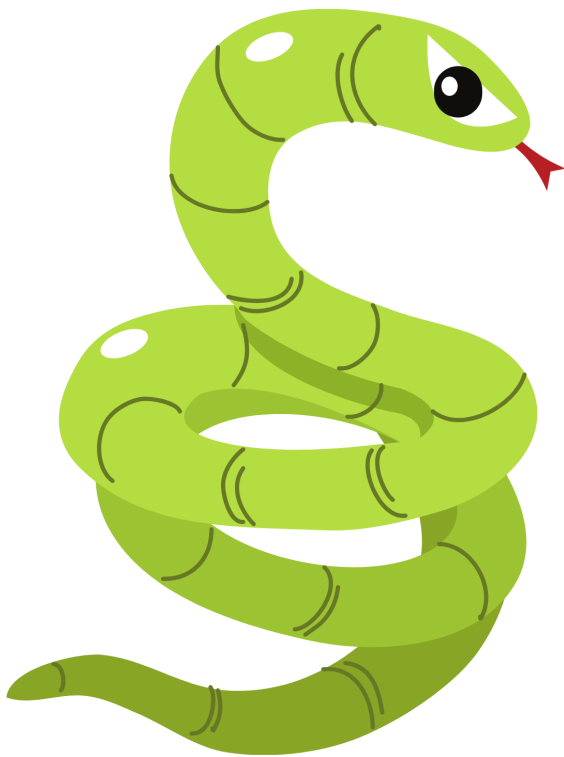


Garden of Eden



Sin entered the world.



Noah and the Ark

Garden of Eden

Day 1

God created everything in the entire universe—sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, and people. The first people that God created were named Adam and Eve. They were perfect, without sin, and God gave them a perfect place to live. They walked with God and had many good things to enjoy. God told them they could eat fruit from all but one tree in the garden. To eat from that tree would be to disobey God. Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit, and disobey God. Disobedience to God is sin. When sin entered the world there was a need for a Savior. Christmas is all about God's plan to send a Savior and rescue the world from sin.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 2:16-17 AND 3:1-6

What grows in a garden? The Bible says Eden was beautiful, what do you think it looked like? What grew in it?

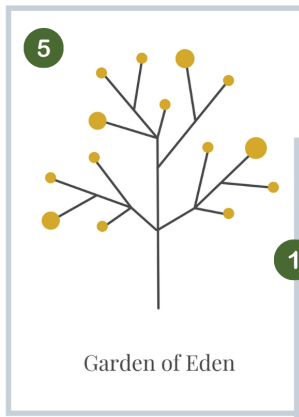
What would the perfect place to live look like to you? If you knew you'd have to leave it, would you disobey?

What do you think it was like to walk with God for Adam and Eve? Do you think we can walk with God today?

Grab some paper and colors, illustrate what you think the Garden of Eden looked like. Display your pictures on the fridge.



how to use



Garden of Eden

These Family Moment Advent Cards were made especially for Families! Consider this a resource to use in your home during the Advent Season. Keep these cards available for meal times or an evening gathering. Complete one card each day, beginning with day 1 on December 1.

Garden of Eden

Day 1

1 God created everything in the entire universe—sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, and people. The first people that God created were named Adam and Eve. They were perfect, without sin, and God gave them a perfect place to live. They walked with God and had many good things to enjoy. God told them they could eat fruit from all but one tree in the garden. To eat from that tree would be to disobey God. Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit, and disobey God. Disobedience to God is sin. When sin entered the world there was a need for a Savior. Christmas is all about God's plan to send a Savior and rescue the world from sin.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 2:16-17 AND 3:1-6

2

1 Read the devotional of the day as a family.

2 Open your Bible and read the full passage. Discuss it.

3 Ask questions. They are divided by age groups, however you can answer them all.

3 What is your favorite fruit in a garden? Would it be hard for you not to eat it?

3 What would the perfect place to live look like to you? If you knew you'd have to leave it, would you disobey?

3 What do you think it was like to walk with God for Adam and Eve? Do you think we can walk with God today?

4 Grab some paper and colors, illustrate what you think the Garden of Eden looked like. Display your pictures on the fridge.



