

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

WEEK
2
1ST

DAY
1

Christmas Bucket List

During Christmas we celebrate God's greatest gift—Jesus! There are many ways to celebrate. Talk with a parent about what you like to do during the Christmas season to celebrate. Then, as a family come up with your very own CHRISTMAS BUCKET LIST of things you want to do. There are some ideas on the back of this sheet to get you started. Hang your list where you and your family can check each item off as you do them. Don't worry if you can't get to all of them—just being in the Christmas spirit all month brings joy too!

Look for ways to have joy with your family.

DAY
2

What's the Plan?

One big thing you have to know when you are planning something is knowing how many days you have until it happens. Ask an adult to help you get some red and green pieces of paper. Cut 1-inch strips across the width of the sheet of paper. Now, count how many days there are until Christmas. Connect that many strips of paper together (alternating green and red strips) with glue to form a paper chain. Each day, remove one link from your paper chain to help you countdown until Christmas.

Remember to have joy this Christmas no matter what you have planned.

DAY
3

His Plans

All this week we have been talking about our plans for Christmas. In Jeremiah 29:11, we read that God has a plan too! And we are included! His plans are to give us hope and a future. How amazing is that? Let's thank God for including us in His plan.

*Dear God,
Thank you for including us in your plans. Help us to remember to include you in our plans this Christmas season and always. We love you.
Amen.*

DAY
4

Share Joy, Eat Joy

After dinner, play a game with your family using red and green candies, like M&Ms. With the candy, spell out the word "joy" on the table or on a paper plate and tell your family they may take an M&M, but they must first share a Christmas memory that brings them joy. Continue the game until all the candy is gone.

Thank God for giving your family something to celebrate.

You can have joy because
God has a plan for you.

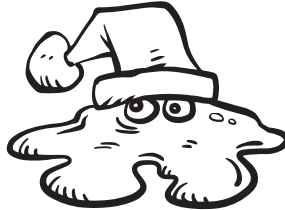
PARENT CUE

The Family CHRISTMAS BUCKET LIST

Read the Christmas Story



Make Christmas inspired slime



Send Christmas cards to friends



Drink hot chocolate



Collect pine cones



Sing Christmas carols



Wrap a present



Binge your favorite Christmas movies



Decorate cookies



Make a Christmas playlist



Wear Christmas socks



Make paper snowflakes



Volunteer with family



Have a snowball fight (with real snow or crumpled paper)



Eat a candy cane



Take a family Christmas photo



Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

WEEK
2
2ND-3RD



DAY 2

Read Luke 1:38

When the angel appeared to Mary, she probably had a lot of questions. Yet even with all her questions, she still said, "I serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would."

Talk about faith. Mary trusted God. Why? Because God made Mary. God loved Mary. And God's plan for her was awesome. Just like Mary, God has a plan for you. God made you. He loves you. And you can have joy because God has a plan you.

Fill in the blanks below and write down what you hope to be doing/or what you hope your life will be like at that age. Then spend some time thanking God for His plans for you.

Five years from now, I will be _____ years old.
I hope that _____

10 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I
hope that _____

15 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I
hope that _____

DAY 1

Read Luke 1:30-31

What would you do if suddenly an angel from heaven appeared to you with a special message from God? Would you run? Would you stand there frozen, unsure what to say?

We know Mary was probably scared because the angel told her not to be afraid. God had a very special plan, just for her. She would have a baby. But not just any baby. Mary had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, our Savior.

God's plan for Mary was a plan she never could have dreamed up on her own. What a reason to have joy! The same is true for you. An angel probably won't show up in your bedroom but that doesn't mean that God doesn't have a specific plan and purpose just for you. You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

One way you can be sure you don't miss God's plan is to start praying a simple prayer like this: "God, I believe You have a plan for me and I don't want to miss it. Help me to follow You today. In Jesus' name, amen."



PARENT CUE

Read Psalm 33:11

From the very beginning, God had a plan. When God created the whole world, He knew that His creation would turn away from Him and that sin would separate people from God. So, God sent His only Son, Jesus. Jesus suffered and died to take the punishment for sin but death couldn't stop Him! Jesus rose again to make a way so that anyone who believes in Him would never be separated from God again.

That's a big plan. And there may be parts of that plan that seem confusing to you. But as you grow in faith, you'll see that God's plans are good. God loves you with a perfect, never stopping, always constant love. He showed His love for you on that first Christmas when He sent Jesus. And that should fill you with joy!

