

Christmas Activities for kids

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JESUS IS BORN 7-DAY READING PLAN

- DAY 1 Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 11:1-10
- DAY 2 Luke 1:1-25
- DAY 3 Luke 1:26-56
- DAY 4 Luke 2:1-21
- DAY 5 Luke 2:22-40
- DAY 6 Matthew 2
- DAY 7 Luke 2:41-52

OH COME, LET US ADORE HIM

*They saw the child with his mother Mary,
and they bowed down and worshiped him.*

—Matthew 2:11

INTRODUCTION

If you saw your very best friend in the school hallway, would you walk right by without saying a word—even if you were in a hurry to get somewhere? Chances are, you wouldn't. You'd stop for just a moment and say hi or at least smile and wave as you went past. Somehow you'd make a connection. If you had a little more time, you'd hang out with your friend for a while, and the two of you would enjoy just being together. That's important for a relationship between friends.

It's also important for your relationship with Jesus. He knows that you have a lot going on, and he understands that you can't always spend a lot of time with him. But he wants to make a connection with you each day—not just on Sundays and holidays such as Christmas but all year long!

Today's devotion is based on Matthew 2:11, which says, "They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him." The devotion is called "Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him."

DEVOTION

"Steven, you're here!" said Mrs. Anderson. "Hurry and get dressed." On Christmas Eve Mrs. Anderson was directing the live nativity scene at the Christian school Steven attended.

"Sorry I'm late," Steven said, rushing to put on his shepherd's robe. "I had to run errands with my mom before she dropped me off." He grabbed his staff, ran outside, and took his place next to the stable. Joseph, Mary, and the angels were already in position. So were the animals. People started arriving to see the display. Steven tried to look worshipful, but he was flustered. Besides, he was cold, and the sheep kept biting his robe. Steven sighed. He'd thought this would be fun. And meaningful, like being at the first Christmas. After all, he really did love Jesus.

The angels began to sing. Staring at the manger, Steven started thinking about everything Jesus meant to him. Soon he truly was worshiping his Lord and Savior.

Everyone's busy nowadays—even kids! Take a moment every day to worship Jesus, no matter how busy you are. He is God's Son, who came to save the world. He deserves to be praised. You can celebrate Jesus' birth all year long by coming to him daily and giving him your love.

WORDS TO TREASURE

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord.

—Psalm 95:6

QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons why people fail to connect with and worship Jesus every day, however briefly—even if they really want to and know it's very important?
2. What could you do to make sure you connect with Jesus for at least a little while each day? Spend some time brainstorming to come up with a list.
3. Are there some things in your life—some possessions or activities, perhaps—that might be getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus? Have you ever thought about getting rid of one or more of these in order to give yourself time to connect with Jesus and worship him for a little while each day?
4. Why is practicing a spiritual discipline—like reading your Bible every morning, praying at the same time every evening, or keeping a journal about your spiritual journey—a good way to maintain your relationship with Jesus? Do you practice any spiritual disciplines like that? If you do, how do they help you connect with Jesus?
5. What is the one thing that will destroy your desire to connect with Jesus each day, and what can you do about it?

Answer: Sin will always interfere with your relationship with Jesus. But if you confess it and repent of it, you'll rediscover your passion to draw near to Jesus and worship him.

Consider spending some time playing a game or doing an exercise to help children memorize the "Words to Treasure" Scripture verse.

THE NATIVITY STORY

Can you find all the words in this word search?

O W E A C B T M L E M A O U O A V A I
 I W P J P E D J W G Z M S R Y K K D A
 A N G E L T R L O G S N A D Q F L R K
 H Z L S J H G P S S W T A N Z O C P S
 E D V U E L E D Z H E A H Z G S Z H A
 R N E S I E N F X G M P A S D E X X V
 O A D W H H L X I M A A H R I G R L I
 D Z K S L E I Q S I R T E G D B R V O
 B A B Y M M G H Z C Y H A L E X Z C R
 A R R S T A R I I I P M O P M N X E T
 N E C S V R R N O E T D R E A M D N Z
 M T Z Z Y Z E N H B U U J R T A I S J
 F H D M C R H S C W W T W P H Q R U F
 J C O T E E U G M O C H F J N A Y S A
 I R H B P M E G H I I N C E N S E W W

Jesus
 Shepherds
 Manger
 Star
 Gold

Mary
 Magi
 Census
 Baby
 Incense

Joseph
 Sheep
 Bethlehem
 Herod
 Myrrh

Savior
 Inn
 Angel
 Dream
 Nazareth

JESUS' MIRACLES

1. During the _____, Jesus had a conversation with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9).
2. Jesus cured many people who suffered from _____, a highly contagious skin disease (Luke 5).
3. _____ was the name of the blind man of whom Jesus restored his sight (Mark 10).
4. The _____ is perhaps Jesus' greatest miracle (Matthew 28).
5. The Centurion's servant was cured because of his master's _____ in Jesus (Luke 7).
6. During his forty days in the desert, the devil asked Jesus to turn _____ in to _____ to prove he was the son of God (Luke 8).
7. As the disciples witnessed when caught in a storm, even the _____ and the _____ obeyed Jesus (Mark 4).
8. The leader of the synagogues was angry because Jesus healed a woman on the _____, the holiest day of the week (Luke 13).
9. Jesus raised _____ from the dead, much to his sisters' delight (John 11).
10. _____ was the first person to see Jesus after his Resurrection (John 20).
11. _____ asked Jesus to perform his first miracle of turning water into wine (John 2).
12. The _____ is when Jesus was taken up to Heaven body and soul (Luke 24).
13. On the Mount of Olives, when Jesus was arrested, one of the disciples cuts off a servant's _____ (Luke 22).
14. Because of her faith, a sick woman had only to touch Jesus' _____ to be healed (Mark 5).
15. The greatest _____ is to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12).
16. The _____ is where Jesus first consecrated the body and blood (Mark 14).
17. Jesus fed thousands of people with only a few _____ of _____ and a couple _____ (Matthew 14).
18. Jesus healed Mary, Peter's _____ - _____ - _____, from a dangerous fever (Matthew 8).
19. Out of the ten lepers Jesus healed, only _____ came back to thank him (Luke 17).
20. Jesus told many _____, or stories, to teach his followers lessons (Mark 4).

One	Last Supper	Mother-in-Law	Loaves/Bread/Fishes
Lazarus	Cloak	Mary Magdalene	Transfiguration
Faith	Ear	Sabbath	Resurrection
Mary	Bartimaeus	Wind/Water	parables
Leprosy	Stone/Bread	Commandment	Ascension

ADVENT

- DAY 1 Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 11:1-11 **Prophecy of Jesus**
- DAY 2 Luke 1:1-25 **Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**
- DAY 3 Luke 1:26-38 **Birth of Jesus Foretold**
- DAY 4 Luke 2:1-21 **Birth of Jesus**
- DAY 5 Luke 2:22-40 **Jesus Presented at the Temple**
- DAY 6 Matthew 2 **Wise Men Visit Jesus**
- DAY 7 Luke 2:41-52 **Boy Jesus at the Temple**

WATCHING THE SKY

[Jesus] was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

—Acts 1:9

INTRODUCTION

It's hard to wait patiently for a day that you want to come quickly, isn't it? Like your birthday. Or the first day of summer vacation. Or Christmas! When a day like that is approaching, you just can't wait for it to get here. But what should you do while you're waiting? