***Christmas Cliffhanger***

**Object:** Using only their breath, preteens will attempt to blow a Christmas card, standing ‘tent-style,’ across the width of a table, getting it to hang over the edge for 3 seconds.

**Supplies:**

Christmas Cards (inexpensive ones, or make them out of blank card stock)

Long table(s), depending on how many players

Timer

**Preparation:**

* Stand a Christmas card “tent-style” along one edge of a table (1 card for each student participant).

**How to Play:**

* Pick students to play the game (You can play this game in multiple rounds to give more students a chance to participate).
* Explain that preteens are to use only their breath to blow their Christmas card across the table, so that one side of the fold hangs over the edge of the table for 3 seconds.
* Students may not use their hands or any other part of their body.
* The game is one minute long. (Or you may choose to see who can successfully complete the challenge successfully the fastest)
* Ready, set, GO!

***Break It Down***

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:13–15 (Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt)

**Main Point:** Have you ever had to get out of someplace really fast, for your own safety? Maybe not, but you’ve probably played a game where someone was ‘it’ and chasing you, right? That’s what happened to Mary and Joseph not long after Jesus was born. King Herod felt threatened by this newborn King. And thinking He would be the kind of king who rules with a huge army with swords and shields, Herod wanted to get rid of Him! Mary and Joseph escaped to Egypt and had to wait until Herod died to return to their home. During that time, they didn’t know if Herod would find them or not so they spent a few ‘cliffhanger’ years because they weren’t sure how the story would end.

The awesome news for us is that we know how the story ends. God protects those He loves and He loves you and me a ton! That doesn’t mean you won’t ever have any scary moments or ‘cliffhangers’ in your life. But it does mean that because God sent us the gift of Jesus, He will protect us as He writes the amazing story of our lives!