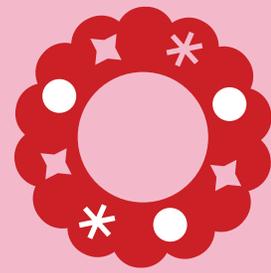


DECEMBER PARENT GUIDE



Memory Verse

She will give birth to a son.
You will name the son
Jesus. Give him that name
because he will save his
people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21

Bible Lesson: This month's story starts at the very beginning. All the way in the book of Genesis remember that Adam and Eve lived perfectly with God in a beautiful garden. But, sadly, they disobeyed God and broke this perfect relationship. Because of this, they had to leave the garden and be separated from God. **But God didn't leave them.** He promised to send a Redeemer—His Son—to forgive their sins and bring them into relationship with Him. For hundreds of years, God reminded His people about the Redeemer through the prophets who shared God's message with His people. Over time, God's people, the Israelites (later called the Jews), began to think of the Redeemer as the Messiah who would free them from all the pains and struggles, they suffered. One day, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. He told her that, even though she wasn't married yet, she would give birth to God's Son. God also told her husband-to-be, Joseph, this same news, saying his wife would give birth to a son, and they would call him "Immanuel" (which means 'God with us')" (Matthew 1:23).

Read Matthew 1:21–23. When it came time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph were in the small town of Bethlehem. Here, Mary gave birth to God's Son and laid Him in a manger, a food trough for animals! God's Son would be a Messiah and Redeemer, but not in the way most people thought. No one expected Him to come as a baby!

That night lots of angels appeared to a group of shepherds in a field, praising God. Let's read what one of the angels said. Read Luke 2:9–11. Afterward, the shepherds ran to go see the baby Jesus, and they told the angel's good news to everyone they met along the way. Mary and Joseph raised Jesus, God's Son, in a town called Nazareth. As He grew, He spent much of His time talking with God. Jesus was perfect and never sinned, not even once! Then, when He was 30 years old, Jesus began His ministry—healing people, forgiving people of their sins, telling everyone about the kingdom of God and that He was the Redeemer—the Messiah—they had waited for. But many people didn't believe Him. They thought the Messiah would be a strong and mighty king. So, many people called for Jesus' death on a cross. Three days after His death, Jesus rose and proved He is God, the Messiah, the Redeemer—the One who saves! This is such a beautiful part of the Bible—and the best part is that it's true! But it's not over yet.

Today we wait for Jesus to return, and when He returns, He will be King of Kings over the whole world. He will restore the world to the way it was in the beginning and live with those who believe in Him forever! So, this Christmas, as we celebrate that God came to save us, we can also rejoice with expectant hope! And we can trust Jesus to fulfill His promise to come again as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Crafts:

Simple Stone Advent Calendar: Create this simple Advent calendar during the month of December. Collect 25 stones and have kids build a pathway to the manger. Every day remove 1 stone as you countdown to Jesus's birth.



Celebrate Advent each week with your kids with this simple Advent Wreath: Print out this two page printable to create your own special Advent wreath to be reminded that Jesus brings us: hope, joy, peace, love and finally our Messiah. Use paperplate for the wreath. Kids color and cut each candle and place on wreath weekly until Christmas. You will need copies of the below printables, markers, scissors and glue.



Sing: Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed. The little Lord Jesus, laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky, looked down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes. But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky. And stay by my side, 'Til morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay. Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care. And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.



* Second Sunday of Advent (Violet)

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight." ~ Mark 1:3

HOPE



* First Sunday of Advent (Violet)

"Take heed, watch, and pray; for you do not
know when the time will come." ~ Mark 13:33

HOPE



* Third Sunday of Advent (Rose)

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John... he was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light." ~ John 1:6, 8

