

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

DAY 1

Read Read Micah 5:2

It's finally here! The month you've waited for all year long. Yep... it's CHRISTMAS, a time for celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift. Do you like to wait? Imagine waiting for something your entire lifetime!

Micah, a prophet who spoke for God, made this promise about Jesus' birth YEARS before Jesus' arrival in the town of Bethlehem. The people who heard Micah's words would have had to wait and hope and trust God to keep the promise to send a Savior.

At just the right time, God sent Jesus. God kept the promise to send a Savior because God is faithful. That means God's words always come true. We can have HOPE because God is faithful.

Four-Panel Christmas

Fold a piece of paper in half, then fold it in half the opposite way. Open up the page to reveal four sections. In the first section, write the word HOPE in big block letters and decorate it any way you choose. Keep this page all month—you'll add to it each week!

DAY 2

Read Isaiah 7:14

When Isaiah spoke these words about Jesus' birth, they were a promise. It would be a long, long time before Mary would learn that she would have a son and that His name would be Immanuel.

Immanuel means God with us. Jesus would one day come to earth as a tiny, helpless baby. He would grow up just as you're growing up, and He would make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God forever.

God didn't have to send Jesus. But God sent Him so we could know God. Because of this perfect gift, we can have a relationship with God now and forever.

Nativity Scene

Draw a picture of Jesus in the manger and put it in your backpack or in your grown-up's car. Every time you look at the picture, thank God for always being with you.

Read Isaiah 9:6

There are SO many things to love about this time of year. Snowflakes, presents, lights, even crazy Christmas sweaters. But there is something more important than all those things.

God sent Isaiah as a prophet with a special message—the promise that God would one day send Jesus, God’s only Son! Since God’s promise came true, we celebrate that special birth today. Because Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

Isaiah uses some phrases to describe Jesus, our Savior. Draw a line from the title to its definition below:

- Wonderful Adviser More powerful than anyone or anything
- Mighty God The One who is eternal like God
- Father Who Forever The only One who Lives can fix our relationship with God and others
- Prince Who Brings Peace The One who can help and guide

God, thank you for Christmas, the day we celebrate Jesus. Thank you for sending Him to be my because
(Title from above)

.....
(reason you chose that title)

Answer Key:
Wonderful Adviser—The One who can help and guide us
Mighty God—More powerful than anyone or anything
Father Who Lives Forever—The One who is eternal like God
Prince Who Brings Peace—The One who can fix our relationship with God and others

Read Isaiah 9:7

When Isaiah spoke about a coming Savior, he talked about the peace the Savior would bring. Once God made this promise, the people began watching and waiting. Some people spent their entire lives studying the words of Isaiah so they would recognize Jesus when He came to earth. And sure enough, God sent Jesus to save us!

The Bible is full of God’s promises to us. Some of those promises—like the promise to send Jesus—have already been kept. And God is STILL keeping promises, like the promise to be with us and love us no matter what. We can have HOPE because God is faithful.

Hunting for Hope

Take a look at the Christmas decorations around your home or that you see next time you’re at the store. Each time you spot the word “HOPE,” stop and thank God for keeping the promise to send Jesus!

We can have hope because God is faithful.



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DAY 1

Read Luke 1:28-29

How do you think you would react if an angel suddenly appeared in front of you? Would you be scared? Maybe even surprised?

When the angel appeared to Mary, she was both of those things. She was upset because she didn't understand what was happening and she was surprised that God would choose her for such an important role.

But Gabriel's answer was simple, "Do not be afraid."

The same is true for you. When you are scared or confused or unsure, you need to remember one big truth: God is with you. You can have peace, even when you're uncertain, because God is in control and has a plan.

Ask God to help you remember that you are not alone, even when you feel sad, scared, surprised, or any other emotion you may feel. God is with you!

DAY 2

Read Luke 1:30-31

The angel saw that Mary was afraid and put her fears to rest saying, "God thinks you're awesome! And you've been chosen to be a BIG part of God's plan to send a Savior."

If you have a nativity set at your house, grab the Mary figurine and take a careful look. If not, draw a picture of Mary. Can you imagine how Mary must have felt in the moment the angel appeared to her? She probably had an idea of how her life would go—and this likely wasn't it.

But God's plans are always bigger and better than ours. God thinks you're awesome, and the plan God has for your life is awesome too. When you ask God, "What's your plan for me?" you can have peace—a deep-down feeling that everything will be okay. God's plan might not look like any plan you'd come up with on your own. But you can start, right now, asking God to show you the plans for your life.



DAY 3

Read Luke 1:32–33

The angel promised that Jesus would be great, a king like David. But Jesus wouldn't rule like any earthly king. His authority and power wouldn't be limited to a certain time or place, because Jesus is the King of ALL kings. His rule will never end.

When the angel spoke these words to Mary, she may not have fully understood what they meant. And yet, she still trusted in God's plan for her. She felt peace because she knew that God loved her.

Four-Panel Christmas

Grab your paper from last week. In the next box, write the word "PEACE" in large block letters. Color the background in cool colors, like blues, greens, and purples, to create a feeling of calm. Thank God for planning to send a Savior, for loving us enough to follow through with that plan, and for the good things God has in store for you as you follow God.

