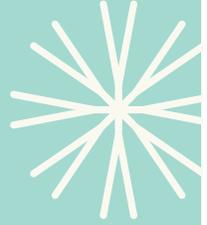




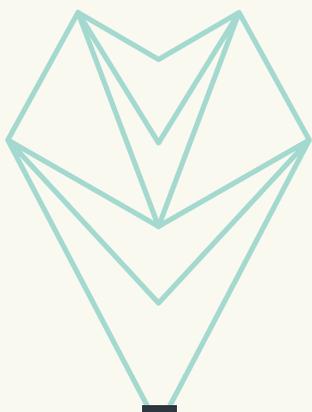
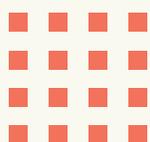
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with **kid**heights



KID





HEIGHTS



advent activity booklet



his Christmas, your family will be busy with holiday fun, yummy treats, and time with loved ones. With all that is going on, we know it can be tricky to help the family focus on the true meaning of Christmas:



JESUS.

That's why we made this booklet! Each day starting on December 1st, your family can spend a few minutes together reading scripture with a brief devotion, having some intentional conversations, and enjoying a fun Christmas themed activity. We've even included a fill-in-the-Christmas-Tree page to track your progress. We hope this helps your family grow closer together and win spiritually this Christmas.

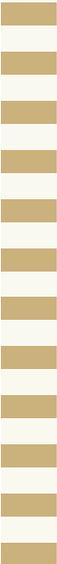






DAY 1

READ THIS: GENESIS 1



When we think about Christmas, it's easy to jump ahead to Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and all the animals in the manger. But the story of God sending his son Jesus started before that...way before. It started before there were any birds in the sky, trees in the ground, or fish in the ocean. Genesis 1 tells us that before anything was created, God was there. He has always been there and he will always be there. In His goodness, God decided to create. Over 6 days, God created all of the incredible things we have around us. Things like the sun, the moon, and the stars. Mountains and oceans, trees and grass, giraffes and elephants. He saved his favorite creation until the end; humans! The Bible tells us that God created humans in God's image. This makes us unique, because we are the only thing in all of creation made to reflect God. After all that creating, God used the seventh day to rest and enjoy everything he had created.

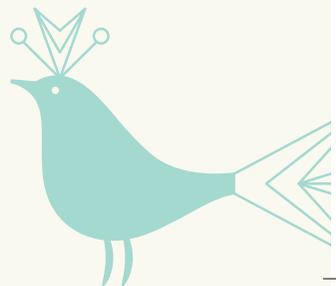
God would have been perfectly content without creating anything, but out of his love, he chose to create everything, including us. As we move through the Christmas story, remember that God chose to make us a part of his story, not because he needed to, but because he wanted to!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some of your favorite things that God has created?

TRY THIS:

Make a Christmas countdown with paper chains.





DAY 2

READ THIS: GENESIS 2

Imagine the most beautiful place you have ever been. Maybe it was a place with huge snow covered mountains towering in the distance. Maybe it was a quiet forest during autumn with vibrant leaves all around. Maybe it was watching the sunset at a beautiful beach. Now imagine that you were at that place all by yourself. Would it still be beautiful? Absolutely, but it would be even better if you had someone to share it with.

In Genesis 2, Adam is in the Garden of Eden, God's perfect place, but he had no one to share it with. So God decides to make Adam a partner named Eve to enjoy God's creation together. God shows us from the very beginning that he cares deeply about relationships. God wanted Adam and Eve to have a special relationship with each other, but also a special relationship with himself.

From the very beginning, we were made to have a special relationship with God. God designed us to be a part of his perfect creation and to have a relationship with Him forever. Think about the relationships you have with your parents, grandparents, teachers, teammates and friends. As special as those relationships can be, God designed us to have an even better relationship with him.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

List some of the relationships that you have and what makes those relationships so special.

TRY THIS:

Have an indoor snowball fight with your family.

