December 2021

DAY

Week Four

#### **1st Grade**

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

Read Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

#### Can't Stop, Won't Stop

Even though Christmas is over, we don't have to stop celebrating Jesus! With the help of an adult, have them get a candle and light it. Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus but change up the words to: "Happy Birthday A-gain, Happy birthday a-gain, Happy Birthday dear Jesus, we love to celebrate you! "

Look for people that you can keep celebrating Jesus with!

## DAr 2

#### **Dance Party!**

Every good celebration needs a game of Freeze Dance! Turn on some awesome tunes and dance around the house, when the music stops shout "Yay! Jesus was born!"

Ask others how they celebrate Jesus all year long.

# Never stop celebrating Jesus.

## DAr 3

DAY

4

#### I See!

Look up this week's verse and read it a few times. Once you get the hang of it, lay on the floor and pretend to stargaze. While you are stargazing, say your verse aloud and shout the word "Joy!"

# Thank God for giving the special sign to the shepherds.

### A Gift for Me

God sent His son, Jesus to earth as a gift for us. If we believe in Jesus, we have an amazing gift of a relationship with Him and a place in heaven. Thank God for the amazing gift that He gave us that we celebrate this season.

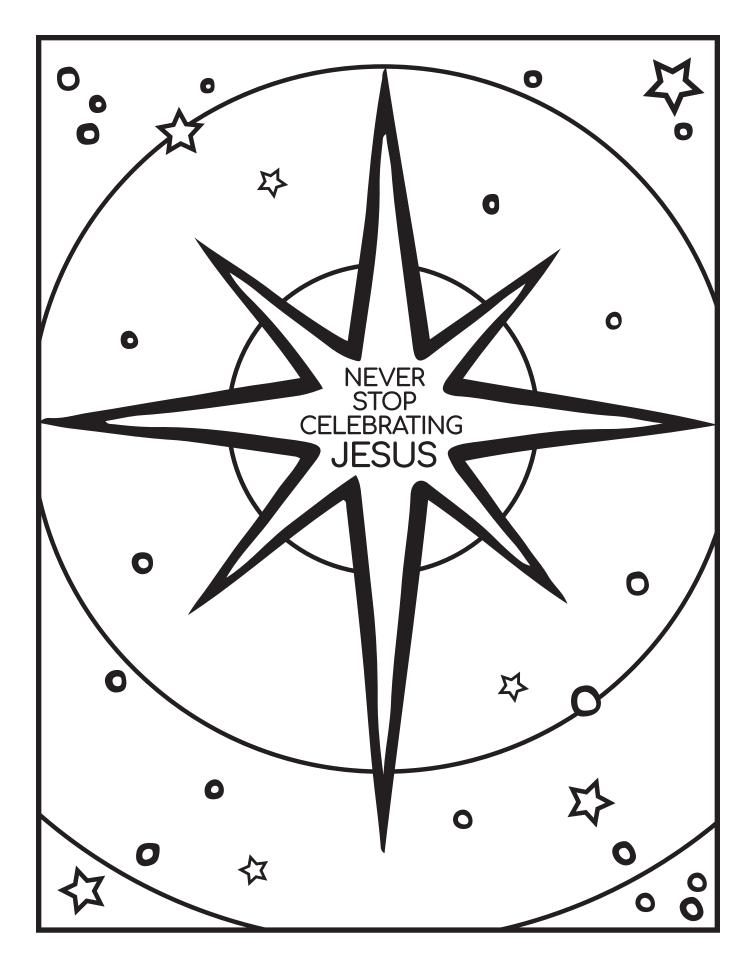
"Dear God, Thank You so much for sending Jesus as an amazing gift. I am so thankful that I get to be His friend. I pray that You can help me get to know Him better so I can tell all my friends! Amen."

Know that the best gift God can give is His son.



**A Devotional on Christmas** 

There's More! -



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

#### DAY 1

#### Read Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born, wise men from the East traveled to find Jesus. What did they follow? Yes, a star! Here are a few fun facts about stars...

- ➤ The Milky Way is the galaxy in which our Solar System resides. It is estimated to contain anywhere from 100 to 400 BILLION stars.
- ➤ Most of the stars you see in the sky at night are BIGGER and BRIGHTER than the sun!
- Did you know that stars are different colors? The color is determined by the star's temperature. And while you might think hotter stars would be RED, the opposite is true. The hottest stars are BLUE, followed by white, yellow, orange and red. The coolest stars are brown!

These wise men didn't follow the GPS on their phones to get to Jesus! God has His own supernatural miraculous way to get them there so they could celebrate Jesus! DAY 2

#### Read Matthew 2:7-8

When you read King Herod's words, you might be tempted to think he had good reasons for questioning the wise men. But King Herod was being tricky. He didn't want to find Jesus so he could worship Him. King Herod wanted to get rid of Jesus. Why? Because Herod didn't want anyone else in charge. He was the king and he wanted to keep all his power.

But Jesus is the King of all Kings. No matter what Herod tried to do, he wasn't powerful enough to stop God's plan! Jesus wouldn't be the kind of king who would sit on a royal throne like Herod. God sent Jesus to be the king of our hearts. Jesus came to make a way for us to be forgiven so we can have a relationship with God, forever.

That's why we celebrate Christmas. The celebration doesn't have to stop once the calendar roles over to December 26th. We can stop and thank God every single day for sending Jesus to us!