3-5 yrs. old

6-8 yrs. old

9-11 yrs. old

4 Close in prayer. Then dig into the Family Moment! A fun and intentional time together.

5 Display the completed card. Clothespin it on a string, tuck them in the tree, or on the mantle.

Noah and the Ark

Day 3

The world kept growing, and growing, and growing, and people kept sinning. God needed to deal with the sin of the people again. He would send a flood to destroy the earth and start over. Yet God would save some of the animals, and some of the people. Noah was the man God chose to save, along with his family, and two of every kind of animal. They all lived with Noah in an ark (a very large boat) while God caused rain to fall and waters to rise. By saving Noah and his family, God would continue His plan to bring the Savior, Jesus. The ark reminds us that while the Holy God cannot tolerate sin, He is always making a way to save us from it.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 6:6-8 AND 7:1-5

What animals do you want to load on the Ark? Which are your favorites, would you take the animals you didn't like too?

Did people think Noah was crazy? Would you build an ark if God asked you?

What an honor it must have been for Noah to be chosen by God to do this important job. What do you think your important job is for God?

Make a list of what you would pack to take on the Ark. Pretend you could take no more than ten items each. Then pray and thank God for His rainbow promise.



Sin entered the world.

Day 2

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they were not alone. They were tempted by Satan who was in the form of a serpent. The serpent spoke to Eve saying things that caused her to doubt God's goodness. Eve ate the fruit from the tree and so did Adam. Eating the fruit was sin, and they were ashamed. Because they disobeyed God they had to leave His garden. There is always a consequence for sin, and even the serpent was punished. God is holy and cannot tolerate sin, but He is also loving, and provides a way out from sin. He gave Adam and Eve a promise that He would make a way to cover the people's sin. God's promise was for a Savior, one who would bring sinful people back to Him, and defeat Satan.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 3:6-15

What is your favorite fruit in a garden? Would it be hard for you not to eat it?

While fruit on a tree may not be exciting enough to tempt you, what sorts of things would be exciting enough to tempt you to sin? How do you resist those temptations?

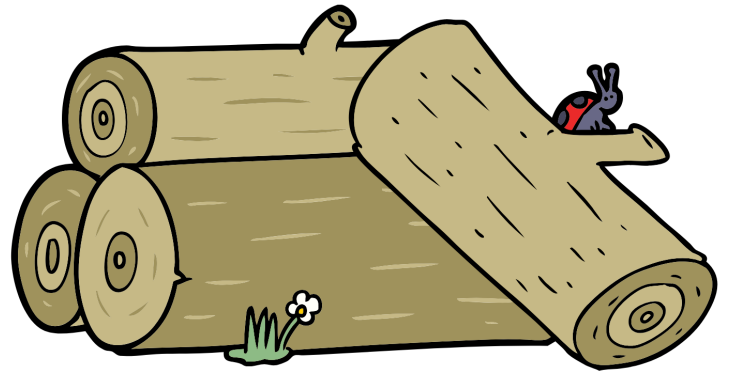
God is perfect and holy, He cannot tolerate sin. What did He do for us so we could be together?

Make a fruit smoothie and thank God for providing fruit and yummy food for us to eat.

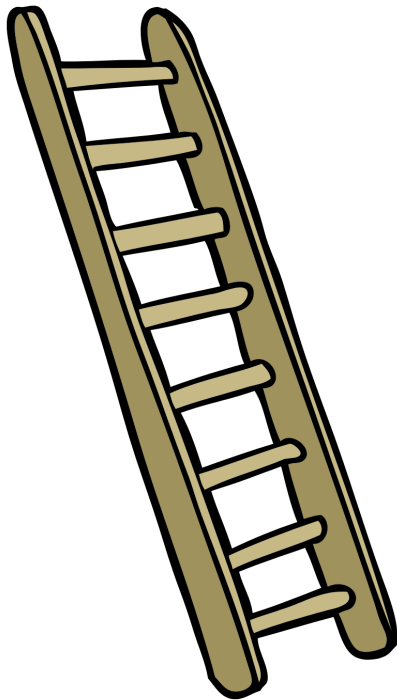




Abram's new name



Wood for a sacrifice



Jacob's Ladder



Joseph's colorful coat

Wood for a sacrifice

Day 5

God promised Abraham a family--a family that would be great. God started this great family by giving him a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham by asking him to build an altar and sacrifice his son. Isaac carried the wood for the altar he was to die on. Abraham obeyed and trusted that God had a plan. Abraham was about to kill his son when God stopped him. God provided a ram to be sacrificed instead.