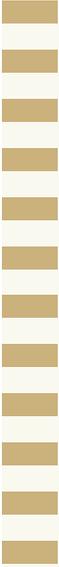


DAY 3

READ THIS: GENESIS 3:1-13



If you've ever had a good thing get ruined, you can understand what is happening in Genesis 3. Only three chapters into the Bible, we find Adam and Eve make a choice that will affect every single person to ever live. God had given them one rule; not to eat from a certain tree in the garden. This was important because it was a chance for Adam and Eve to honor and obey God and keep a perfect relationship with him.



But the serpent came along and tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from the tree. The moment they did, they sinned against God. Sin is simply when we do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do. Sin breaks the perfect relationship that God designed us for. That's why it is such a big deal. But even then, God already had a plan in place that would restore his relationship with us!

It is important that we realize that sin breaks relationships, both with God and with others. When that happens, our job is to turn back to God by trusting that his son Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

How have you seen sin affect your relationship with God or others?

TRY THIS:

Add a homemade ornament to the Christmas tree.



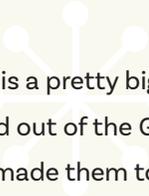


DAY 4

READ THIS: GENESIS 3:14-24



Something that we all know is that actions have consequences. Sometimes those consequences are good, and sometimes they are bad. If you eat 100 cookies before bed, the consequence is that you will have a pretty serious stomach ache. If you do all your chores, the consequence is that you might get paid an allowance. If you break the rules at your house, the consequence might be that you get grounded.



In the same way, sin has a consequence, and it is a pretty big one. In Genesis 3, we see that Adam and Eve get kicked out of the Garden of Eden and are separated from God. God had made them to have a perfect relationship with him, but now they weren't able to have a relationship at all with him. The same is true for us. Our sin separates us from God, not just for a little while, but forever. It's a bad consequence, but even though our sin separates us from God, he still loves us and wants to save us from that.



Think about that next time you do what you want instead of what God wants. Then think about how incredible it is that God made a way for you to still have a relationship with him without having to face that consequence. That should help us praise God for how good he is!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

List some of the relationships that you have and what makes those relationships so special.

TRY THIS:

Make a nativity scene with household items (use your imagination).



DAY 5

READ THIS: GENESIS 22:1-13



As the people became separated from God, God began to use people and events to point to a coming savior. All throughout the Old Testament, stories that we know and love all point to Jesus and what he would do. One of the clearest examples is an event that happened between Abraham and his son Issac.



Abraham had been waiting for a son for a very, very long time and God finally blessed him with a son, Issac. But as Issac got older, Abraham got a troubling command from God. God told Abraham to take his son Issac and sacrifice him. Normally, this would be done with an animal like a lamb or a goat, but God was clear that this time, Abraham should sacrifice his only son.

Abraham was obedient to God, and was willing to do what he had been asked. But at the last second, God provided a ram for Abraham to use instead. This was obviously a relief to Abraham, but this story points us to something far greater than just Abraham and Issac. This story points to the fact that God would be willing to sacrifice his only son, who he would provide, like he provided the ram, to be a substitute sacrifice for all sin. We might not normally think of stories like this as Christmas stories, but any story that points to Jesus can remind us of the incredible gift God gave us at Christmas.



TALK ABOUT THIS:

How do you think Abraham and Issac felt in this story?

TRY THIS:

Make candy canes out of pipe cleaners.



DAY 6

READ THIS: PSALM 96

If someone were to write a song about you, what are some of the ways they would describe you? Would they talk about how you dress, what you like to do, or what kind of food you like? In Psalm 96, the writer decides to write a song about God and all that he has done. He writes about his strength, his holiness, his glory, his beauty, and his love.

The writer also points out that God is a God who saves his people. Even before God had completed his plan to rescue us and restore our relationship with him, the writer of the Psalms knows that God was working to save people from their sin. The writer wouldn't get to see the completion of that plan, but he still praised God anyway!

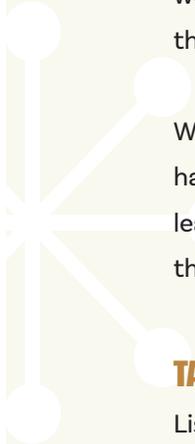
We don't get to see or know everything God has ever done, but he has given us the Bible to tell us some of those things. The more we learn and understand about God, the more we can be grateful for the things he has done, just like the writer of Psalm 96!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

List some of the ways that the writer of Psalms describes God.

