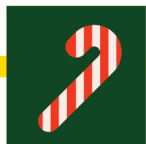


Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



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

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line

You can have
joy because God
sent Jesus.

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

Activity

Gift Wrap Race

What You Need:

Two boxes, two sets of wrapping supplies
(wrapping paper, tape, kid-friendly
scissors, bow)

What You Do:

Set out the two boxes and two sets of
wrapping supplies. Invite your child
to have a gift-wrapping race with you.
Explain that on the count of three, the
two of you will race to see who can wrap
their box the fastest.

The rules are:

- The box has to be completely covered.
- The paper has to be taped closed.
- The bow has to be on the top.

Count to three, then see who can wrap
their gift the fastest, according to the
rules.

When you're finished, say, "That was
fun! And I think we can agree that
UNwrapping gifts is even more fun than
wrapping them! In our story today, we
heard about the greatest gift we could
ever receive."

Talk About the Bible Story

Why is Jesus the best gift ever given? (*Because
He came to be our Savior*)

How can our relationship with Jesus give us joy?

In the middle of everything going on this time of
year, how can we take time to remember the real
meaning of Christmas?

How can we share the gift of Jesus with our
friends? (*We can tell others about Him, invite
others to come to church with us.*)

*Parent: Share about how you've celebrated
Christmas in different seasons of your life. Explain
what the holiday meant to you when you were
a child and when you were a young adult, and
what it means to you today. Talk about the joy
that you've experienced throughout your life in
celebrating Jesus' birth.*



Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promise to
send Your Son, Jesus. Jesus really is the greatest
gift we could ever receive. Because of Jesus, our
broken relationship with You can be restored, and
we know that one day You will make everything
right again. Please help us always remember to
have joy because You sent Jesus. We pray these
things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



First, watch
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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

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

Key Question

What makes your Christmas joyful?

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

Activity

Finishing Each Other's Sentences

What You Need:

Two sheets of paper, two writing utensils

What You Do:

Invite your child to do an activity with you. Explain that you'll read the start of a statement that has to do with today's story. You and your child will both complete that statement by writing down what you think the other person will say.

Statements:

- One question I'd love to ask Mary is . . .
- Something I don't understand about this story is . . .
- One thing in this story that stood out to me was . . .
- Jesus' birth matters because . . .
- I wonder if . . .
- The story of Jesus' birth reminds me that . . .

When you're finished, take time to share what both of you wrote down for each statement.

Talk About the Bible Story

Share your favorite part about the story of the first Christmas.

Why is Jesus the best gift ever given? (*Because He came to be our Savior*)

How can our relationship with Jesus give us joy?

In the middle of everything going on this time of year, how can we take time to remember the real meaning of Christmas?

How can we share the gift of Jesus with our friends? (*We can tell others about Him, invite others to come to church with us.*)

Parent: Share about how you've celebrated Christmas in different seasons of your life. Explain what the holiday meant to you when you were a child and when you were a young adult, and what it means to you today. Talk about the joy that you've experienced throughout your life in celebrating Jesus' birth.



Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for this reminder about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Help us to not get so caught up in the lights and gifts that we lose sight of what is most important—that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. You brought joy to the world when Jesus was born . . . and we are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."