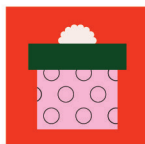
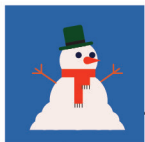


# Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



First, watch  
this week's  
video!

Christmas:  
Celebrating  
Jesus, God's  
greatest gift

### Memory Verse

"A child will be  
born to us. A son  
will be given to us."  
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

### Bible Story

Gabriel Appears  
to Mary  
Luke 1:26-56

### Bottom Line

You can have  
peace because  
God has a plan.

Use this guide to help your family  
learn why we celebrate Christmas.

## Activity

### Christmas Decisions

#### What You Need:

No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game. Tell them that you'll ask them several questions that have two choices. If they choose the first answer, they should run to the left side of the room. If they choose the second answer, they should run to the right side of the room.

#### Would you rather:

- have a Christmas tree or Christmas cookies?
- have one fantastic gift or 10 okay gifts?
- get up early on Christmas Day or stay up late on Christmas Eve?
- eat peppermint candy canes or different flavored candy canes?
- decorate with colored lights or white lights?
- sing "Jingle Bells" or "Silent Night"?
- travel for Christmas or stay home?
- have a white Christmas or no snow?
- put up the Christmas tree before Thanksgiving or wait until December?
- receive wrapped gifts or gifts in bags?
- eat a turkey or ham dinner?
- have sweet potatoes or regular potatoes?
- open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?

When you're finished, say, "This time of year, we have lots of choices to make. We also have lots and lots of plans! Today, we heard about how God sent an angel to tell Mary about God's plan."

## Talk About the Bible Story

What news did the angel give Mary? (*That she would give birth to Jesus*)

How did Mary respond to the angel? (*At first, she was upset. But she chose to trust God.*)

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 and read what Mary said to the angel.

What does it mean to have peace?

How can it give us peace to know that God has a plan?

*Parent: Share about a time when something didn't go your way, and you prayed and asked God to help you get through it. How did it turn out? Explain how you were able to have peace because you trusted God in the middle of that situation.*

## Prayer

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

"Dear God, You had a good and perfect plan for Mary . . . and You have a good plan for our lives too. Help us remember that even when there are things we don't understand, we know that You will make everything right in the end. We want to trust You with the plan You have for our lives. Help us remember to come to You with our concerns, worries, and disappointments so we can live each day with Your peace. We love You! Amen."

# Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



First, watch  
this week's  
video!

Christmas:  
Celebrating  
Jesus, God's  
greatest gift

### Memory Verse

"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

### Bible Story

Gabriel Appears to Mary  
Luke 1:26-56

### Key Question

What are your plans this Christmas?

Use this guide to help your family learn why we celebrate Christmas.

## Activity

### Who Said It?

#### What You Need:

No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game. Explain that you'll read a statement, and then your child can tell you who from today's story might have said that statement—Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, or the angel Gabriel.

#### Statements:

- "I've got to go see my cousin Elizabeth!" (Mary)
- "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus." (Gabriel, Luke 1:31)
- "An angel appeared to me out of nowhere!" (Mary)
- "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you." (Gabriel, Luke 1:28)
- "I'm going to have a baby, and the baby is God's Son." (Mary)
- "Whoa! I felt my baby jump when you came in." (Elizabeth)
- "I trusted the angel when he said that God would be with me." (Mary)
- "I'm nervous about what's next, but I'm going to choose to trust God." (Joseph, Mary, or Elizabeth)

When you're finished, say, "Today's story is a reminder that we can have peace because God has a plan."

## Talk About the Bible Story

When the angel told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, how did Mary respond? (At first, she was upset. But she chose to trust God.)

How can it give us peace to know that God has a plan?

What do you believe about God that can help you when you start to feel worried or anxious about something?

What does it look like for a kid your age to have peace? How does it show up in the things you say and do?

*Parent: Share about a time when something didn't go your way, and you prayed and asked God to help you get through it. How did it turn out? Explain how you were able to have peace because you trusted God in the middle of that situation.*



## Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. He made a way for us to be forgiven and have peace. As we get ready to celebrate Christmas with our friends and family, help us to remember that You have a plan, and Your plans are always for our good. Whether things go the way we want or not, help us trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."