TRY THIS:

Go through your toy box and choose some toys you no longer play with to donate.



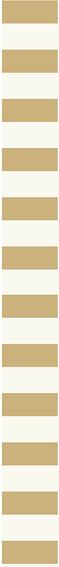


DAY 7

READ THIS: **ISAIAH 7:10-14**



The Old Testament is full of prophecies, which are declarations about who God is and his future plans. Prophecies come in all shapes and sizes, but they all help point to one thing; God's plan to save people through his son Jesus.



Many prophecies come from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah 7 predicted that there would be a woman who gave birth to a son and that people would call the son "Immanuel". Immanuel means "God with us". Isaiah was telling the people that one day in the future God himself would come to earth as a baby to live with us and make a way for us to have a relationship with God again.

God wants us to know that he is not far away from us, but he is always close! We can turn to God anytime, anywhere, and he will always be right there for us!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Share some times in your life where you have felt like God was close to you.

TRY THIS:

Get matching Christmas PJs.





DAY 8

READ THIS: ISAIAH 9:6-7

Do you have a nickname? If you could choose a nickname for yourself, what would it be? Most people only answer to a few names, because that's all they need. With God, things are a little bit different. The Bible has over 100 names to describe God, all describing a unique aspect of who God is.

In Isaiah 9, he reminds the people that God will be coming to earth in the form of a baby, and that he would be called things like a wonderful counselor, mighty God, prince of peace, and everlasting father. These names only scratch the surface to describe how incredible God is and how amazing his coming gift was going to be!

As you continue to read the Bible through the Christmas season, pay attention to all the special names that are used for God and try to understand more about each one!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some other names the Bible uses for God?

TRY THIS:

Make some hot chocolate and add your favorite toppings.

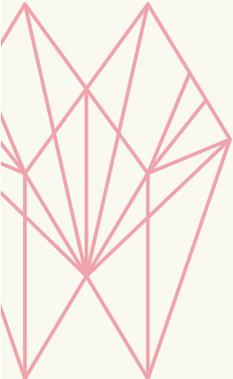


TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some other names the Bible uses for God?

TRY THIS:

Make some hot chocolate and add your favorite toppings.



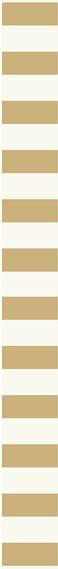


DAY 9

READ THIS: ISAIAH 40:3-5



A long time ago, before apps and the internet, when there was news to be shared, you'd be able to find people on crowded streets in cities all across the country selling newspapers by shouting previews of the biggest stories from that day. When people heard a small part of what was in the paper, they became so interested that they would buy a copy just to see what all the fuss was about.



As God's big plan to rescue us got closer and closer, he knew that he would need people who could give a preview of what was coming to get people excited and interested in what He was going to do. Isaiah 40 tells us about a man that we later find out would be named John the Baptist, who shared the news of a coming Savior with anyone and everyone that would listen. God helped John be able share the news, something that we can continue to do to this day!

Luckily, God has given us the opportunity to share the news of Christmas with everyone around us. God helped John be able to share the news, something that we can continue to do to this day!



TALK ABOUT THIS:

How would you preview the Christmas story to your friends to get them excited?

TRY THIS:

Create snowmen with marshmallows.





DAY 10

READ THIS: MATTHEW 3:1-3

John the Baptist was the messenger that God picked to tell everyone about the coming Savior. But he wasn't exactly what you would expect from a messenger of God. You might think that God would have sent an angel who was shiny, bright, and spotless. But John the Baptist didn't quite fit that description. The Bible tells us that John the Baptist wore tattered clothes made from the hair of animals, and he ate a steady diet of bugs and honey.

It was a little bit strange to say the least, but the message he was bringing was absolutely true. He told the people that the Kingdom of God was coming to Earth. What he meant was that God himself was going to come from heaven to earth in order to rescue the people.

