

The Big Give: Get wrapped up in Christmas



First, watch this week's video!

Christmas: celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11, NIV

Bible Story

Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6-7

Bottom Line

God always has a plan.

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

Activity

Promise Keepers

What You Need:

Writing utensil and paper

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game with you.

Say, "What are some promises that you'd like to keep?"

If they're stumped, here are a few suggestions:

- brushing teeth regularly
- being kind
- helping clean
- doing homework
- reading Bible

Make a list of your child's promises on the sheet of paper. Then say, "Here are a few promises I'd like to keep." On the same sheet of paper, list out your promises. Once both of you have listed all your promises, take turns with your child acting out your promises. (*mime brushing their teeth, etc.*)

Say, "In our story today, we heard about a BIG promise that came true for us, didn't we?"

Talk About the Bible Story

What was the promise that God made to us? (*To send a Savior to us*)

Did God keep the promise? How? (*Yes, God sent us Jesus*)

What was God's plan for Jesus? (*That Jesus would make a way for us to have a relationship with God*)

Do you trust that God has a plan for your life? Why?

Parent: Share a personal story about how you had to trust God's plan for your life.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that You have a perfect plan. Help our family remember that You sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with You. And because we can have a relationship with You, we can trust Your plan. Help us to trust You. Remind us that You are always there for us, no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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Bible Story

Zechariah/Elizabeth
and Gabriel/Mary
Luke 1:5-66

Bottom Line

Anything is
possible
with God.

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

Activity

One-Handed Wrapping

What You Need:

Two wrapping paper squares; two bows; tape; two gift tags or labels; two pens; and two boxes (or books) to wrap

What You Do:

Invite your child to a gift-wrapping challenge.

Say, "We're going to challenge each other to see who can wrap their gift the best. But there's a catch—we both can only use one hand! We have to use all the supplies in front of us. Are you ready? Get set. GO!"

Race your child in a one-handed gift-wrapping competition. If there's another family member around, ask them to judge whose gift is best. If not, send photos or video to someone else so they can judge. Crown your wrapping champion!

When you're finished, say, "When we first started that challenge, it seemed impossible, right? But it happened! In our story today, something else happened that seemed impossible at first!"

Talk About the Bible Story

Why did Elizabeth think she wouldn't have a baby?
(*Because she was too old*)

Why was Mary surprised she would have a baby?
(*Because she wasn't ready*)

But both Elizabeth and Mary had babies. How was that possible? (*Because with God, nothing is impossible*)

Parent: Share a story about something that seemed impossible that God did in your life, or in the life of someone you know.



Prayer

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

"Dear God, we know that we don't have to worry, because we can come to You with anything that seems impossible. You promise to be with us and help us through it. Help us remember how You did something that seemed impossible by sending Your Son to be our Savior. It's in Your name we pray, amen."

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Bible Story

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line

Jesus is the greatest gift.

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Activity

Acting Up

What You Need:

dry erase board with dry erase markers; or paper and regular markers

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game with you.

Say, "I'm going to write down a question on this board. Instead of answering out loud, I want you to act out your answer. Then, we'll see if I can guess your response. Ready?"

Write down the following questions, one at a time. Allow your child to act out their response. They can use gestures and noises, but no words! See how many of their responses you can guess correctly.

Questions:

- What's the most memorable Christmas gift you ever received?
- What's the most memorable Christmas gift you ever gave?
- What are you hoping to get this Christmas?

If time allows, act out YOUR responses while your child tries to guess what they are.

When you're finished playing, say, "It's exciting to get gifts. In our story today, we heard about the best, most surprising gift ever given in the whole history of the world!"

Talk About the Bible Story

Who was Jesus given as a gift for? (*Everyone—all of us!*)

Why is it important to thank God for the great gift of Jesus? (*So we can remember why we celebrate Christmas*)

Is it better to give someone something that already belongs to you, or to go buy something brand-new to give that person? (*Note: There is no right answer! This is simply to spark discussion and get your child to consider the sacrifice that may go into giving something away that belongs to them. Likewise, it takes thoughtfulness to pick out the perfect gift to purchase for someone.*)

Why is Jesus the greatest gift to us? (*Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever.*)

Parent: Share how you know Jesus loves you and how He became your Savior.



Prayer

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

"Thank You, God, for giving us the greatest gift. You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to be our Rescuer—to save us so we could be part of Your family forever. In the middle of this busy Christmas season, remind us to take time to thank You for all You have given us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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Bible Story

Shepherds and Angels
Luke 2:8-20

Bottom Line

The good news is for everyone.

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

Activity

MegaPHONE a Friend

What You Need:

white paper; marker; decorative supplies (markers, glitter, stickers)

What You Do:

Before you begin, use the marker to draw the outline of a large megaphone on the white sheet of paper. (Or download a "megaphone outline" from the internet and print it out.)

Invite your child to do a craft with you. Together with your child, decorate the megaphone and then roll it up.

While you and your child decorate your megaphone, ask the following questions:

- What do people use a megaphone for? (*making an announcement*)
- Who gave an announcement in our story today? (*the angel*)
- What does it mean when people say, "share the good news?" (*telling others about Jesus*)
- Who is this good news for? (*everyone*)

When your child is finished, say, "Let's hang this in your room to remind us that the good news is for everyone."

Talk About the Bible Story

Who did the angels share the good news with? (*the shepherds*)

How do you think the shepherds felt when the angels told them about Jesus? (*excited; shocked*)

What are some ways we can share about Jesus with our friends? (*We can tell them what Jesus did; we can treat them with love like Jesus did.*)

Parent: Share about a time you invited a friend or family member who did not know Jesus to church with you, or to a community event. Were you nervous? How did God give you the courage to open up to the other person?



Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, so we can be friends with You forever. Jesus laid down His life to pay for our sin. He defeated death and came back to life so we can have a restored relationship with You. Help us share the good news about Jesus with others. We love You, amen."