

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Read Jeremiah 29:11

DAY

1

Song of Joy

After the angel, Gabriel, visited Mary she was a little confused but very joyful. She was so joyful that she sang a song! Think of all of the things that make you happy and sing a song about them. Here are some examples of tunes you could put your words to: Twinkle, Twinkle, The Wheels on the Bus, Jesus Loves Me.

Thank God for the joy He puts in your life!

DAY

3

Plans For You

Although we like to make our own plans, God can always change them because He knows what's best. Read Jeremiah 29:11 with someone in your home. Then, talk about some plans that you have for your life that you would like God's help with. Talk about what you hope for!

Look for God's plan and your plan to work together!

DAY

2

What I Really Want

Think of a time that you really wanted something. Did you ever get it or did God give you something different? Maybe you really wanted a baby brother and you got a sister instead. Or you really wanted ice cream but got a snow-cone instead. God always knows what's best for us so that's why sometimes He allows us to have something different than we expected. Draw a picture of something you wanted on one side of a paper and draw what you got on the other side.

Know that God always gives us exactly what we need.

DAY

4

Pray About the Plans

Talk to God about the plans that you talked about yesterday with someone in your house. Ask Him to help you work towards them or guide you through them.

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 "Dear God, I am so glad that You already know what my life will be like. You know what I want and what I don't want. Please, help me with \_\_\_\_\_ (something you want). Help guide me and lead me. Amen."

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Ask God to help you with your plans for the future.

**Celebrate because
God has a plan.**



Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

DAY 1

Read Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah was a prophet, a person who spoke for God. He helped people know about God and how God wanted them to live. Isaiah spoke these words so that people would know that one day, God's only Son would be born. God wanted His people to know that a Messiah, a Savior was coming!

God had a plan from the very beginning. It was a plan to rescue us. God is perfect and holy. Our sin, the wrong things we do, breaks our relationship with God. But because God loves us, he made a way to fix that broken relationship! When we trust in Jesus because of what He did for us on the cross, we can have a relationship with God forever. Isn't that amazing?

God with Us Ornament

The name Immanuel means "God with us."

1. Grab a piece of heavy paper and write the word, "Immanuel," in a cool font. You can decorate it any way you choose.
2. Flip the paper over and write "God with us."
3. Cut around the words to create a cool shape.
4. Punch a hole in the top and run some yarn through the hole to create an ornament to add to your Christmas tree!

DAY 2

Read Micah 5:2

About the same time Isaiah was telling people about God sending His son, God gave another prophet named Micah a special message. Micah told the people that a very special birth would take place in the town of Bethlehem. These messages from Isaiah and Micah helped the people know that one day, Jesus, God's only son, would be born.

The people waited and waited for a very long time for this promised Savior. God had a plan all along! And guess what? At just the right time, Micah's words given to him by God came true. Jesus was born in Bethlehem! We can celebrate Christmas because God has a plan!

Make a prophet puppet!

1. Grab a paper bag.
2. Draw a face on the bottom.
3. Draw a mouth on the folded edge.
4. Place your hand inside the puppet and move his "mouth" to share Micah's special message saying, "God's Son will be born in Bethlehem."

DAY 3

Read Matthew 1:20-23

Do you like surprises? Have you ever been surprised by something or someone? Was it a good surprise or a not so good one?

When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he was overwhelmed. After all, they weren't even married yet. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him that this baby was very special. The baby Mary was carrying was Jesus, the one that the prophets Isaiah and Micah had spoken about so long ago. Jesus would be born because of the promise God made. God's plan was moving fast and Mary and Joseph had been chosen to play such a significant part! Talk about a big amazing surprise!

Joseph's dream helped him understand a little bit more about God's plan and his part in fulfilling it. Can you imagine the conversations he and Mary must have had about this little baby and their future? Soon, Mary and Joseph were married and anxiously awaited the birth of this very special baby! God had a totally amazing plan for sure!

DAY 4

Read Luke 1:30-33

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she was terrified. After all, no one expects an angel to suddenly show up unannounced! And his message was even more confusing. Mary wasn't even married and now she's being told she's going to have a baby? What would Joseph say? What would her parents say? What would the people in her community say?

Remember, God had promised to send His Son. Years had passed as God's people waited and waited. And now, Gabriel is here to say, "Guess what, Mary? That promise is about to come true. God is with you and He has chosen you!"