He wanted to make sure that people were ready to follow the Savior! The more we read the Bible, the more we see that God doesn't always act in the way that we would expect. But we can remember that God knows better than we do and that God's way is always the best way.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some times that God did something in a way that you weren't expecting?

TRY THIS:

Scan the QR code to try the KidHeights TV Weird Science experiment.



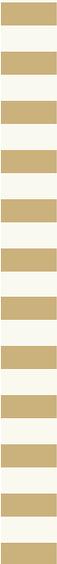


DAY 11

READ THIS: **ISAIAH 42: 1-7**



Have you ever had a moment where you were afraid or confused and you weren't quite sure what was going to happen next? We all have those moments, and having someone there to help us through those situations can make all the difference in the world.



In Isaiah 42, the writer describes that because of our sin, we are in a pretty desperate situation. He compares it to being blind in darkness or being captured and stuck in prison. But luckily, he also tells us that God's coming gift to the world was going to be the person to help his people get through that hopeless situation.

When you are lonely, scared, confused, or unsure, remember that God loves you and that he is always with you. He has a plan for your life to follow and trust his son Jesus. When we do that, we can keep going no matter what!

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some reasons we can have hope, even in dark situations?

TRY THIS:

Make paper snowflakes.





DAY 12

READ THIS: LUKE 1:26-38

We read in Luke 1 that God sent a special messenger to a woman named Mary. Mary was highly favored and loved by God, and God had chosen her to do something extraordinary; to give birth to the Savior of the world. To prepare her, his messenger angel told Mary exactly what was going to happen.

At first, Mary was afraid, and wasn't quite sure how everything was going to happen. After all, she was definitely not expecting to have a baby anytime soon. But as the angel continued to tell Mary what was about to happen, Mary decided to trust what the angel was saying. Her faith allowed her to be a part of God's big plan to rescue his people.



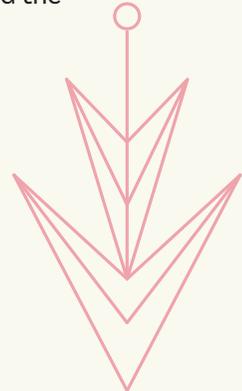
When we read the Bible, there may be things that we aren't sure about or things that cause us to have questions. That's ok! Mary asked questions to help her understand more and strengthen her faith. God has given us the ability to learn and grow in our understanding so that we can trust him more every day.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Imagine an Angel came to you with a message. What would the message be and how would you react?

TRY THIS:

Draw a card or write a letter to your teacher.



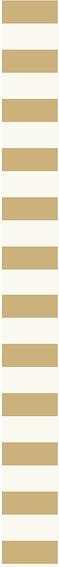


DAY 13

READ THIS: MATTHEW 1:18-25



Joseph, the often forgotten character in the Christmas story. He doesn't have a shining, starring role so we don't talk about him as much as others. But think about what Joseph experienced!



Joseph was one of the very first people to know the Savior they had been waiting for was about to come. Can you imagine having an angel come and especially tell you that Jesus is going to be part of your family?

The angel that comes to him in a dream tells him, "Do not be afraid" and gives him the job of naming this baby Jesus. But most importantly, the angel confirms that Jesus will be the one to save his people from their sins. Joseph hears the message of hope and knows he will get to witness this first-hand.

After the dream, the Bible tells us Joseph's response is obedience. While the message might have been unique and probably even overwhelming, Joseph did as the angel said. He married Mary and named his son Jesus.

For us, because of the hope that Jesus gives us by saving us from our sins, we also can have a response of obedience to what God calls us to do.



TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some ways that you can obey God?

TRY THIS:

Make your own Christmas MadLib.





DAY 14

READ THIS: LUKE 2:1-7

The story of Jesus' birth starts with a road trip. The ruler at that time, Caesar Augustus, decided he wanted to count all the people in his land and everyone was required to go back to their family's original hometown.

Joseph was a relative way down the line of grandkids from King David, so he and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. And there, in this little town of Bethlehem in a not so glamorous barn that was meant for animals, the Savior for all people was born. Jesus came into the world as a little baby and was laid in a manger for his first bed.

