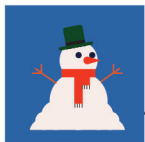


Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



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

Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

Bottom Line

Celebrate Jesus
all year long.

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

Activity

Celebrate Jesus All Year Long

What You Need:

2024 calendar (you can use one that you have on hand, or print one from the internet)

What You Do:

Invite your child to do an activity.

Ask your child to flip to the December page on the calendar and point to Christmas Day.

Say, "At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth. We celebrate Jesus because He is our Savior who came to bring us hope, peace, joy, and love."

Ask your child to flip to the March page on the calendar and point to Easter Sunday.

Say, "At Easter, we celebrate how Jesus died on the cross for our sins, then came back to life. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can have a relationship with God—now and forever!"

Then ask your child to flip through the pages and look all the blank days on the calendar. Say, "It's good to celebrate Jesus on special days like Christmas and Easter. But we don't have to wait for a holiday to celebrate Jesus. We can celebrate Him all year long!"

Talk About the Bible Story

How did the wise men know where to find Jesus?
(They followed the star.)

How did the wise men celebrate Jesus? (They brought gifts to honor Him as king.)

What are some ways that we can celebrate Jesus—not just at Christmas, but throughout the year? (Spend some time talking about this. Some ideas: read about Him in the Bible, pray and talk to Him, go to church, sing worship songs to Him, talk about Him with other people, live our lives the way He taught us to live.)

As we take down our Christmas decorations, let's think about keeping one thing out to remind us to celebrate Jesus all year long. What decoration would you choose?



Prayer

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

"God, we love You. As we look ahead to the new year, help us take time to celebrate Jesus. Remind us to spend time reading the Bible, praying, and talking about Jesus with other people. Help us to live each day the way Jesus taught us to live. We know that Jesus brought hope, peace, joy, and love to the world—and that's something we should celebrate all the time! Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us. Amen."

Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



Use this guide to help your family
learn why we celebrate 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

Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

Key Question

What are you looking forward to in the new year?

Activity

The Christmas Stack

What You Need:

Three index cards, marker, tape or refrigerator magnets

What You Do:

Invite your child to do an activity. First, read Matthew 2:1-12 together.

After you've finished, ask your child to fill in the blanks as you read the following statements. Write down their answers on the index cards (one card per answer).

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus so they could ____ Him. (*worship*)

These men believed that the star meant that a new ____ had been born. (*king*)

The wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to ____ Jesus. (*honor*)

Attach the three index cards to a prominent place where you'll see them every day—like a bulletin board or on the refrigerator.

Say, "Nice work. The wise men came to **honor** and **worship** Jesus as **king**. That's what we can do too! We can celebrate Jesus—not just at Christmas, but all year long. Every time we see these cards, let's remember to spend each day honoring Jesus and worshipping Him with the way we live our lives."

Talk About the Bible Story

(Reference the index cards.) In the weeks and months ahead, do you think it'll be easy for you to do what the wise men did—to honor and worship Jesus as king? Why or why not?

As you look at the year ahead, what makes you feel excited . . . or nervous?

How do you think it could help if you choose to keep your focus on Jesus?

What are some ways that we can celebrate Jesus—not just at Christmas, but throughout the year? (*Spend some time talking about this. Some ideas: read about Him in the Bible, pray and talk to Him, go to church, sing worship songs to Him, talk about Him with other people, live our lives the way He taught us to live.*)

As we take down our Christmas decorations, let's think about keeping one thing out to remind us to celebrate Jesus all year long. What decoration would you choose?



Prayer

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

"Dear God, as we've celebrated Christmas this month, we've learned so much about the hope, peace, joy, and love Jesus gives us. We want to keep celebrating Jesus all year long. Help us to keep our focus on Him. Show us how we can honor and worship Him with the way we speak and act in the days, weeks, and months ahead. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."