God always has a plan for the salvation of His people. Many years later Jesus would carry the wood of the cross and He would be the sacrifice made for our sin.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 22:1-8

Think of your favorite possession in your room. Would you give it away if God asked?

If God were to ask you to lay something important to you on an altar, like God asked Abraham, what would that be?

Do people in today's culture build altars? To what?

Your family could sacrifice TIME to serve God in your community. Ring the bell, serve hot meals, collect coats, etc.



Abram's new name

Day 4

Noah and his family had children, and grandchildren, and great grandchildren and the whole earth became full of people again.

Years after Noah, there was a man named Abram. Abram was chosen by God to be the father of God's people, the nation of Israel. God changed his name to Abraham and promised many people would come from his family.

Years before Jesus would be born God was planning and preparing His people for His coming. Jesus would come from Abraham's family.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 15:1-6 AND
MATTHEW 1:1-2

What name would you give yourself if you could be renamed?

Plan for next year. What is something new you'd like to try? A food, a hobby or activity?

God already has plans for you and your life. Do you have any ideas of what those might be?

Make plans to invite some friends from your neighborhood or school to come to church.



Joseph's colorful coat

Day 7

Jacob was blessed with many sons. One of his sons was named Joseph, and Jacob loved him more than any of his other sons. To show his love to Joseph, Jacob gave him a colorful coat. Joseph's brothers were jealous and sold him. He became a slave in Egypt, but God had a plan to protect Joseph. What others meant for harm, God meant for good. God allowed Joseph to have a powerful position in Egypt. Because of his position, he was able to help save his family--God's people. Joseph's brother Judah is a part of the family Jesus came from. Once again God was protecting His plan to bring us a Savior by protecting Joseph and his family.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 37:3-4, 37:17-28
AND 50:17-21

What does your coat protect you from? Where in the house do you feel safe and protected?

Joseph experienced a lot of hard things; what are some hard things you experience?

Can you think of a time where you saw or felt God's protection?

Discuss and thank God for times He has protected your family.



Jacob's Ladder

Day 6

Abraham's son Isaac, grew into a man and had a son named Jacob. One night God spoke to Jacob in a dream and showed him a vision--a symbol about God's promise.

God showed Jacob a ladder, or stairway, that lead into heaven. There were angels going up and down it. In the dream He told Jacob about the promise that had been made to Abraham and Isaac. He told him how all the earth would be blessed through their family. Jesus coming through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is truly a blessing for all people of the earth. Jesus would make a way for people to enter heaven.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
GENESIS 28:10-17

Count how many steps it takes to get to the kitchen, the car, your room. You can count on Jesus to guide your steps!

Do you think we have to climb a ladder or stairs to get to heaven? Why do you think God uses the ladder to explain Jesus?

How does Jesus "make a way" for you to enter heaven?

Do you think God still uses dreams to talk to us? (See Acts 2:17) Talk about a dream you had recently or one you remember. Ask God to speak into your life.





Moses and the law



Trumpets of ram's horn



Wheat for Ruth



Branch of Jesse

Trumpets of ram's horn

Day 9

After Moses died, God chose Joshua to be their leader, and take them into the promised land. They encountered many challenges and battles in their new land. One battle took place at a city named Jericho. Jericho was surrounded by a gigantic wall. God told Joshua He would give them the city, but they would defeat the city in a strange way. The walls of Jericho would fall with the blowing of trumpets. God's plan and promise may have seemed strange but He was at work and Joshua trusted Him. The trumpet reminds us to trust God and His power to keep His promises.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
JOSHUA 6:1-20

- Why was there a wall around Jericho? How tall do you think it was?
- What can we find in our own house/life, like Joshua's trumpet, to help us remember to trust God and that He'll keep His promises?
- Have you ever made a promise to someone? Did you keep it or break it? God's promises are always kept.

Build a wall with legos, boxes, couch cushions, jenga blocks. Blow a trumpet sound and knock the wall down! Pray to God a prayer of thanksgiving for keeping His promises to us.



Moses and the law

Day 8

Many years after Joseph, God's people were still living in Egypt, but they were living as slaves. God wanted to rescue His people from slavery and bring them to a land of their own. God did this using a man named Moses. When God's people were finally freed from Egypt, He gave Moses some instructions to share with the people. God's instructions were called the law. The law of God points to our need for a Savior. It shows us just how imperfect we are and how much we need Jesus.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
EXODUS 20:1-17

- What rules are in your family? Do you obey them?
- Can you name any of the first ten laws (commandments) that God gave Moses to show us how much we need a Savior?
- Could we ever meet and follow ALL of God's laws? Why do we need Jesus?

