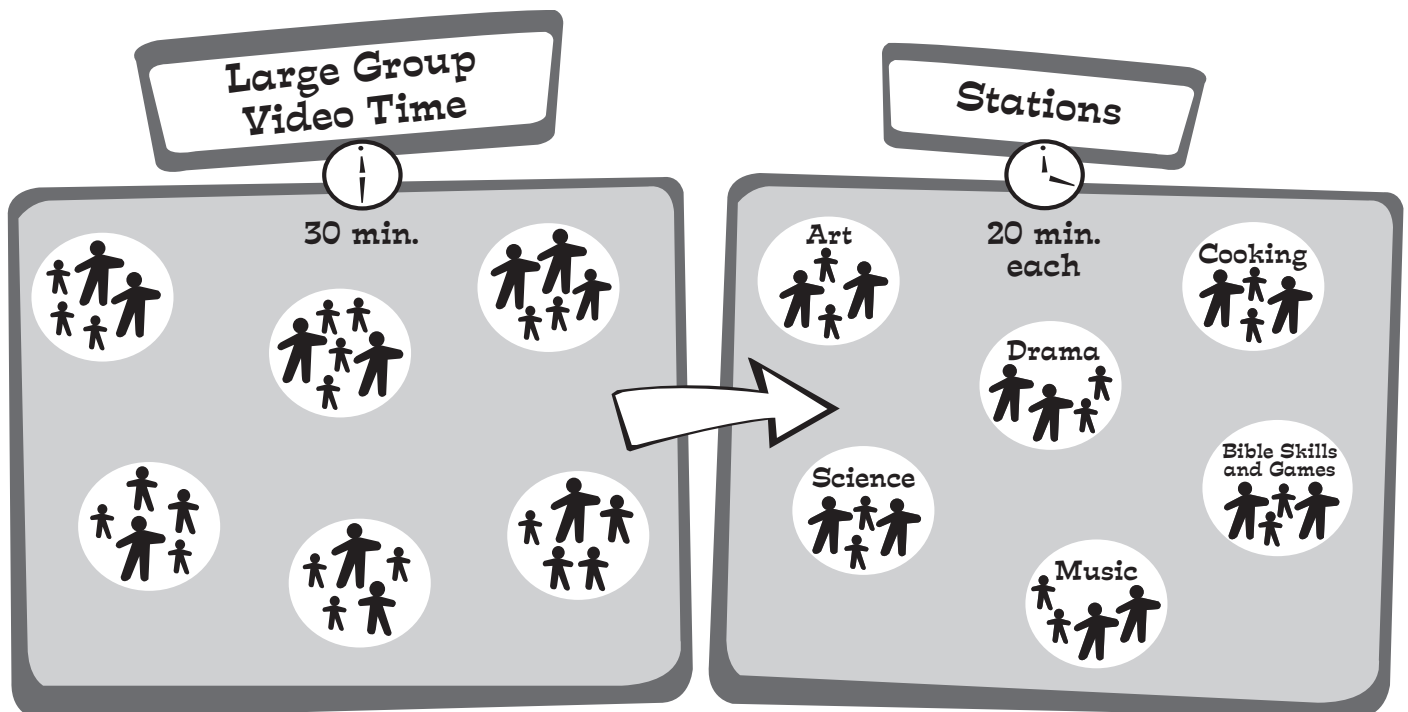


Introduction

Welcome to the Spark Christmas Family Festival! This multigenerational experience will help prepare your congregation for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. People of all ages will view the award-winning video, “The Story of Christmas,” followed by fun and learning at activity stations. The result is people of all ages gathering together to experience the excitement, hope, and joy of Advent and Christmas.

How It Works

The Spark Christmas Family Festival can be customized to fit the size, budget, traditions, and needs of your congregation. This all-ages event is planned for 2-3 hours. Everyone will view the 25-minute animated movie “The Story of Christmas” before rotating through several stations. The full event includes six stations that each take about 20 minutes. This Sampler includes complete instructions for the Art station.



As participants arrive, they can decorate a name tag and find a seat. Show “The Story of Christmas” to the group. Then divide everyone into smaller groups and give directions for rotating through stations.

After dividing into small groups, participants rotate through several stations to experience story-related activities.

Station Descriptions

Depending on your church's size and available time, choose and customize the stations to create your own Spark Christmas Family Festival. Recruit volunteer leaders who can guide participants through the activity at each station.

Art: Participants will make an Advent wreath to help count down the weeks until Christmas and focus on the stories of Mary and Elizabeth waiting for their babies to arrive.

Bible Skills and Games: Drawing skills are helpful but not necessary for a spirited game of The Great Christmas Sketch-Off! Teams of all ages will draw, guess, laugh, and work together while recognizing many parts of the Christmas story.

Cooking: Participants make angelic sweet treats using pretzels, chocolates, and candies to remind them of the multitude of angels in the stories of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. For a service project, participants can give some of them to a local organization or to homebound members.

Creative Drama: Participants act the parts of the star, angels, Mary, Joseph, and the magi at this station. Through simple props and costumes, people of all ages can creatively express themselves using cues from a narrator to act out the story of the magi visiting Jesus.

Music: Participants form an impromptu choir as they sing four Christmas carols and learn fun behind-the-scenes trivia about these songs. Recorded audio or music videos can be used as accompaniment for your carolers.

Science: Participants will be reminded of how the Christmas story in Luke's gospel begins with Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem for the census. They'll learn how a census works by counting animals in different ways.

About Serving Others during the Season

The complete Spark Christmas Family Festival provides a service idea to extend the reach of this event.