JOY




HOPE

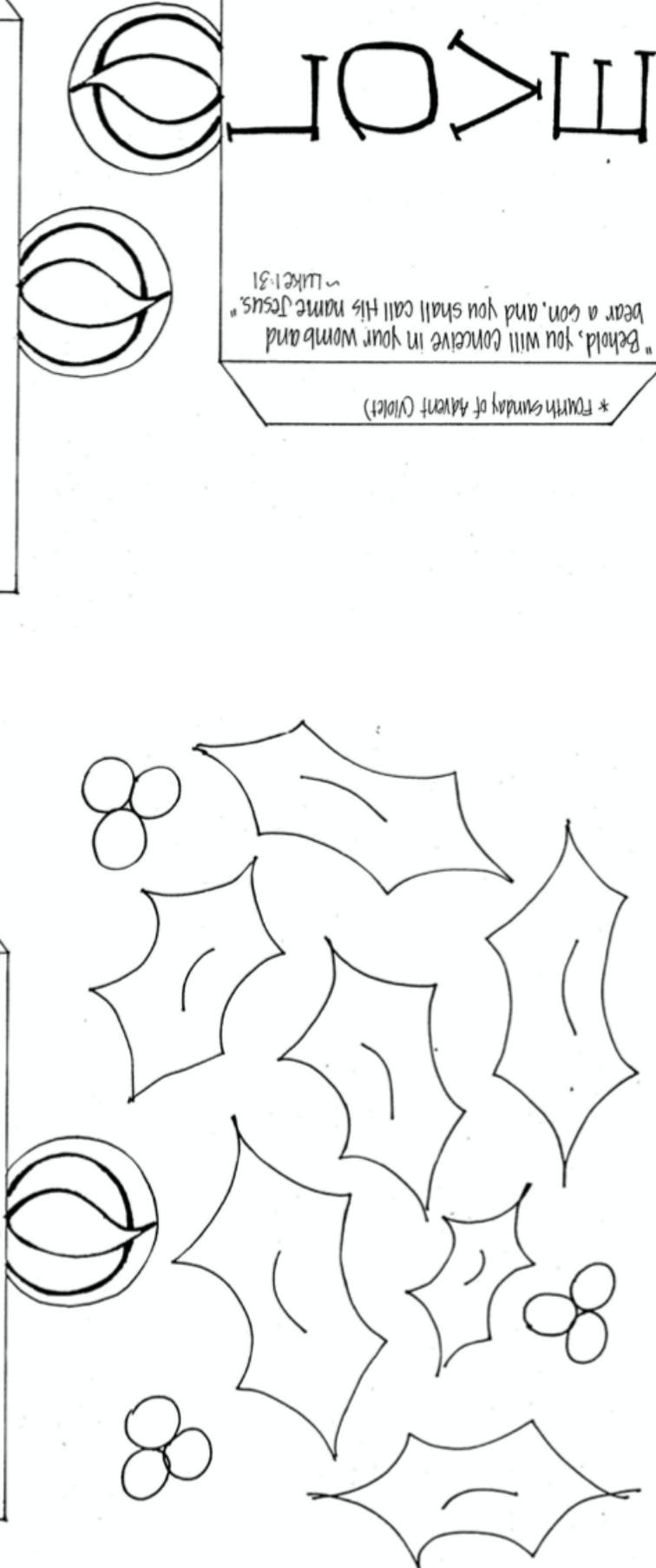
"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." ~ Luke 1:31

* Fourth Sunday of Advent (Violet)

* Christmas Day! (White)

"For to you this day is born in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord." ~ Luke 2:11

CHRISTMAS

Holiday Games: Fun for The Entire Family!

Christmas Garland Obstacle Course Just how agile are you? This game will give them a ton of indoor obstacle fun.

Supplies needed:

Garland
tinsel or ribbon
Tape

Simply tape the garland up on the walls in a hallway (use painter's tape or mounting strips) and make it to where the kids have to climb through it without touching the garland or knocking it down.



A Crib of Kindness!

Make a manger out of a box. Then each time your 4- or 6-year-old does a good deed, obeyed or prayed for others, he or she could put a soft piece of cotton in the manger. Talk about how Jesus wants us to do kind things for others because doing so helps soften our hearts to love others.

Names of Jesus: Cut out stars from cardstock paper and write "Jesus is ..." on each one. Then write words that described Jesus, such as "Savior," "Emmanuel" and "Prince of Peace." At night, talk about the different names of Jesus. Creating these stars to decorate your kitchen cabinets, or a designated wall so that you can remember the character of Jesus.

Finding Jesus

Set up a Nativity scene in a main room such as your kitchen or living room on Dec. 1. Then hide baby Jesus far from the nativity. As Christmas approaches, the figurine would be hidden in progressively closer locations — moving from the upstairs bedrooms closer to the nativity. This simple game will keep Jesus in the forefront of your kid's minds.