Jesus was God's son and could have had anything that he wanted-- God could have chosen any time or place to keep his promise of sending the Savior. But God didn't plan for it to be a big moment full of parades and celebrations and excitement. He didn't pick the most important town or famous parents or a rich house.

Instead, Jesus came on a quiet night to ordinary parents in the only place that was available to stay. Jesus' birth wasn't about making a scene or getting the people's attention. Jesus's birth instead shows us that he came for all people, and that God had a special plan for this baby.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Imagine and describe all the sights, sounds, and smells that you think were part of that first Christmas.

TRY THIS:

Make your own Christmas scavenger hunt.



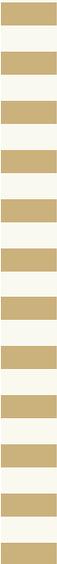


DAY 15

READ THIS: LUKE 2:8-20



The very first people to hear the good news that Jesus had been born were a group of shepherds who were watching over their sheep that night. Can you imagine if you were just doing your job and hanging around outside and then suddenly an angel shows up in the sky and begins to talk to you? Surprised? Shocked? Scared? Surely the shepherds felt all of these emotions and more.



But they got the good news of Jesus first. And once they heard, they immediately responded. Once the angel left, the shepherds decided they needed to go see what they had heard about and the Bible says “They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby.” Because they acted on what they heard, they got to be the first people to see and worship Jesus in-person.

But the shepherds didn’t just leave it at that. After seeing Jesus, the next thing they did was go and tell others what they had seen. They had heard the good news, they saw the good news, and they were ready to share the good news.

Just like the shepherds, we have the same opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus, respond in our hearts, and then tell others about what we have experienced in our lives. These shepherds who spent their night with a bunch of smelly sheep were the first to see Jesus and spread the good news. We get the same chance to make sure that others get to hear this good news that Jesus has come to save the world.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Practice telling the Christmas story together so you can share it with others.

TRY THIS:

Join KidHeights for a Christmas party at 6:00PM.



DAY 16

READ THIS: MATTHEW 2:1-6

With so much anticipation of the promised Messiah, another word for Savior, the chief priests and teachers of the law knew the prophecy of where the Messiah would be born. However, the wise men were not just waiting on Jesus, but they were actively looking for Jesus.

When the star rose in the sky, they immediately started looking for Jesus. And what was the reason for wanting to find Jesus? So they could worship him. They eagerly waited, actively looked, and had an intention to worship.

A lot of times in this busy season around Christmas, we can tend to lose sight of what really matters. We get distracted and focused on all the things around us. But maybe we can learn from the wise men and remember that we need to actively seek time with Jesus and make it a priority to worship him.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

How can you as a family make time to focus on Jesus and worship him?

TRY THIS:

Watch the brand new KidHeights TV Christmas Special on YouTube by scanning the QR code.



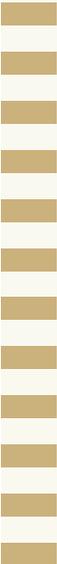


DAY 17

READ THIS: **MATTHEW 2:7-12**



The wise men spent a lot of time and effort to find Jesus, and their goal was to see him so they would worship him. One of the ways they did that was by the gifts that they brought him.



You probably didn't put gold, frankincense and myrrh on your Christmas list, but they really were nice gifts. In fact, these were really special gifts because they were useful, precious and respectful. The wise men didn't just bring what they had lying around the house or what they could pick up on their way to see Jesus. These gifts were planned and especially picked for the Savior they were going to see.

The fact that the wise men brought gifts to Jesus as a way to worship him is a great example to us. While we can't wrap up something to bring to Jesus as a gift, we can still bring him useful, precious and respectful gifts from ourselves as an act of worship. Giving Jesus our things, our time, and our talents is a way to show him how important he is and how much we love him.



TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some gifts that you can offer to Jesus?

TRY THIS:

Watch a Christmas movie with your family.





DAY 18

READ THIS: MATTHEW 2:13-18

The Christmas story takes a sudden turn when King Herod thinks that Jesus is a threat to his power and rule over the people. Suddenly, Jesus is in danger and Mary and Joseph have to take him on the run to escape in Egypt to make sure he stays safe.