What is one way you could celebrate Jesus today?

There's More! -

#### Read Matthew 2:9-10

Think about the last time you were filled with joy.

Was it . . .

- ⇒ on your birthday
- ➤ when your team won the championship game
- ➤ when your teacher said, "Guess what? NO homework!"

When the wise men saw the star that led them to Jesus, they were filled with joy!

Nothing can compare to the gift of Jesus. God sent us the most precious, perfect, valuable gift ever when He sent His only Son.

#### Star Sayin'

- Grab a piece of paper and draw a star. (Tip: If you have a star cookie cutter in the kitchen, you can trace around it!).
- Decorate your star anyway you choose and write today's bottom line on the page: Never stop celebrating Jesus.

Every time you look up at the night sky and see a star, thank God for sending Jesus, His only Son, so that you could be filled with joy!

ARENT CUE

Read John 3:16

DAY 4

Do you have a nativity scene at your house? Are there three wise men bowing down before baby Jesus? The Bible never says there were exactly three wise men. We do know they brought three gifts but there could have been two or five of them who showed up that day.

Before you run off to tell your Mom why your nativity scene is incorrect, just stop for a minute and think about how amazing this all truly is. God loved us so much that He gave us Jesus.

The celebration doesn't have to be contained to Christmas Day. We should never stop celebrating Jesus.

Today's verse (also our memory verse for December) is basically God's great big plan summed up in two sentences. Do you know it by heart?

Come up with a fun way to learn this verse and then work until you can say it from memory!

## Never stop celebrating Jesus.

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



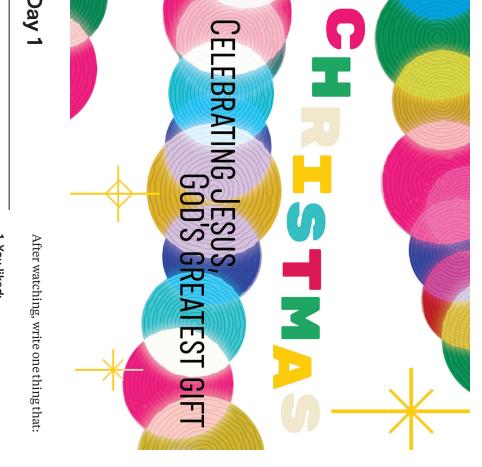
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December 2021





# Day 1

and watch this week's episode of The Go to bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen So & So Show.

2. You learned:

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

3. You'd like to know:

1. You liked:

FOR AN everyday faith.

A Devotional on Christmas

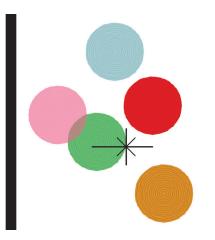
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# Read Matthew 2:1-12

As you read Matthew 2:1-12, look at each of the following ways the wise men celebrated Jesus.

- They gave Him gifts
- They bowed down
- They searched for Jesus
- They worshipped Him
- They were filled with joy

Now, look at each of the points above. Each of these is a way that you can celebrate Jesus in the coming year as well! You can keep searching to find and know God better. You can worship Him—in song and with your life. You can bow down to pray and tell God how great He is. You can give Jesus the very best gift you have—your heart. And you can be filled with joy as you keep celebrating Jesus long after Christmas ends!



# Day 3

Just as the wise men bowed to worship the Son of God long after the shepherds had returned to their fields and Mary and Joseph had left the place where Jesus was born, you aren't limited to only celebrate Jesus during Christmas!

One of the ways you can keep celebrating Jesus is by talking to Him in prayer every day.

If your family has a Christmas tree and it's still up, go sit by the tree and pray this prayer. You could also play Christmas music quietly in the background.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior! This is a really fun time of year when the whole world seems to recognize that You are worthy to be celebrated. But I want to keep celebrating You even after the tree and lights come down. Please help me to remember that I should never stop celebrating Jesus. I want to celebrate God's gift every day, not just at Christmas. Help me to do that by showing others your love with my words and actions. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

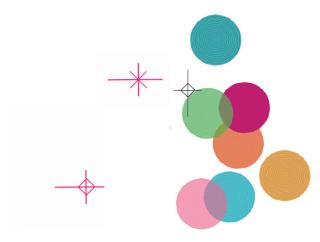
# Day 4

It will be a lot easier to keep the celebrating going year round if you can get your family on board too.

Then together, talk about some things you can do to keep the Christmas spirit going in the new year.

Maybe you can celebrate Jesus by going to church as a family every Sunday you're in town. Or you could commit to do a family Bible study a couple of times a month. You could start a family prayer list on the fridge or somewhere else in the house where everyone can share needs and celebrations that you can talk to God about. Or maybe you will select a non-profit or a local family in need that you can help in some way.

There are so many ways to keep celebrating Jesus, so talk about it and make a plan!



# Day 5

How can you celebrate Jesus all year long?

2021 is almost over, but the party to celebrate Jesus is just getting started. Before you pack up all the Christmas decorations, pick out one Christmas decoration to leave up all year to remind you to **never stop celebrating Jesus.** It might be Christmas lights in your room, or a favorite ornament that your room, or a favorite ornament that you hang on your doorknob. Whatever it is, when you see it, remember to celebrate God's greatest gift: Jesus, our Savior!