Look up the Ten Commandments and read through them as a family. You could even write them and post them somewhere in your home.



Branch of Jesse

Day 11

Jesse grew and had many sons. God sent His prophet Samuel to tell Jesse that one of his sons was going to be anointed the King of Israel. Jesse's son David was chosen to become the king. God's Son, Jesus, would come from the family of a king. The Bible also tells us that God's Son would be like a branch. A branch from a shoot of the stump of Jesse. That's just another way of telling us that God's Son would come out of Jesse's family.

Jesus is the Branch that came from the family tree.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
ISAIAH 11:1-10

- How many people are in your family? Will there ever be more?
- How did you get your name? Is there anyone else you know with the same name in your family?
- Do you think God knows who you will marry someday? Pray for that person, maybe they are your age right now.

Make a family tree. Talk about who is on it, from the past, present and even the future. Pray for your family to multiply and thrive!



Wheat for Ruth

Day 10

Many years after the time of Joshua, when God's people were living in their land, there was a woman named Ruth. She was from a different land but married one of God's people. When her husband died she chose to live with her mother-in-law. They moved to Bethlehem where God used a man named Boaz to help provide for them. Boaz provided food by making sure there was plenty of wheat for Ruth to gather in his fields. Boaz eventually married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. Obed would be the father to Jesse whose family would continue to be a part of God's plan to send a Savior.

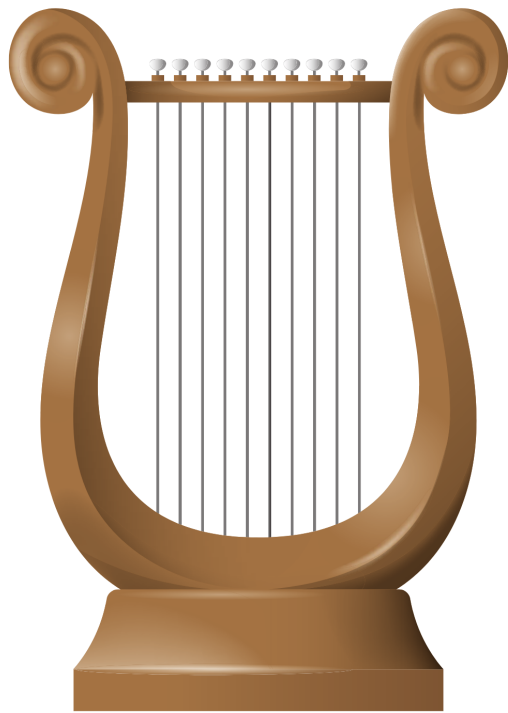


OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
RUTH 1:1-10 AND 4:13-17

- Do you have what you need to survive? Food, clothing and shelter.
- What is an orphan and widow? How does God provide for you and your family?
- God commands us to care for orphans and widows in Psalm 68: 5-6 How can we care for these people?

Ask God to show you in the church family who needs to be "supplied" with love or gifts this season. Maybe an orphan or a widow. Act on this!





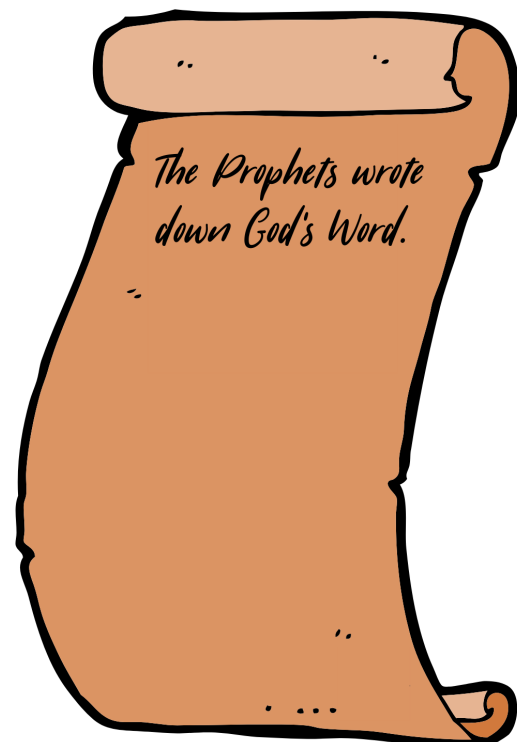
The harp of David



Jesus is King



Three days



The Scroll

Jesus is King

Day 13

David had a son who would also become king. His name was Solomon. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule his kingdom and God gave it to him.