This is not how we would think the Savior of the world, the Messiah that has been promised and waited on, would spend his first years on earth. We know Jesus is the son of God and was going to allow all people to be saved. Yet here he is leaving in the middle of the night with his family to another country just to stay alive.

While this isn't how we would expect Jesus' story to continue from the nice Christmas story we've read, this in no way surprises God. Jesus living in Egypt was previewed by God hundreds of years before, and God had planned it so he knew exactly what was going to happen. Even though it's not how WE might have planned Jesus' story, God was in control and had a way for Jesus to be protected.

When things don't turn out like we expected or how we would have planned, we can also remember that nothing surprises God. He is always in control and knows exactly what will happen in each of our lives. This can give us comfort because even if the story doesn't go our way, we know God has a plan.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What would you have expected the beginning of Jesus' life to look like?

TRY THIS:

Drive around with your family to look at Christmas lights.



DAY 19

READ THIS: **MATTHEW 2:19-23**



We don't get to read a lot of stories about Jesus as a kid, so it can be hard for us to remember that he was a kid, just like all of us are or have been. But what we do know is that Jesus' childhood was a little bit chaotic to say the least. Fleeing to Egypt to hide from Herod probably wasn't something that most kids back then had to worry about. And most kids probably didn't get a message from an Angel telling them they could come back and live in a place called Nazareth.

But all throughout Jesus' childhood, his Father in heaven was protecting him, guiding him, and making sure he was exactly where he needed to be. And the great news is that God cares about us in the same way.

God has a plan and a purpose for our lives regardless of where we are at any moment. It would have been easy for Jesus to be upset about being in Egypt or for him to complain when they had to move again, but Jesus trusted that God was putting them exactly where he wanted them. We can trust that wherever we are, God has a purpose for us being there.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Discuss a time when things weren't going your way, but God still had a purpose for you.

TRY THIS:

Act out the Christmas story.



DAY 20

READ THIS: JOHN 1:1-5

The first chapter of the book of John was written with one goal in mind: to summarize the story of Jesus in a unique way. In the Old Testament, God spoke to people through leaders and prophets. These people were given bits and pieces of information that God wanted to communicate, but they never understood the whole story.

In John 1, Jesus is described as being “the Word of God”. Because Jesus is God’s son, everything he says and does is exactly what God the father would say and do. Unlike in the Old Testament where people only got bits and pieces of God’s message, Jesus knew the whole story and everything Jesus did and said was a message from God for us.

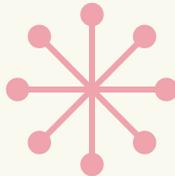
Isn’t it incredible that God gave us his son to tell us everything we need to know about having a relationship with him? When we choose to trust Jesus, we are trusting that Jesus is God and everything he said and did is from God.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some of your favorite things that Jesus has said?

TRY THIS:

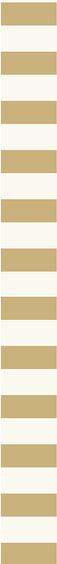
Make up your very own Christmas carol.





DAY 21

READ THIS: JOHN 1:6-13



As we continue the unique summary of Jesus in John 1, the writer goes on to describe Jesus as the light of the world. Have you ever been in a pitch black room? It's pretty hard to find your way around when there is no light, isn't it? John is telling us in this passage that all of us are in spiritual darkness. Just like you would struggle to find the right way around in a pitch black room, it is impossible for us to do what God wants us to do 100% of the time because we are in spiritual darkness.

So when God sent his son Jesus to earth, it was like he was shining a big, bright light in a pitch black room. Jesus showed us what it looks like to follow God perfectly, 100% of the time. His light shows us that none of us are perfect, but it also shows us that Jesus is the only way for us to have a relationship with God.

The good news for us is that we no longer have to try to figure out how to have a relationship with God. Jesus revealed to us exactly how to do that and all we have to do is follow his light.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

What are some ways we can follow Jesus' example?

TRY THIS:

Decorate a gingerbread house.





