



Good Tidings Great Joy!

CHRISTMAS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Day One



1



READ TOGETHER:
Luke 1:26-38

Activity:

**SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL
UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

As you sing your Christmas carol, think of all the wonderful ways this scripture describes Jesus:

- He will be very great.
- He will be called the Son of the Most High.
- He is a King.
- He will reign forever.
- His Kingdom will never end.

“Don't be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Luke 1:30 - 33



Day Two



2



READ TOGETHER:
Matthew 1:18-24

Activity:

GUESS WHAT

One player, the answerer, picks a Christmas themed object. All other players ask the answerer “Yes” or “No” questions to guess what the object is. If no one guesses correctly after 20 questions, the answerer has won and picks a new object for the next round. If someone does guess correctly, that person gets to pick the object for the next round.

Take a moment to think about the meaning of each of these Christmas themed objects.

Christmas Lights:

Represent Jesus being the Light of the World.

Christmas Gifts:

Represent Jesus being the greatest gift ever given to mankind.

The star or angel on the top of the tree:

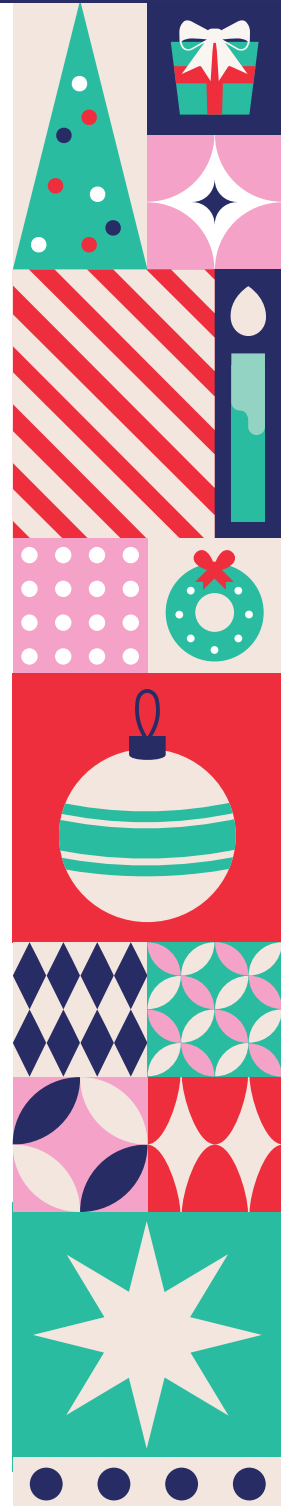
The star represents the star the wise men followed to find baby Jesus, and the angel on the top of the tree represents the angels that appeared in the sky to the shepherds.

Christmas Decorations:

Represent the joy that Jesus came to give us at Christmas time.

Christmas Tree:

Our reminder at Christmas of the eternal life we can have through Jesus.



Day Three



3



READ TOGETHER:
Luke 2:1 - 2:7

Activity:

CHRISTMAS CHARADES

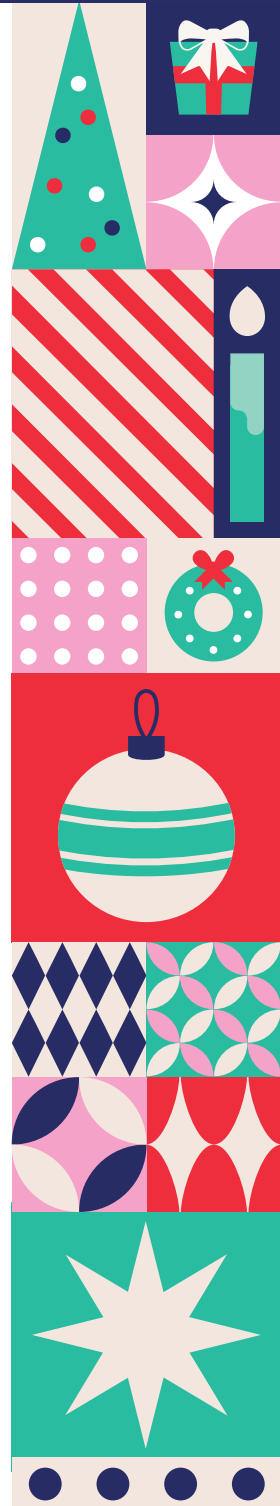
Let one member of the family choose one of the following characters:

1. Mary
2. Joseph
3. Donkey
4. Shepherd
5. Wise Men
6. Inn Keeper
7. Angel

Without saying a word, use actions to act out and describe which character you have chosen. Let the rest of the family try to guess who you have chosen.

As the family guesses each character, talk about the special role that each character played in the Christmas Story.

