

Light Show: Let the Christmas celebration begin

First, watch this week's video!

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Bottom Line

Celebrate because God has a plan.

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

Activity

Planning Presents

What You Need:

Gift bags in an assortment of sizes, and "gifts" (toys from around the house) in an assortment of sizes (you'll need the same number of gifts as bags, and each gift should be able to fit in a bag)

What You Do:

Place all the gifts on a table. Then place all the empty bags on the table, but have them folded so their sizes don't show.

Say, "We've got to make a plan to put every gift in a bag. Without touching the bags, try to guess which gift fits in which bag."

Guide your child to place a gift in front of each folded bag. The prompt them to place each gift in the bag they chose. If it doesn't fit, set it to the side. Then say, "How did your plan work out? Was it a good plan? Now that you've seen the bags, would you make a different plan?"

Allow your child to shift the gifts into the bag that best fits.

Talk About the Bible Story

You came up with a plan to get the gifts in each bag. In our Bible story today, who had a plan for Mary? (God)

Why did Mary sing a song to God? (She was full of joy because of the news that she would be Jesus' mother.)

How was Jesus a part of God's plan? (Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.)

Sometimes things in life don't go the way we expect. How can we remember to celebrate God's plan, even when things don't go our way?

Parent: Share about a time when you didn't understand God's plan in the moment, but later, you were able to see what God was up to.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, we know the names of our friends and we can pray for each other, but YOU know EVERYONE! You have a good plan for each and every one of us. You loved us so much that You gave us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us remember to celebrate because You have a plan for each of us. Amen."