opposite them at the end of the room. The 1<sup>st</sup> team member of each team must run and get one balloon, then return and hand it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> member, who runs and gets a second balloon. He then hands BOTH balloons to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and so on, until the 9<sup>th</sup> member returns with all 9 balloons. Then the team must burst their balloons and encounter the 9 scraps of paper. With the aid of the Bible, they must look up each verse and write down the FIRST LETTER OF THE FIRST WORD of each verse, and then rearrange the resulting 9 letters to form a word from the Christmas story.

- |                  |                |                 |                  |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1) Matthew 13:49 | 2) Exodus 9:18 | 3) Joshua 23:13 | 4) Matthew 13:51 |
| Genesis 10:9     | John 14:17     | Matthew 13:55   | Ephesians 4:3    |
| John 15:2        | Genesis 10:2   | Genesis 10:1    | Joshua 1:13      |
| Ephesians 6:23   | Matthew 13:37  | John 15:13      | Genesis 10:21    |
| Mark 12:27       | Joshua 15:39   | Exodus 9:20     | Mark 12:15       |
| Luke 10:11       | Proverbs 14:13 | Proverbs 16:5   | Exodus 9:16      |
| Joshua 1:13      | Luke 10:16     | Ephesians 5:16  | Luke 11:54       |
| Proverbs 14:22   | Ephesians 2:5  | Luke 11:12      | Proverbs 13:21   |
| Exodus 9:19      | Mark 12:19     | Mark 12:37      | John 11:24       |

## Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Read each of the following verses in the Bible to discover an article or something that reminds us of Christmas, then find an example of each (you cannot leave the building!). The first team to bring all seven examples (that are acceptable) wins.

Genesis 2:11

Matthew 2:2

Jeremiah 10:3,4

Exodus 30:35

Proverbs 18:16

Mark 16:1

Exodus 23:20

## Answers to Christmas Puzzles

Math Puzzle – Problem #1 =  $84-14$  Problem #2 =  $8 \times 5$  Problem #3 =  $7+3+2$  Problem #4 =  $3+2$  Answer 365 – every day of the year!

Balloon Race – 1) Shepherds 2) Bethlehem 3) King Herod 4) Jerusalem

Scavenger Hunt – gold; star; Xmas tree; perfume/frankincense; gift; spices/myrrh; angel

Note – variations of these games can be played – e.g. Instead of using balloons, hide the scraps of paper (different color per team) around the room or play area. Teams hunt verses on paper of their color.