Once each character has been guessed, discuss the special role God has for you to play at Christmas time this year. Can you be a messenger of good news like the angel and share the good news of Jesus? Can you be obedient to God like Mary and Joseph? Can you make room for Jesus like the Inn keeper? You can make room for Jesus in your life by going along to church, reading your Bible, and being kind like Jesus. Can you worship Jesus by giving gifts like the wise men?



Day Four



4



READ TOGETHER:
Luke 2:8 - 18

Activity:

NAME THAT CAROL

Choose one of the following Christmas Carols:

1. Joy to the World
2. Away in a Manger
3. Silent Night
4. We Three Kings
5. Oh Come all Ye Faithful

One at a time, hum the carol to the rest of the family. Let the rest of the family guess which Christmas carol you are humming.

Take a moment to talk about the meaning of the words of each of these Christmas carols.



Day Five



5



READ TOGETHER:
Matthew 2:1 - 2:12

Activity:

CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT

Hide some 'treasure' around your house (chocolate, candy cane, a special note) and write between three to five clues that will create a trail to find the 'treasure'.

Once the treasure has been found, sit down and reflect on how at the very first Christmas, the wise men followed the star to find the greatest treasure ever given to the world, Jesus.

Some questions to help your discussion:

Q: What did the wise men do when they found Jesus?

A: They worshipped, and they gave Him gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh).

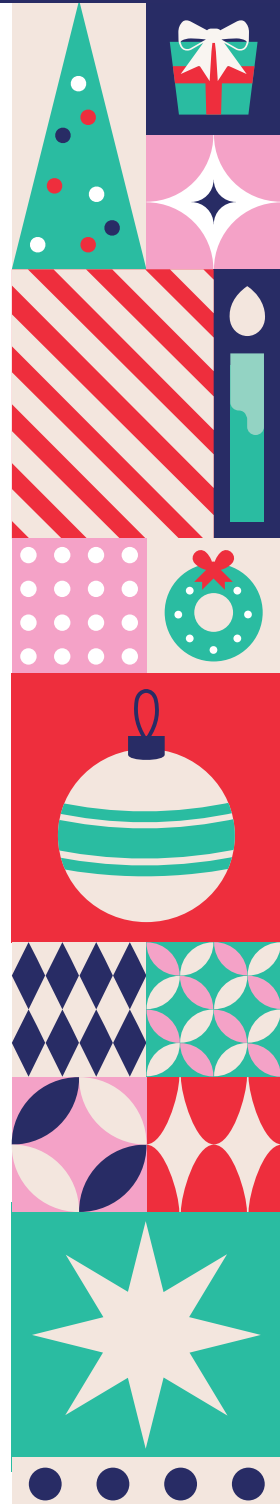
Q: At Christmas time, as we celebrate Jesus, what response can we also have that the wise men had?

A: We can worship, and we can give gifts.

Q: What kind of gift might Jesus want us to give to Him this Christmas time?

A: Our worship, just like the wise men. Our time as we celebrate him at church services. The most important gift of all: our hearts and our lives as we choose to live for Jesus and worship Him every day throughout the year, not just at Christmas time.

Now that you've found your 'treasure', why not sing a song of worship to Jesus to worship Him just like the wise men did at the very first Christmas.



Day Six



6



READ TOGETHER:

Isaiah 9:1-2

Isaiah 9:6-7

Activity:

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Turn all the lights off so the room sits in darkness. Then, turn on either just your Christmas tree lights or the light of a torch.

While you sit in the light of your Christmas lights or of your torch, reflect on all the ways Jesus' birth brought light to our lives and our dark world.

The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light. For those who
live in a land of deep darkness, a
light will shine. For a child is born
to us, a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his
shoulders And he will be called:
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2, 6



Day Seven



7



READ TOGETHER:
John 3:16-17

Activity:

GIVE A GIFT OF KINDNESS

What you will need:

- A piece of paper for each person in the family doing the devotional.
- A pen for each person in the family doing the devotional.

Each person in the family has to write a card for the person sitting on their left-hand side.

The card has to include:

- One reason they're grateful for that family member.
- Two things that they really admire about that family member.
- One thing they enjoy doing with that family member.
- Three things they think are amazing and unique about that family member.

These cards are a special 'gift of kindness'. Take a minute to give these 'gifts of kindness' to each other.

As you give these gifts of kindness, discuss how when we give gifts at Christmas time we are imitating God our Father who gave mankind the greatest gift ever on that very first Christmas Day, when He gave us Jesus. Often at Christmas we give physical gifts bought from a store, but as a family discuss other 'gifts of kindness' you can give to those around you this Christmas that don't cost money (like kind words, kind actions).

