

Use this guide to help your family celebrate Christmas all month long.

First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born
to you. He is the
Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears
to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Bottom Line

You can have joy
because God has a
plan for you.

Activity

Joy Search

WHAT YOU NEED:

Timer

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask your child, "Do you know what the word joy means? Joy is when you find a way to be happy, even if things around you aren't all that happy."

Set a timer for five minutes. Challenge your child to go around the house and find three things that bring them joy. Tell them you're going to do the same thing. When the timer goes off, meet back in the spot where you are now and share the things you chose. Talk about why those things bring you joy.

Talk About the Bible Story

In our story today, who appeared to Mary? (*The angel Gabriel*)

What did the angel tell her? (*That she would give birth to the Savior of the world*)

How do you think Mary felt about the news that she would give birth to God's Son? (*Joyful, scared, probably overwhelmed*)

When we talk about joy in the Bible, we're often talking about people who were able to find joy even when their situations weren't so joyful. Mary probably felt joy about baby Jesus, but she was probably also scared and overwhelmed. How does it make you feel to know that God sent Jesus for you?

Parent: Share a personal story about a time you had a plan, but God's plan was different. Talk about how you handled it. Were you able to find joy in the midst of your circumstances? Were you able to feel God's presence with you?

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You so much for the joy we have in You—during the Christmas season, and always! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for [name your child(ren)], and how You made each of them special and beautiful and smart and funny! We praise You for the plan You have for us, and the truth that we can trust You no matter what. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!"

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

WEEK
2
K-5TH

DAY 1

Read Luke 1:30-31

What would you do if suddenly an angel from heaven appeared to you with a special message from God? Would you run? Would you stand there frozen, unsure what to say?

We know Mary was probably scared because the angel told her not to be afraid. God had a very special plan, just for her. She would have a baby. But not just any baby. Mary had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, our Savior.

God's plan for Mary was a plan she never could have dreamed up on her own. What a reason to have joy! The same is true for you. An angel probably won't show up in your bedroom but that doesn't mean that God doesn't have a specific plan and purpose just for you. You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

One way you can be sure you don't miss God's plan is to start praying a simple prayer like this: "God, I believe You have a plan for me and I don't want to miss it. Help me to follow You today. In Jesus' name, amen."

DAY 2

Read Luke 1:38

When the angel appeared to Mary, she probably had a lot of questions. Yet even with all her questions, she still said, "I serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would."

Talk about faith. Mary trusted God. Why? Because God made Mary. God loved Mary. And God's plan for her was awesome. Just like Mary, God has a plan for you. God made you. He loves you. And you can have joy because God has a plan you.

Fill in the blanks below and write down what you hope to be doing/or what you hope your life will be like at that age. Then spend some time thanking God for His plans for you.

Five years from now, I will be _____ years old. I hope that _____

10 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I hope that _____

15 years from now, I will be _____ years old. I hope that _____

PARENT CUE



DAY 3



Read Psalm 33:11

From the very beginning, God had a plan. When God created the whole world, He knew that His creation would turn away from Him and that sin would separate people from God. So, God sent His only Son, Jesus. Jesus suffered and died to take the punishment for sin but death couldn't stop Him! Jesus rose again to make a way so that anyone who believes in Him would never be separated from God again.

That's a big plan. And there may be parts of that plan that seem confusing to you. But as you grow in faith, you'll see that God's plans are good. God loves you with a perfect, never stopping, always constant love. He showed His love for you on that first Christmas when He sent Jesus. And that should fill you with joy!

All of the consonants from today's verse are missing! Can you fill them in?

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o __ e __ o __
__ a __ i __
__ o __ e __ e __ . __ a __
__ e __ a __ o __ o __
__ i __ a __ o __
a __ i __ e ." __ a __
__ 33:11



DAY 4



Read Psalm 32:8

Have you ever played "Follow the Leader"? Or "Simon Says"? What's your favorite role? To be leader or the follower?

The truth is, we could choose to be the boss or the leader. But wouldn't it be so much better to follow someone who will always lead us in the right direction? Wouldn't it be wiser to follow someone who has the best plan and knows exactly how things will turn out?

When we choose to trust in God, when we take His advice, He will guide us and show us the way to go. And He will watch over us with love all along the way. We can trust God always.

Decorate the front of your "JOY" ornament (from last week) with paint, run some ribbon through the hole and hang it on the Christmas tree. Point out the ornament to your family and tell them that you can have joy because God has a plan for you.

You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

