# PARENT GUIDE Elementary

# Simply Christmas: No Assembly Required



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, NIrV

### **Bible Story**

Jesus is Born Luke 2:1-7

## **Bottom Line**

God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

# **Activity**

**The Christmas Story** 

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

Stuffed animals or action figures, a blanket

#### WHAT YOU DO:

Invite your child to act out the Christmas story using stuffed animals or action figures as you read it aloud.

If needed, give suggestions to your child about how they can use the characters to act out different parts of the story. (For example, they can use the blanket to wrap up baby Jesus.)

Read directly from the Bible, Luke 2:1-7. (You might even want to video your child's version of the story to send to friends and relatives!)

Say, "Great job acting out the Christmas story! I hope you remember—in the middle of all the Christmas craziness—that all of this is really about a baby, born long ago, sent from God for you and me. God showed just how much He loves us by choosing to send us Jesus!"



# Talk About the Bible Story

Why is it so fun to receive a gift, even if it's a small one?

What's the gift you're most excited about giving this year?

What could you give that isn't a "thing"?

Parent: Share a personal story about a time you gave a gift that made you feel better than if you had received it.

Why did God send Jesus for us? (Because He loves us!)

Why did we need a Savior? (We sin, and our sin separates us from God. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for the sins of the world. Jesus made it possible for us to have a relationship with God.)



# **Prayer**



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

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent us the greatest gift ever—the gift of your Son, Jesus. Please help us to pause this Christmas to remember the real reason we're celebrating. We're celebrating the birth of a baby—a baby who would change everything. Because of Jesus' birth, we can have a relationship with You that will last forever! Help us to think about ways we can share Your love as we give this Christmas. We love You. Amen!"

# Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift





DAY 1



# Read Luke 2:6-7

Grab a piece of paper and pretend for a second that you are the king of a very large kingdom. What would your throne room, or royal playroom look like? Draw it on the page.

If you have a nativity at home, go stand near it and hold up your picture. Spot any differences?

When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place stay. So they ended up rooming with animals. And it was there that Jesus, our Savior, was born. The surroundings were so humble that the King of all Kings wasn't placed in a beautifully carved crib. Instead, this precious gift to the whole world was nestled into an animal feed box.

Jesus didn't come as a king to rule over us. Jesus came as one of us so that He could save us. Set the baby Jesus from your nativity on top of your drawing. Then spend a few minutes thanking God for loving you so much that He would send His only Son to save you.

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# Read Galatians 4:4

DAY 2

Have you ever read the book Goldilocks and the Three Bears? Goldilocks breaks into the bear's house and tries their porridge, their chairs, and even their beds until she finds one that is "just right."

Remember last week when we talked about how God had a big plan to rescue us? How He knew from the very beginning that He would send His only Son as our Savior? When the time was "just right" God sent Jesus as a baby, the greatest gift ever. God sent His Son at the chosen time because He loved us that much.



Write this week's bottom line on an index card (God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.) and place it next to your favorite Christmas decoration. Thank God for sending Jesus at just the right time because of His love for you.

God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.









DAY 4



DAY 3



# Read John 3:16

Why did God send His Son into the world? Was it to show His mighty power? Was it to remind us that He's the one in charge and that we all have to do what He says? Nope.

God sent Jesus for one big reason. Love. God loved the world—every single person—so much that He did what people who love do. He gave the most precious and perfect gift, His only Son, Jesus. When we believe or put our trust in Jesus, we will not perish or be separated from God! God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

Go on a heart search. Pay attention to shapes around you to see if you can spot some hearts. For instance, did you know that when you cut through the center of a strawberry, its center looks a little bit like a heart? You might find heart shaped clouds in the sky, or heart shaped leaves on the ground. Every time you see a heart remember that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus.



Our verse from yesterday (John 3:16) is probably one you've heard before. But today's verse is super important too. Read John 3:17 one more time.

God didn't send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent Jesus to save us, to fix the separation between us and God because of our sin.

Grab your "LOVE" ornament from week one and decorate the front. Run some ribbon through the top and add it to your Christmas tree. Every time you see it, pause and thank God for sending Jesus because He loves you.













