

# Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.



## DAY 1

### Read Micah 5:2

It's December and you know what that means? It's almost Christmas! Grab a piece of paper and set a timer for one minute. Write down everything you think about when you think about Christmas.

What did you write down? There are so many wonderful things about Christmas. But we can't forget the most important thing: Jesus, God's greatest gift.

God made a promise to send a Savior. And long before Jesus was born, God told Micah to share this special message with the people: out of the small town of Bethlehem, a Savior would be born! God always had a plan to send us Jesus.

### Christmas is about Jesus

Grab a marker and write JESUS in big block letters across your page. Spend some time thanking God for all the wonderful things you love about Christmas. Then ask God to help you focus your attention this year on Jesus, the greatest gift ever.

## DAY 2

### Read Isaiah 9:6

God had a plan to send us Jesus but when Isaiah spoke these words about Jesus, it would be about 700 years before Jesus was born! Isaiah said that Jesus would be our...



**(look back at today's verse and fill in the blanks below):**

Wonderful ..... : Jesus will direct and guide us in the right direction.

Mighty ..... : Jesus came to rule and lead with love and compassion, more powerfully than any earthly king.

..... who lives forever: Jesus was with God in the beginning and will be with us always.

..... who brings peace: Jesus came to bring peace by dying on the cross and being raised again so that we could have a relationship with God forever.



Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. Of these four descriptions of Jesus, which one is your favorite and why?



DAY 3

**Read Isaiah 7:14**

What are your plans for Christmas? Maybe everything you're hoping for this Christmas will go according to plan. But maybe, your plans will change.

But, God's plans are different from our plans. When God promises to do something, it's as good as done.

Look back at today's verse. Remember, Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. And yet, this message about a baby being born? It came true. We celebrate Christmas because God always had a plan and that plan was to send Jesus.

**Weekly Planning**

Look at the calendar below and think about the week ahead. Write in all your plans you know about for this week. As you look at the calendar, thank God for the plan to send Jesus. Ask God to help you make plans that put Jesus first this Christmas season.

12/4	12/5	12/6
12/7	12/8	12/9
12/10		

DAY 4

**Read Luke 1:30-31**

What would you do if an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in your bedroom? When it happened to Mary, she was terrified. But the angel told her not to fear because Mary had been chosen to help fulfill God's big rescue plan. Though she was scared and unsure, Mary said to the angel, 'May it happen to me just as you have said.' She was ready to take on the challenge ahead because Mary knew that God had chosen her to carry out this plan!

**The Angel and Mary**

Grab the angel and Mary from your Nativity scene. If you don't have a Nativity scene, any action figures or stuffed animals will do—or you and your family can act out the parts yourselves! Read Luke 1:26-38. Write out a script retelling this part of the Christmas story. Select different voices for each character (Mary and the angel). Use the nativity characters to act out the scene you've written. Have an older sibling or family member record it on video to share with your family. If you have the capability, add music or sound effects too.

**God always has a plan.**

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## DAY 1

### Luke 1:46-49

When the angel appeared to Mary with a very important message, she did what we would probably do. She asked, "How can this be?" Immediately, her mind went to all the reasons why this seemed impossible. But then the angel made a statement to stop all that confusion. Check out Luke 1:37 and fill in the blanks below.

"...what God says will .....

....."

Luke 1:37

When God promises something, it's as good as done. God made a promise to send a Savior and that promise was about to be fulfilled! So Mary said, "May it happen just as you have said." Then she worshipped God.

### A Christmas Carol

Say a prayer or create a song using Mary's words below. Feel free to add your own words too.

"I praise the Lord. I delight in God my Savior.  
He noticed me when no one else thought I was important. The Mighty One has done great things for me. Because He is Holy."

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 1:18-20

Zechariah was a faithful priest who loved and served God. But when the angel appeared to tell him his wife would soon have a baby, he was so confused.

Basically, Zechariah said to the angel, "Do you know how old I am? And that my wife's really old too?" Because of his doubt, the angel said he'd be unable to speak until after the baby's birth.

Zechariah and his wife did have a baby and they named him John. John would grow up to tell everyone about his famous cousin, Jesus! John would be the one to say, "Look! The Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I've been talking about!"