That's why Christmas is such a big deal. We celebrate because God has a plan.

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Fill in the blanks below with the missing vowels. As you finish, take some time to thank God for keeping His promise to send His Son Jesus, just as He planned.

C ..... l ..... br ..... t ..... b ..... c ..... s...

G ..... d h ..... s ..... pl ..... n.

**Celebrate because  
God has a plan.**

Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



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Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

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2. You learned:

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3. You'd like to know:

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Go to [bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreeteen](https://bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreeteen) and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

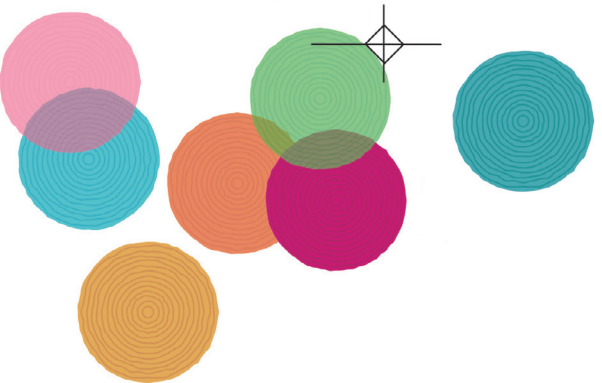


## Day 2

**Read Luke 1:26-56**

As you read Luke 1:26-56, put a box around the sentences or paragraphs describing Mary's plans. Then put a circle around the places where God's plan for Mary is revealed. Lastly, highlight the places where Mary accepts and even celebrates what God has planned. If you can, you can even put exclamation points, smiley faces, and any other happy emojis next to the celebratory passages.

Sometimes we tend to box God in—including His plans for us. But when we start to see—and accept—the plan God has for us, it leads to something truly worth celebrating!



## Day 3

**There is probably no better time to talk about God's plan, which may be very different from ours, than Christmas.**

Probably everyone has experienced the letdown of high expectations when it comes to Christmas. Whether it's a plan to decorate your house or room a certain way, expectations of certain gifts you'll receive, or a plan to save up and give a lot of gifts to others that they will absolutely love, sometimes those plans just don't turn out the way we expect. In those times, it's important to remember that Christmas means that God had a plan to send us a Savior, and that same God has a plan for YOUR life!

Walk around your house and find some things that remind you of God's plan—and how that is worth celebrating: maybe it's a nativity set your family sets out every Christmas, or some Christmas cards sitting on the counter that remind you of the wonderful people God has put in your life.

Find a couple of examples of God's plan, and as you take it all in, read this prayer out loud:

"Dear God, thank You for the plan that You have for me! Sometimes it's hard to celebrate when the things I plan don't turn out the way I expected, but when I remember that You have a plan and that Your plan is good—and for our good and Your glory, I can celebrate! Help me celebrate because You have a plan. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

## Day 4

**We don't know what was going on in Mary's head the day before she had a visit from Gabriel, but we know for sure that it wasn't a plan to be the mother of the Savior of the world.**

But when her plans changed, she chose to celebrate because God has a plan. She even wrote a joyful song about God's plan!

What is something about God's plan that you can celebrate? It could be something personal in your life—something that you didn't expect that is awesome or even challenging. Or it could be the miracle of Christmas: that God sent Jesus to be our Savior!

Grab a friend or family member and a Christmas treat (hot chocolate is always a win!) and talk about what you're intentionally celebrating. Ask them to share what they can celebrate because God has a plan, and share what you wrote down yesterday. Together, brainstorm ways you can celebrate that plan and pick a date to check in to see how the celebrating is going.

## Day 5

**When has something worked out differently than you expected?**

Christmas is just a week away, and chances are, some things have already worked out differently this month than you expected. Sometimes things turn out better than you ever dreamed.

When things work out differently than we expect, it can be hard to think about celebrating. But the truth is, there is always something to celebrate—some times we just have to look at it a different way to see it!

When you look at this illustration, what do you see?



Depending on how you see things, you might see a vase, or you might see two face looking at each other. But now that you know that the other perspective exists, you can fix your mind on that way of looking at things and voila!—it's a whole new world.

Hang this illustration up somewhere you will see it this week to remind yourself that God's plan is at work. But when you see it, be sure and celebrate because God has a plan!