He was also the king who built the temple where God's glory dwelt on earth. Once God's Son came, God would have a new dwelling place. God's dwelling would be in His people.

God's Son, Jesus, is a King who rules with wisdom and love. God's people are those who follow Jesus as King. When we follow Him we become like a temple, and God lives in our heart.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
1 KINGS 3:3-12 AND
1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

How does a king dress? Would you like to wear a crown everyday?

If you were a king what three rules would be MOST important in your kingdom?

Do you treat your body like a temple? How could you better care for the temple of God (you)?

Circle up and take turns praying. Thank God for our Savior Jesus and His wisdom and love in ruling over us. Admit your sin to God and ask to be forgiven.



The harp of David

Day 12

When David became king he was a great leader for God's people. David also loved God and wrote many of the Psalms. The Psalms are songs of worship to God. David loved worshiping God with songs and played the harp.

The Psalms remind us of God's greatness, His power over-all, His love, and His goodness. They remind us He is faithful and has an unfailing love. We remember God's faithfulness and love at Christmas when we remember that Jesus came, just as God promised. (An ancient harp is called a lyre.)



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
PSALM 33

What has God done that you think is great? Let's sing and dance with music about that blessing.

Do you have a favorite worship song? Play it out loud, sing along and dance. Worship God with your joy and noise!

Can you write your own song, a rap, a poem, or draw a picture that worships the Lord?

On YouTube look up "King David's Lyre; Echoes of Ancient Israel". Play it for all to hear.



The Scroll

Day 15

The Old Testament is full of writings by God's prophets. The prophets sent messages from God to His people. The prophets warned the people about turning from God, but they also shared hope and the promise of Jesus.

Isaiah was one of the prophets. The words God gave Isaiah told of the sins of the people, but also the hope of a Savior. The coming of Jesus is talked about many times in Isaiah and the other books of the prophets.

The prophets reassured and reminded His people that God was planning to send a Savior.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
ISAIAH 7:14 AND 53:1-12

**See the Family Moment Challenge to answer these questions.*

Where does *your person live? Find it on a map. How far is it from you?

How do you address a piece of "snail" mail? Practice your address. How long do you think it will take for *them to get your card?

If you could go anywhere on the earth to share God's good news, where would you want to be a missionary?

Share the Good News of Jesus' coming birth by sending a Christmas card in the mail. Select a person you think would need to hear this news.



Three days

Day 14

Many years after David and Solomon, there was a prophet named Jonah. God had a message for Jonah to deliver but Jonah didn't want to obey. Jonah tried to run away from God on a ship. When Jonah was thrown overboard, God provided a big fish to swallow Jonah. For three days Jonah survived in the belly of that fish. After three days he was spit out of the fish and went to do his work.

When Jesus was on earth He compared his time in the tomb to Jonah's time in the fish. After Jesus died on the Cross He was in the tomb three days before He rose from the dead.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
JONAH 1 AND
MATTHEW 12:40

Where do fish live? Do they get big? How big do they get?

When your work is hard, do you ask for help?

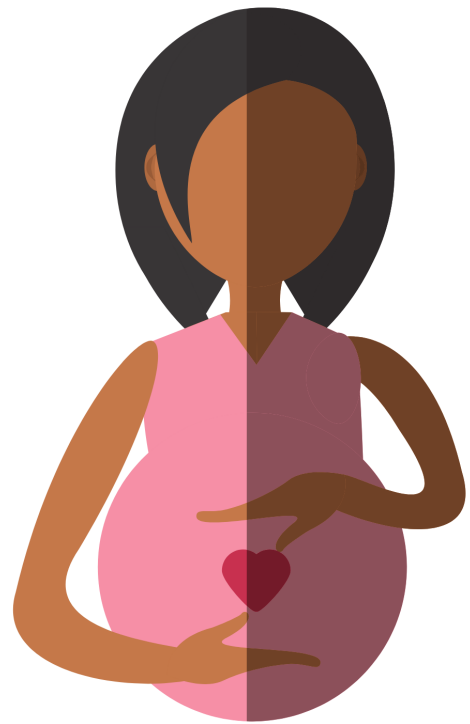
When you don't like what is happening do you try to run away from the problem like Jonah did?

