

Light Show: Let the Christmas celebration begin

First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

John 3:16, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Bottom Line

Celebrate because God has a plan.

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

Activity

Planning Presents

What You Need:

Gift bags in an assortment of sizes, and "gifts" (toys from around the house) in an assortment of sizes (you'll need the same number of gifts as bags, and each gift should be able to fit in a bag)

What You Do:

Place all the gifts on a table. Then place all the empty bags on the table, but have them folded so their sizes don't show.

Say, "We've got to make a plan to put every gift in a bag. Without touching the bags, try to guess which gift fits in which bag."

Guide your child to place a gift in front of each folded bag. The prompt them to place each gift in the bag they chose. If it doesn't fit, set it to the side. Then say, "How did your plan work out? Was it a good plan? Now that you've seen the bags, would you make a different plan?"

Allow your child to shift the gifts into the bag that best fits.

Talk About the Bible Story

You came up with a plan to get the gifts in each bag. In our Bible story today, who had a plan for Mary? (God)

Why did Mary sing a song to God? (*She was full of joy because of the news that she would be Jesus' mother.*)

How was Jesus a part of God's plan? (*Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.*)

Sometimes things in life don't go the way we expect. How can we remember to celebrate God's plan, even when things don't go our way?

Parent: Share about a time when you didn't understand God's plan in the moment, but later, you were able to see what God was up to.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, we know the names of our friends and we can pray for each other, but YOU know EVERYONE! You have a good plan for each and every one of us. You loved us so much that You gave us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us remember to celebrate because You have a plan for each of us. Amen."

Light Show: Let the Christmas celebration begin

First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears
to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Key Question

When has something worked out differently than you expected?

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

Activity

Ornament Roll

What You Need:

a few large gift bags, several non-breakable round ornaments (or other round Christmas decorations), masking or painter's tape

What You Do:

Mark a starting line with the painter's tape. Place the gift bags on the floor, about 15 feet away from the start line. Put a couple bags on their side, at an angle so the opening is not directly facing the starting line. Place one bag on its side, with the opening straight toward the start line.

Say, "Let's see how well you can roll these ornaments into the gift bags. You have to stand behind the start line, but you can move around to get a better angle, as long as you stay behind the line. Try to get one ornament in each bag."

Watch your child play. As they roll the ornaments, ask, "Do you have a plan for how to get the ball into the bag? What's your strategy?" Play a few rounds and let your child see if they can get better and more accurate at getting the ornaments in the bags.

Talk About the Bible Story

What was your plan for getting each ornament into the bag? Was it a good plan?

Whose plan did the angel share in our story today? (*God's plan*)

Why did Mary sing a song to God? (*She was full of joy because of the news that she would be Jesus' mother.*)

How was Jesus a part of God's plan? (*Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.*)

Sometimes things in life don't go the way we expect. How can we remember to celebrate God's plan, even when things don't go our way?

Parent: Share about a time when you didn't understand God's plan in the moment, but later, you were able to see what God was up to.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, we know the names of our friends and we can pray for each other, but YOU know EVERYONE! You have a good plan for each and every one of us. You loved us so much that You gave us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us remember to celebrate because You have a plan for each of us. Amen."