



First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Memory Verse

"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace."
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Bible Story

Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

Key Question

What are you looking forward to in the new year?

Use this guide to help your family learn why we celebrate Christmas.

Activity

The Christmas Stack

What You Need:

Three index cards, marker, tape or refrigerator magnets

What You Do:

Invite your child to do an activity. First, read Matthew 2:1-12 together.

After you've finished, ask your child to fill in the blanks as you read the following statements. Write down their answers on the index cards (one card per answer).

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus so they could ____ Him. (*worship*)

These men believed that the star meant that a new ____ had been born. (*king*)

The wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to ____ Jesus. (*honor*)

Attach the three index cards to a prominent place where you'll see them every day—like a bulletin board or on the refrigerator.

Say, "Nice work. The wise men came to **honor** and **worship** Jesus as **king**. That's what we can do too! We can celebrate Jesus—not just at Christmas, but all year long. Every time we see these cards, let's remember to spend each day honoring Jesus and worshipping Him with the way we live our lives."

Talk About the Bible Story

(Reference the index cards.) In the weeks and months ahead, do you think it'll be easy for you to do what the wise men did—to honor and worship Jesus as king? Why or why not?

As you look at the year ahead, what makes you feel excited ... or nervous?

How do you think it could help if you choose to keep your focus on Jesus?

What are some ways that we can celebrate Jesus—not just at Christmas, but throughout the year? (*Spend some time talking about this. Some ideas: read about Him in the Bible, pray and talk to Him, go to church, sing worship songs to Him, talk about Him with other people, live our lives the way He taught us to live.*)

As we take down our Christmas decorations, let's think about keeping one thing out to remind us to celebrate Jesus all year long. What decoration would you choose?



Prayer

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

"Dear God, as we've celebrated Christmas this month, we've learned so much about the hope, peace, joy, and love Jesus gives us. We want to keep celebrating Jesus all year long. Help us to keep our focus on Him. Show us how we can honor and worship Him with the way we speak and act in the days, weeks, and months ahead. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."