Ask your family to help do a chore in the house together. Make it a challenging chore like laundry or cleaning up an entire room. Put on music and praise God while doing hard work together.





An Angel visits Mary



Baby John leaped



John the Baptist



Joseph obeyed

Baby John leaped

Day 17

Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth. Elizabeth was unable to have children but God did a miracle in her. He allowed her to become pregnant. She too would have a special baby. The baby she was carrying would be a messenger to the people. His messages would prepare the way for the Savior. He would be called John the Baptist and his job was to point people to Jesus.

Mary went to tell her cousin the exciting news about her baby. When she did, the baby Elizabeth was carrying (John) leaped inside of her. Elizabeth was amazed at the miraculous ways they saw God carrying out His promised plan.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
LUKE 1:11-17, 39-45

Do you know someone with a baby growing inside them? Pray for the baby to grow healthy and strong.

Have you held a baby? Do they wiggle a lot? Do you think Elizabeth could feel John the Baptist leap inside of her?

Do you think that Jesus could greet John the Baptist from one mother's womb to another? What do you think He said to John the Baptist?

Parents, tell your children about a fun or exciting memory from when they were a baby. Maybe show them a photo as a baby too.



An Angel visits Mary

Day 16

There were many silent years after the last prophet brought messages to God's people, however God still had a plan. God had chosen a young girl named Mary to play a very important role in His plan. God sent an angel to deliver a message to her. The angel told Mary that she would give birth to a son.

But He would not be an ordinary son, she was to name her son Jesus, and He would be great. She would become pregnant by the power of God's Spirit and the baby would be the Son of God.

God's promised plan was beginning to be revealed on the earth.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
LUKE 1:26-38

Do you think the angel scared Mary? Would you be frightened by an angel?

How do you think Mary felt when the angel visited her and shared such important news with her?

Mary was a young teenage girl. Could God use you at the age you are now for His plans?

Take a drive to see the Christmas lights this week. Think about Jesus being the Light in our dark world. Pray for the people who live inside your favorite decorated house.



Joseph obeyed

Day 19

Mary was going to be married to a man named Joseph. Joseph was part of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as Jesse, David, and Solomon. Joseph was part of the family that God had promised to send His Savior through. An angel also spoke to Joseph. The angel explained that Mary was going to give birth to a son given to her by the Spirit of God. The angel told him that he was to name the baby Jesus.

The name Jesus means the Lord saves. Joseph obeyed God and was the final earthly father in the family God had set apart to bring the Savior into the world.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
MATTHEW 1:18-25

What are your parent's real names? How old are they?

Do you think being Joseph, the dad of Jesus, was hard at times? When?

Parent's jobs are hard, what can you do to make their jobs easier?

Make a family chore list to help one another around the house. Families that work together are stronger!



John the Baptist

Day 18

When John the Baptist grew up he helped people get ready to hear the message of Jesus. He told the people to repent, to turn from their sins, because the kingdom of heaven was near.

Many people came to hear his message and be baptized by him. The prophets had spoken about John's coming and called him a voice in the wilderness.

God used John the Baptist to prepare people for His promised plan.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
MATTHEW 3:1-6

What did John the Baptist wear and eat?

What is baptism? Is it similar to taking a bath, in what ways?

Do you know someone who has been baptized? Why would someone want to be dipped in water?

Preparation and Cleansing is important. Help prepare your home for guests this season by picking up the house and cleaning. Pray over your home too.





Mary praised God



The only room left.



A message for the shepherds



Following the star

The only room left.

Day 21

Bethlehem was known as the City of David. It was the hometown for the family of David, and Joseph was a part of that family. People were supposed to travel to the town of their family to be counted for the government. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for Jesus to be born. Because there were so many people in town to be counted they couldn't find a place to stay. An innkeeper allowed them to stay in his barn—a stable. And that's where Jesus was born--Jesus, the promised Savior, the One whose name is great. Jesus: God's perfect plan.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
LUKE 2:1-7

What animals do you think were living in the stable when Mary and Joseph arrived?

Whose house would you go and knock at if you needed a place to stay? Would they let you in?

Have you thought about Bethlehem being Mary & Joseph's hometown? NONE of their friends or relatives offered them a place to stay. How would you feel? Why do you think they weren't welcomed?

