

TO BEGIN

What was one of your favourite gifts you've ever received?

DIGGING DEEPER

Today is a wonderfully exciting, extraordinary day. Today is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Remember that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. ¹ God Himself became human and made His home among us.²

The meaning of *Jesus*' name has amazing significance. *Jesus* comes from the Hebrew name *Joshua*, which means "the Lord is salvation; a saviour; a deliverer." What a name! That little baby, born over 2000 years ago was given the name *Jesus* because He would save us from our sin. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son into our world and for saving us! What an amazing gift to us all.

Together, read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2:1-20.

¹ Colossians 1:15

² John 1:14

LIVE IT OUT

Here are a few Christmas Day activities you can do with your family:

- Wake each other up and say, "Good morning! It's Jesus' birthday! Happy birthday, Jesus!"
- Today, look for things that remind you of the Christmas story and point them out to each other. For example, you might see decorations like a star, an angel, different animals, baby Jesus, or the wise men. The important thing is to remember Jesus is God's Son and His birth is what Christmas is all about.
- While sitting with family or friends, play a little game of messenger. Pick a messenger and tell them it's their job to deliver the messages you give them. Whisper a message in their ear and tell them which family member to deliver it to. It can be anything encouraging such as, "I like your shirt," "You are super smart!" or "You have a great smile!" Let's remember how God sent an angel to deliver a special message to Mary. What was the message? She was going to have a baby and his name is Jesus!
- God showed us how much He loves us when He gave us Jesus. Now it's our turn to show people some love. Think of some ways to show love today to our family and friends and do it!
- Spend time praying together: "Dear God, thank You for such a special time of year when we can celebrate Jesus' birthday. Help us to remember this is all about Jesus. He really is the best gift ever! We love You, God. We love Your Son, Jesus. In His name we pray, amen."