All of the consonants from today's verse are missing! Can you fill them in?

"__ u __ __ e __ a __
 o __ __ e __ o __
 __ a __ __ i __
 __ o __ e __ e __. __ a __
 __ e __ a __ __ __ o __ o __
 __ i __ __ a __ __ o __
 a __ __ i __ e." __ a __
 __ __ 33:11

Read Psalm 32:8

Have you ever played "Follow the Leader"? Or "Simon Says"? What's your favorite role? To be the leader or the follower?

The truth is, we could choose to be the boss or the leader. But wouldn't it be so much better to follow someone who will always lead us in the right direction? Wouldn't it be wiser to follow someone who has the best plan and knows exactly how things will turn out?

When we choose to trust in God, when we take His advice, He will guide us and show us the way to go. And He will watch over us with love all along the way. We can trust God always.

Decorate the front of your "JOY" ornament (from last week) with paint, run some ribbon through the hole and hang it on the Christmas tree. Point out the ornament to your family and tell them that you can have joy because God has a plan for you.

You can have joy because
 God has a plan for you.

Journal

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



4th-5th

Week 2



Day 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

➔ Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.

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

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked: _____

2. You learned: _____

3. You'd like to know: _____



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AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES

Day 2

Read Luke 1:26-38

When the angel showed up with a message for Mary, Mary may not have had a lot of joy when she first heard what God had planned for her life. She was understandably surprised and had a of questions. As you read through Luke 1:26-38, put an exclamation point above sentences that you think call for it, and put question marks above the descriptions of Mary's confusion and questions.

Thankfully, the angel had some answers for her, and more than that, Mary soon realized that God's plan for her life meant great things for all of humankind: God would soon send His greatest gift: Jesus!

Day 4

Find a friend or sibling willing to play a short game with you.

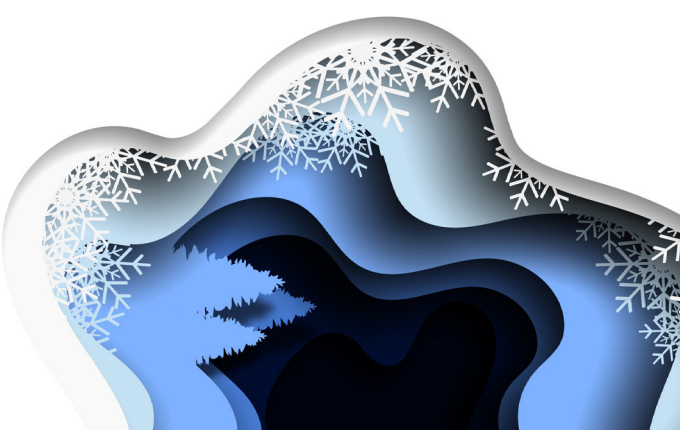
Each person should grab a sheet of paper tear it into 12 different pieces. On four pieces, each person should write four jobs. On the next four pieces, each person should write a location/place. On the last four pieces, each person should write four hobbies.

Then make three different piles of your answers (a location pile, a jobs pile, and a hobbies pile) and mix up the pieces in each pile to scramble them. Then each person takes turn drawing from each pile to create a "plan" for your life.

"I will be a _____ living in _____, where I will enjoy _____ in my free time."

Feel free to finish using up all the different pieces to create alternate plans as well.

How did your plans turn out? Pretty silly? Maybe you created one that actually sounded like you? Talk with your friend about what you hope your future really will look like. Then take a minute to thank God that He has a plan for you that is way better than you could ever imagine!



Day 5

Your family likely has some fun Christmas traditions, but it's always fun to add a new one into the mix!

Pick an activity (or two!) below that would bring you and others around you joy! Then work with your parents to make a plan for the activity and revel in the joy your plan brings!

- Make a birthday cake for Jesus
- Have a family dance party with Christmas music
- Make a gingerbread house
- Reenact the Christmas story with costumes and props you can find around your house
- Make Christmas cookies for your neighbors

Day 3

Sometimes you can pray as a song. Read Mary's prayer to God in song in Luke 1:46-55.

Then write your own song. It doesn't have to involve a melody or any type of instruments (although it certainly can!) if that's not your thing; think of it more as a free verse poem. Your prayer could cover any or all of these themes: gratitude for the gift of Jesus, joy at the plan God has for your life, or what you're looking forward to about Christmas this year. After you write your prayer, read it or sing it out loud. **You can have joy because God has a plan for you.**