

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Read: Colossians 1:15



DAY

1

The Best Gift

'Tis the season for gifts! Make a small gift for a neighbor or friend with things you have around your house. With your parent's permission deliver your gift this week and invite them to church or a Christmas activity with you and your family. Share the news of Jesus coming to earth because of an amazing promise God made.

LOOK for others you can share the gift of Jesus with.

DAY

2

Share the Gift

Jesus is a gift for everyone! With those in your family, talk about how you can share the joy this Christmas season. Write out some ideas you have! Here are some ideas to get you started: Donate some toys to a community center or shelter, bake cookies for neighbors, or invite a friend to church.

ASK God to show you what you can do for someone else.



DAY

3

Over All of Creation

Jesus was born to point others to God. Read Colossians 1:15 and write or draw something Jesus shows us about God.

THANK God for sending Jesus so that we can see who God is.

DAY

4

Have Joy

Think of the joy you get to have because of Jesus. What has Jesus helped you with—what has He done for you? Pray and thank God for the joy that Jesus brings to your life. You can start with something like this:

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"Dear God, You have been so good to me. Thank You for Jesus and the joy He brings to my life.  
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KNOW that you can have joy because of Jesus.



You can have joy
because God sent Jesus.



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DAY 1

Read Luke 2:1–4

A Skittle Census

Grab a bag of Skittles or any toy that has different colored options and separate them into piles by color. Grab a sheet of paper and split it into five pieces. Write down the names of four cities you know, one on each section. On the fifth one, write "Bethlehem." Assign a color of Skittle to each city, then count the Skittles for each city and write that number on its paper.

Caesar Augustus, the leader of the Roman empire, ordered a census to count the people in his country. This census meant that Joseph would have to travel back to his hometown of Bethlehem, along with Mary, in order to be counted.

The census sent Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem—where Micah had said that Jesus would be born hundreds of years *before* His arrival. It was all part of God's plan to bring hope, peace, and JOY to the whole world. As you enjoy your Skittles, thank God for sending Jesus to bring JOY to your world.

DAY 2

Read Luke 2:5–6

Do you have a younger sibling or cousin? Did you go to the hospital to meet them? Were there balloons or a sign on the door announcing the baby's arrival? Everyone was SO excited to meet that cuddly baby because a new baby is a miracle!

When Jesus entered the world, there were no balloons or signs on the door. There was no parade announcing His arrival. But this birth was exactly what God had planned. God sent Jesus so that we could know God, and that's the best reason to have JOY.

Four-Panel Christmas

Grab your four-panel picture.. In the third box, write the word "JOY" in large block letters. With an adult's help, look up the words to "Joy to the World." Write a line or two from the song in smaller print along with a few music notes around the edge of the panel. Then pray and thank God for the JOY that comes from knowing that God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

DAY 3

Read Luke 2:7

What kind of things do people do to prepare for a baby? They might receive gifts for the baby from friends and family. They might decorate the baby's room and put together a crib. Future parents usually do everything they can to prepare for their bundle of joy!

Speaking of joy, imagine the JOY Mary must have felt as she rocked and kissed her precious baby. Though their travel to Bethlehem meant there was no special room prepared for His arrival, Jesus' birth prepared the way for everyone to have a relationship with God! We can have JOY because Jesus came.

Talk About It

At your next family meal, ask your parent the following questions:

1. What did you do to prepare for my arrival?
2. How did it feel the first time you held/met me?
3. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they held baby Jesus in their arms?

DAY 4

Read 1 John 5:11

Imagine making a list of every wrong thing you've ever done. Now imagine everyone all over the world making the same list. Now imagine every single person that has ever lived before you and every single person that isn't born yet one day making a list like that. Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection took care of every single thing on ALL of those lists. Forever.

That's why Christmas is such a big deal. It's the day God sent Jesus to forgive our sins and make a way for us to be a part of God's family forever.

Ask your family to think of one NEW way to celebrate Jesus' birthday this week. You could bake a cake and sing "Happy Birthday." Or blow a party horn and yell "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

After you celebrate, tell God, "I love You! Thank You for sending Jesus!"

You can have joy
because God sent Jesus.

Journal

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

WHAT
MAKES YOUR
CHRISTMAS
JOYFUL?

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25

12

1



CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATING JESUS,
GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

2. You learned:

3. You'd like to know:

Watch this week's episode of
The So & So Show by going to:
<https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome>
Even if you already saw it at church,
feel free to check it out again!

Day 2

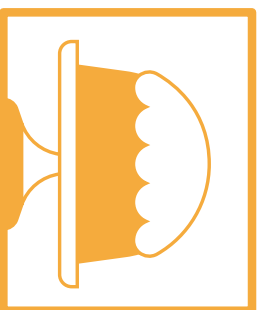
Read Luke 2:1-7

Read Luke 2:1-7 out loud, keeping your hands by your side. Some of those names and places may have been tricky. This is likely a familiar story to you, but sometimes you notice new things when you read something out loud. Did anything new jump out to you? If so, write it here:

Now, read it out loud with your hands by your side but with lots of drama—like you're performing in a play. Is there anything new you noticed this time?

Lastly, read it out loud using hand motions and all the drama. What did you notice this time around?

The Christmas story has been called the greatest story of all time—when God sent Jesus to be our Savior!



Day 4

So often adults go out of their way to make Christmas exciting and fun for kids.

But today, it's your chance to talk to your grown-up and ask them this question:

What makes your Christmas joyful?

After they answer you, dig a little deeper. Find out about their best Christmas ever. Ask them what their favorite part of Christmas is. As you learn more and more about what makes their Christmas joyful, make a plan to make THIS Christmas their best one yet. That might look like not arguing with your brother or sister, or offering to help in the kitchen, or letting your grown-up sleep in a bit on Christmas Day. Or maybe you can recruit your siblings to recreate the Christmas Story.

No matter what you choose to do, remind yourself and your grown-up that you can have joy because God sent Jesus.



Day 5

You can have joy because God sent Jesus.

As Christmas Day draws closer, it can be easy to get caught up in all the parties and gifts and cookies... and all of those are a ton of fun! But the real joy we can experience this time of the year is because God sent Jesus!

On the other hand, sometimes Christmas is a painful time for people. Maybe your extended family comes to visit and you have to give up your bed. Maybe someone passed away this year and this will be the first Christmas without them. But in the midst of it all, you can choose joy because God sent Jesus — for you, and for everyone!

Whether the next few days are happy or hard, keep this truth in your mind: **You can have joy because God sent Jesus.**