DAY 4

Read Luke 1:37–38

Mary was going about her business when an angel suddenly appeared right in front of her! And this angel named Gabriel had a message. She was going to have a baby who would be the Son of God!

God did keep that promise to Mary and to all of us. God sent Jesus, God's one and only Son. Though Mary was surprised and unsure, she trusted God and the plan God had for her. And we can remember that too. Even when we don't know how things will work out, we can have peace because God has a plan.

What's The Plan?

On a piece of paper, write down three things you plan to do this month. Fold it and put it in a spot you can't see every day. On a separate sheet of paper write down three more things you plan to do or accomplish this month. Place the other sheet somewhere you can see it every day. At the end of the month check back to see which list you completed more. When you keep things in front of you they are easier to remember. When you continue to follow God's plan for your life, it becomes easier to remember that **you can have peace because God has a plan.**



You can have peace
because God has a plan.

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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

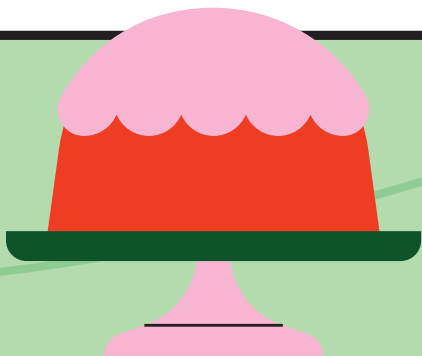
What kind of things do people do to prepare for a baby? They might receive gifts for the baby from friends and family. They might decorate the baby's room and put together a crib. Future parents usually do everything they can to prepare for their bundle of joy!

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.



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DAY 1

Read Luke 2:8-10

When the angel appeared to the shepherds tending their sheep, they were terrified! They probably had never seen one before and didn't know what to think. But the angel hadn't come to scare them. The angel had good news. Jesus was finally here! The promised Savior had arrived.

This good news would be for ALL people. Jesus came so that we could all be part of God's story, to show that God's love is for everyone.

If you had been one of the shepherds, how would you have responded to an angel appearing out of nowhere? Draw a face to show your reaction.

Why do you think God chose to announce Jesus' birth to a bunch of shepherds living in a field nearby?

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If you had a big announcement, who would you tell first and why?

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DAY 2

Read Luke 2:11-12

God sent an angel, then an army of angels to share the BIG news of Jesus' birth. But the angels didn't appear to a powerful king or religious leader. God sent an angel to a field full of hardworking shepherds. And that angel said, *"Today in the town of David a SAVIOR has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."*

A Savior has been born to who? To you! Jesus didn't come just for the rich or famous or popular or smart people. God sent Jesus to show that God's love is for everyone.



Angel Army

Grab some plastic spoons, a permanent marker, foil, clear tape, and a flat box. Draw a face on the back of each spoon with the marker. Then, fold several small pieces of foil back and forth, accordion style. Tape the foil pieces around the back of the spoon, leaving the face visible. The foil will remind you of the radiance of the angels that appeared in the night sky. Stick your angel army into the box for display and write out the words of Luke 2:10 along the front of the box.



DAY 3

Read Luke 2:16–18

When the shepherds heard the news, they took off toward town, excited to see this special baby. When they found everything just as the angel had said, they were filled with joy! They couldn't wait to tell everyone about Jesus' birth. It was the best news ever. God wants you to share this good news with others too—because God's love is for everyone! So, who will you tell?

Four-Panel Christmas

Grab your four-panel picture. In the last box, write the word "LOVE" in large block letters. Draw different sized hearts in red or pink marker all around the word "LOVE." Sit down with a family member or friend and share your completed Christmas drawing. Talk about how we can have HOPE because God is faithful, PEACE because God has a plan, JOY because God sent Jesus, and know that God's LOVE is for everyone.

DAY 4

Read John 3:16

This verse is what the Bible is all about. God loved you. So God did what people who love do: God gave. What did God give? Jesus, God's one and only Son. Why? Because Jesus came to save us from our sin, or the wrong things we do. And when we believe in Him, we can have a relationship with God forever. Jesus' birth, which we celebrate on Christmas, is a really big deal because it showed God's love is for everyone.

John 3:16: Illustrated Edition

Grab a piece of paper and illustrate this verse, any way you'd like. You can draw a heart for love, baby Jesus in a manger for "Son" etc. When finished, give your drawing to a family member or friend. Then tell them about how Jesus' birth means that everyone can be a part of God's story because God's love is for everyone.



God's love is
for everyone.

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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.

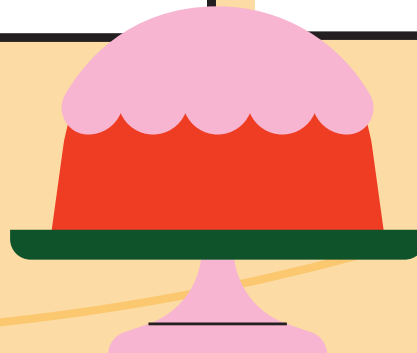
DAY 2

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.