Not everyone gets along all the time. Who can you think of that you should be giving more grace and love to? Pray for them and try to make an effort.



Mary praised God

Day 20

Mary rejoiced to be a part of God's great plan to save the world from sin. She was happy that God had chosen to bless her with this very special son.

Mary was so full of praise for God that she glorified God with a song of His greatness and goodness to her. Mary was humble and saw God's choosing her to carry the Savior as a very special honor.

At Christmas, we can sing songs and reflect on God's goodness, faithfulness, and His plan, just like Mary did.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
LUKE 1:46-55

Mary sang a song because she was so happy to be Jesus' mom. What makes you happy?

Have you ever been honored for something? What award or honor would you give to your mom?

How can you plan to honor God today? Is there a way you can thank Him for His goodness in your life?

Play some Christmas music and sip hot cocoa or tea. Talk about some God sightings you've had this week. Thank God for His goodness!



Following the star

Day 23

Some time after Jesus was born there were others who came to worship Him. They had seen and followed a star that God had placed in the sky.

They followed the star until it stopped where Jesus was. They rejoiced when they found Him. They presented Him with treasures and gifts.

God's promised plan had been revealed to these men and they worshiped Jesus, God's promised Savior.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
MATTHEW 2:1-12

If you went to visit the baby Jesus, what gift would you bring Him?

Do you think baby Jesus was a cute baby boy? Was there anything special about His looks?

Picture yourself being one of the people who found baby Jesus by following the star in the sky. What kind of feeling do you think you would have when you saw baby Jesus for the first time?

Following the star, was following directions. Blindfold one family member and give them directions to make a PBJ sandwich and feed it to someone else in the family. Take turns.



A message for the shepherds

Day 22

On that special day, when Jesus was born, God used an angel to help announce the Good News.

The angel appeared to some shepherds who were nearby. While they were watching their sheep they were told of the Good News. They were told where to find Jesus and they were joined by many angels, all praising God.

God's plan to bring us a Savior was happening. Jesus was born! The Good News was spreading and it was for all people.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
LUKE 2:8-20

Who visited the shepherds in the fields? What message was given to them?

After the shepherds heard the news, what did they do next?

How does it make you feel to learn how God's plan comes together and that you are a part of His plan?

Play the game "telephone". Pass a message from ear to ear throughout your family. Try your best to keep the message perfect.





Baby Jesus



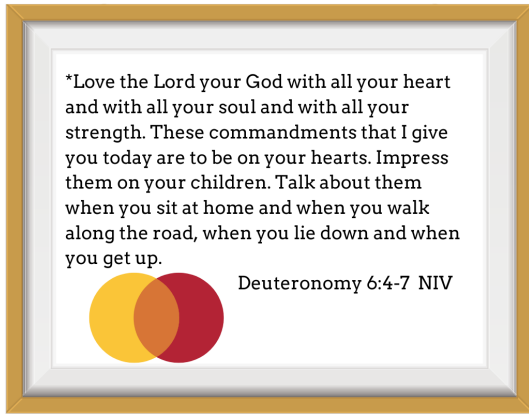
Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas

Day 25

We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas. The best gift of all is the gift from our God in the form of a baby. A precious baby, who was born as our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the great sacrifice that our God made to send His one and only son to save us from sin.

We are so happy that you and your family completed this Advent Family Moments study. A D6 family is one who applies the *Deuteronomy 6: 4-7 principle to their everyday lives, not just on Sunday. Combining the light of the Spirit and the love of the home to honor God.



Baby Jesus

Day 24

The pieces of God's plan can be seen all throughout God's Word. His plan to rescue His people from sin, His plan to bring a Savior to God's people from the family of Abraham, and His plan to bring a Savior who is also a King from the family of David. His plan was demonstrated through the law and spoken about through the prophets. God's great wisdom, power and love can be seen in His perfect plan.

At Christmas we celebrate that Jesus, God's promised and perfect plan, has come. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior. He is the King over all.



OPEN AND READ YOUR BIBLE
COLOSSIANS 1:13-22 AND
JOHN 3:16-21

Who is the King of the world? The King of ALL Kings?

How could a baby possibly save us?

Christmas is a celebration of the prophecy being fulfilled with the birth of Jesus, but His story doesn't end there. What else happened in Jesus' life?

Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and find a service to attend to celebrate His birth.