DAY 22

READ THIS: JOHN 1:14-18

As John wraps up it's summary of Jesus, the writer compares Jesus with a character from the Old Testament: Moses. Moses was a leader of God's people who led them out of slavery and into the promised land. Along the way, God used Moses to bring the people the law of God. God's law was what he required of the people if they wanted to continue to be his people.

As we read the Old Testament, sometimes the people were good at following the law, but more often, they were pretty bad at it. They realized that it was impossible to follow the law 100% of the time.

God knew this and gave us Jesus. John 1 tells us that just like Moses gave his people the law, Jesus gave us grace and truth. Jesus knows that we can't follow God's law 100% of the time, but the good news is that he could, and he did it for us. Because of that, when we trust Jesus, we don't have to be 100% successful at following the law. He gives us grace for when we mess up. Grace is Jesus choosing to love us even when we mess up and sin. That gives us a pretty big reason to celebrate.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Talk about a time where you were given grace even though you broke a rule.

TRY THIS:

Wrap a Christmas present and add as many bows as you can find!



DAY 23

READ THIS: LUKE 2:21-35



Simeon received a very special promise from God and knew that he would get a chance to see the Messiah in his lifetime. But remember, God's people had been waiting for the promised Savior for thousands of years, with no real idea of when he would be coming. They waited patiently and expectantly. They even waited during a time of 400 years when God didn't send any messages through prophets and leaders but was only silent. And then, Simeon learned he would get to see this Messiah on earth. It was happening soon, the Savior was coming.

Simeon might have felt overwhelmed and excited about this great news. He might have even felt nervous in anticipation of this happening. He could have even felt some doubt that he had correctly understood this promise. After this long time of waiting for the Messiah, did Simeon make this message up? Was God really going to keep this promise?

But what we see is that God always keeps his promises. God told his people long ago that he would send a Savior. Even though it was thousands of years later, God kept that promise to his people. God made a promise to Simeon that Jesus would come during his life. Even though Simeon was very old, God kept that promise to him.

God always keeps his promises and does what he says he will do.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Talk about something good that you've had to wait a long time to receive.

TRY THIS:

Make up motions to a Christmas song.





DAY 24

READ THIS: LUKE 4:14-20

As Jesus grew up, he was baptized and God spoke saying that Jesus was his son. People began to hear about who Jesus was and he started teaching the people about God. He went to the synagogue on Sunday, which is like church for us, and was given part of the Old Testament to read out loud.

Jesus read part of the prophecy from Isaiah that speaks about the Savior that is going to come to bring good news and freedom. This WAS Jesus. He was reading something that had been written about himself long ago.

He had come to bring the good news of who God was, and that a relationship with him would now be possible with the freedom Jesus would bring from dying on the cross for our sins. This was it-- this was the Messiah that had been promised and had been waited for. And here he was, reading the words of long ago and proving that they were all true.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

How did Jesus fulfill the prophecies that were written about him?

TRY THIS:

Bake some Christmas cookies with your family and decorate them.





DAY 25

READ THIS: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11



Often at Christmas, we can focus on Jesus as a baby and maybe leave it at that. But the beauty of the Christmas story is who Jesus is and what he came to do. Jesus was in heaven with God and had power, comfort and control. He could have stayed there, but he didn't. Jesus didn't choose to stay in heaven because he knew he could come to earth and serve us by becoming one of us and dying on the cross in our place so we could have a relationship with God.

But don't forget, the story doesn't end there. Jesus didn't just die on the cross, but three days later he rose from the dead and he then returned to heaven again. That's where he is now, in the presence of God, preparing a place for us.

One day Jesus will come again and this time, not as a baby but as the ruler of all. He will come to reign as King and everyone will bow to him. Think about what a day that will be when we all get to be in the presence of Jesus and spend our time bowing before him, praising his name, and giving him glory! That is the eternity we know will happen one day for those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

The Christmas story starts with Jesus as a baby, but he came to be our Savior. One day we will worship him forever as Lord and King, and that is the hope that Christmas gives to us.

TALK ABOUT THIS:

Talk about what Jesus has done for you and how you can have a relationship with him.

TRY THIS:

(CHRISTMAS): Read the Christmas story with your family.

CHRISTMAS