### Keeping Quiet

Think of something that happened today that you really want to tell someone about. Write down what happened, fold it up and stick it under your mattress in your bedroom. See if you can wait a whole 24 hours before you tell someone! Then think about Zechariah and his doubt. Ask God to help you trust and believe with all your heart that anything is possible with God.

DAY 3

### Read Matthew 19:26

Some things are just impossible. You can't heal a friend who is sick. You can't feed your whole school with just one Happy Meal. You can't walk on top of the water. Or command a thunderstorm to stop. Jesus did those things because He is God.

When Jesus spoke these words, He was saying that it's pretty much impossible for a person who doesn't think they need anything to understand they really need God. Thankfully, God makes a way for us to see our need and experience the life Jesus came to bring. When we experience the love of Jesus, we can see how anything is possible with God.

DAY 4

### Read Colossians 1:21-23

God made the whole world, including people like you and me. We are made in God's image! From the beginning God had a special plan for people, but over and over again, people decided to do what they wanted to do instead of following God's best for their life. This separated us from God, but God still chose to love us. Jesus came to show us just how much God loves us. We celebrate Jesus' birth in a big way because Jesus came to save us!

The good news of Jesus isn't just for you and me. It's for everyone! Because of Jesus, everyone who believes can be with God forever. Isn't that amazing? Only God could do that! Because anything is possible with God.

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#### An Invitation

Can you think of a friend who needs to know that God loves them? Sit down with your family and talk about who you could invite to church with you this Christmas season. Create a special invite and make a plan to attend church together.

Anything is  
possible with God.

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## DAY 1

### Read John 3:16

Christmas is just around the corner. Maybe you have a tree up where you live or go to school. It could be that you're starting to see wrapped gifts appear under the tree for the people in your family. It's so fun to give gifts at Christmas time!

We give gifts because God gave us the best gift ever. When we put our trust in Jesus and what He's done for us, we're accepting God's gift! When you believe in Him you have or receive a relationship with God forever.

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#### Best. Gift. Ever.

Write out this verse on a piece of paper and illustrate it any way you choose. Then, wrap it up in a box with a gift tag that reads "FOR: EVERYONE." On Christmas morning, select one member of your family to open the gift and read the verse together. Talk about the real reason you celebrate this very special day because Jesus is the greatest gift.

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 2:7

Did you catch the part that talks about Mary wrapping baby Jesus in large strips of cloth? In ancient times, babies were swaddled in yards and yards of white cotton or linen cloth. Jewish mothers believed that if they swaddled their babies tightly in this way, their arms and legs would grow straight and strong!

This little detail from the night Jesus was born is a big reminder that Jesus, though He was God's one and only Son, came to earth as a tiny, helpless baby. Just like any baby, Jesus needed Mary and Joseph to care for Him.

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#### Swaddle Me

Grab a big blanket. Ask your Mom or Dad to demonstrate how they swaddled you as a baby. It's probably a lot harder to wrap you up this way at your age! As you laugh through this silly assignment, talk about how God chose to send Jesus as a baby, the greatest gift of all.

DAY 3

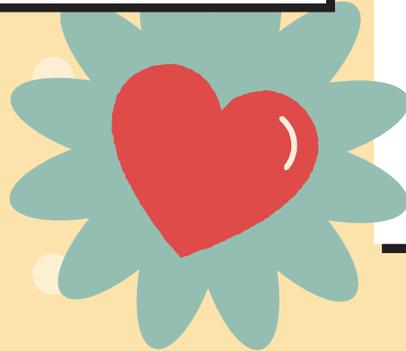
**Read Galatians 4:4**

When the time was right, God sent Jesus to save the whole world. But He didn't come down from the clouds on a golden chariot surrounded by an army of angels.

Jesus came as a baby, like us. It's why Isaiah said Jesus would be called Immanuel which means God with us. By becoming like us, Jesus not only understands what it's like to be human, he also made a way for all of us to be forgiven.

**Countdown to Christmas**

Write out today's verse on a card and read it as a family Christmas morning. As you prepare for the big day, remember that Jewish people had been preparing for this day for generations because Jesus is the greatest gift!



DAY 4

**Read John 1:14**

When John talks about "the Word," he was talking about Jesus! Write "Jesus" in the blanks below and read the verse aloud.

