

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Read: Philippians 4:4



DAY

1

Let's Party!

Celebrate this holiday season! Have a dance party with your favorite music! We can celebrate Jesus all year long!

LOOK for ways to celebrate Jesus today.

DAY

3

Be Joyful!

Philippians 4:4 is a great verse to think back on often. It reminds us that we can always be joyful because we belong to God! Read this verse using a joyful voice!

KNOW that we can be joyful because we have Jesus!

DAY

2

Me and Jesus

Draw a picture of you and Jesus together doing something you love. Share your picture with someone in your family.

KNOW that Jesus is always with you.

DAY

4

Keep the Party Going

When we talk to God, we can use our conversations to remind us of the joy that we can have in Jesus. We can also ask God to help us keep our joy. Pray something like this:

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 "Dear God, You are always with me. I am so thankful that I have You by my side all the time. Please help me to always keep my joy in You. I pray that this year I will always use my joy to show others how much You mean to me. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

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THANK God for sending Jesus and giving us a reason to celebrate!



Celebrate Jesus
all year long.



Complete the party scene with things that you enjoy celebrating!



Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.



DAY 1

Read Matthew 2:1–2

Do you have a nativity set at your home? If so, does it include three wise men?

Did you know that the wise men didn't visit Jesus as a newborn? Most likely, they arrived one or two years after his birth. Check out Matthew 2:11. Where does it say they found Jesus?

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The wise men traveled a long way, following the star that led them to Jesus. And when they arrived, they bowed down and worshipped and gave gifts fit for a king.

Now when we see the wise men in nativity scenes, it can remind us that Jesus is worth celebrating not JUST at Christmas, but all year long.

Jesus gave His life so that you could have life with Him forever. We don't have to wait for Christmas because Jesus is worth celebrating all year long.

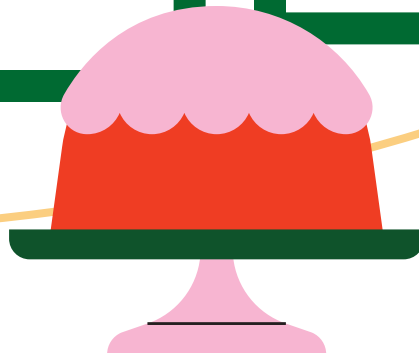
DAY 2

Read Matthew 2:3–6

Can you name a villain from your favorite movie? Write down or draw the villains that stick out to you the most in the space below:

In Jesus' time, King Herod was most definitely the villain. When he heard about Jesus' birth, Herod was angry— NO way he was going to let a baby stand in his way as ruler. Herod tried to find this baby king but God protected Jesus and His earthly family.

Because God protected Jesus and His family from the villain, we are able to celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth today! God is the ultimate hero who sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God now and forever. That means His birth is worth celebrating all year long!



DAY 3

Read Matthew 2:9-10

The North Star is the brightest star in a group of stars called the Little Dipper. Because the North Star stays in an almost constant position, sailors once used it to guide their ships. Think of it like the first GPS.

Thousands of years ago, a group of wise men used a special star in the sky to guide them too. These men followed that star to find a King! When they arrived, they worshipped Jesus and presented Him with royal gifts. Just imagine how excited they must have been to finally find God's one and only Son! They were filled with JOY!

We can find joy too—even when things don't look or feel super joyful—when we look for God! We can find God in creation, like a sky full of stars. We can read about God in the Bible, and we can talk to God in prayer.

Look up at the stars tonight and thank God for sending Jesus—a Savior worth celebrating all year long!

DAY 4

Read Matthew 2:11-12

Our nativity sets typically contain three wise men figurines, probably because the Bible tells us of the three gifts they brought to honor Jesus. But we don't really know how many there were. Maybe there were two. Maybe there were ten.

Either way, they bowed down and worshipped Jesus, and gave Him expensive gifts. After a long journey, they celebrated Jesus because they recognized that He was the Rescuer God had promised.

3D Wise Men

Grab some toilet paper or paper towel tubes, markers, colored paper, foil, and clear tape. Use the tubes as the base for creating a few wise men. You can draw in faces with a marker, add foil crowns, color in a robe, and fold colored paper into a small square for them to "hold" as their gifts. Read Matthew 2:1-12 as you act out the story of the wise men's journey to celebrate Jesus!

**Celebrate Jesus
all year long.**

Journal

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

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE NEW YEAR?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with eight horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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December
2023

Week Five
4th-5th

Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

Watch this week's episode of
The So & So Show by going to:
<https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome>

2. You learned:

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

3. You'd like to know:

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A Devotional on Christmas.

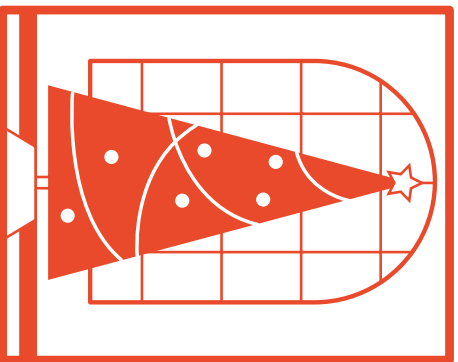
FOR AN
everyday faith.

Day 2

Read Matthew 2:1-12

As you read Matthew 2:1-12, stand up and walk around the room as though you are one of the wise men. (Bonus points if you use a compass or a compass app to figure out which direction is east!) When Herod calls the wise men to him, walk to one side of the room, and when the wise men go to see Jesus, walk to the other side. You can use stuffed animals, doll houses, and anything else in your room as a prop, or just keep it simple with walking around the room.

The wise men searched for Jesus for a while. Some time after He was born, the wise men arrived and celebrated Jesus! And you can do the same! You can **celebrate Jesus all year long**.



Day 4

Grab a notebook and something to write with, and find some friends and family to interview.

Ask them this question:

What are you looking forward to in the new year?

Write down their answers. When you've interviewed at least five people, take a look at their answers. Is there anything that inspired you? Are any of their answers similar to yours? Did anyone mention celebrating Jesus all year long?

It's fun to think about what the next year holds, and sharing those hopes and dreams with others makes it even more special. Keep their answers somewhere you will see them often and check back in with your friends and family to see if their new year is shaping up the way they hoped it would!

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**Dear God,** thank You for Christmas, when we get to celebrate the greatest gift You've ever given. I don't want to stop celebrating Jesus now that Christmas is over. Please show me how to keep celebrating Him. I want everyone to know that You love them so much that You sent Jesus. I want everyone to feel the joy that I feel knowing that You have a plan for them and that You are faithful. Help me celebrate Your love and Your Son all year long! In Jesus' Name, we pray. **Amen.**

## Day 5



### Celebrate Jesus all year long.

What does it look like to celebrate Jesus? Unscramble the phrases below to find some ideas, and add your own ideas below.

OG OT RCCHHU  
SINLITE OT SOWPRIH UCSCI  
ELITL SETORH UTBAO IMH  
LNERA EMRO OABTU MHI  
RVEES HEOTSR

Which of the ideas sounded like something you'd like to try—or continue to do—in the coming year? Circle them. Then put a star by the one you plan to try this week. And remember, celebrating is fun, so get excited about celebrating Jesus all year long!

others  
Answers: go to church, listen to worship music, tell others about Him, learn more about Him, serve others