"..... became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And ..... is full of grace and truth." John 1:14

When God sent Jesus to earth as a baby, Jesus became like us. That means Jesus experienced what life is like in our shoes. He knows what it's like to be happy and sad, scared and peaceful. On top of that, Jesus came to make a way for us to have life forever with God.

**Grace and Truth**

Draw a heart around the word grace and a cross over the word truth in the verse above. Then stop and pray and thank God for sending Jesus for you, the greatest gift ever given.

**Jesus is the greatest gift.**

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## DAY 1

### Read Luke 2:9-10

On the night Jesus was born, God sent an angel to appear to a group of shepherds watching over their flocks outside of town. And they were terrified. But the angel didn't want them to be afraid because they came to share the best news ever—Jesus was born! And that good news is still the best new ever!

#### Who Do You Know?

Grab some paper, a pen and set a timer for 2 minutes. As the timer runs, make a list of all the people you know. When the time is up, write your name at the bottom of the list. Then, read today's verse aloud filling in the blank with all the names on your list, including yours!

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you GOOD news. It will bring great joy for .....'" Luke 2:10

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 2:11

As we celebrate Christmas this week, we also get to celebrate Jesus, our Messiah who restores our relationship with God. And that is a gift for EVERYONE!

With an adult's permission, create some salt dough ornaments to hang on your Christmas tree using the recipe below. Write out today's verse on a strip of paper and punch a hole in the top. Run a piece of yarn or twine through an ornament and the verse strip to hang on the tree.

**Salt Dough Ornaments**  
**4 cups all-purpose flour**  
**1 cup salt**  
**1 ½ cups warm water**

Mix the flour and salt together, then slowly add the warm water. Once dough starts to come together, use your hands to knead dough until smooth. Roll out the dough with a rolling pin until thin, about 1/8 of an inch. Use cookie cutters to create your favorite Christmas shapes and punch a small hole at the top with a straw for hanging. Create different patterns on the surface of each ornament with a fork, straw, a pair of scissors etc. Move the ornaments to a cookie sheet and bake at 300 degrees for about an hour. Once completely cool, decorate any way you choose.

**Read 1 John 5:11**

Why is Christmas such a big deal? Jesus was born and grew up to point people to God. Jesus changed the lives of everyone who chose to follow Him. When we put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God forever!

**Word Search**

Find the words from today's verse in the puzzle below.

**GOD ETERNAL LIFE  
SON US GIVEN**

S	O	E	G	I	V	N	E
O	U	T	F	U	P	T	H
G	I	E	V	S	O	L	U
U	F	R	I	F	G	O	D
S	O	N	H	A	I	N	A
T	N	A	L	I	V	O	P
Q	U	L	I	F	E	R	T
G	E	T	E	R	N	I	X

**Read John 10:11**

Did you know that sheep are mentioned more than any other animal in the Bible? How many times would you guess? Write it down in the blank below:

.....  
*\*See the answer in the TINY print at the bottom of today's devotional*

Sheep are pretty defenseless. They rely on their shepherd to protect them. Jesus compares Himself to a good shepherd who does everything He can to keep the sheep safe.

**All We Like Sheep**

Why are there sheep in the nativity scene? Who were the first people to hear the good news about Jesus' birth?

Read John 10:11 to your family. ASK:  
 Why do you think Jesus calls himself the "good" shepherd?  
 How does Jesus define a shepherd who is "good" in this verse?  
 What did Jesus do to prove He is our good shepherd?

*Over 500 times*

**The good news is  
for everyone.**

DECEMBER  
2022

## Elementary



# The Big Give: Get wrapped up in Christmas

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.



### Week One

#### Jesus Is Promised

Isaiah 9:6-7

God always has a plan.

### Week Two

#### Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary

Luke 1:5-66

Anything is possible with God.

### Week Three

#### Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the greatest gift.

### Week Four

#### Shepherds and Angels

Luke 2:8-20

The good news is for everyone.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."  
Luke 2:11, NIRV



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# Elementary

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



## Morning Time

As your kid starts their day, share something about their personality that feels like a gift to you and to others.



## Meal Time

At a meal, have everyone at the table answer this question: “What are our plans for Christmas—what do we need to do and what else do we want to do?”



## Drive Time

While on the go, ask your kid: “What is your favorite Christmas song?”



## Bed Time

Pray for each other: “God, thank You for the way You have worked in our lives in the past. We trust in Your plan for the things we will face tomorrow and in the future.”

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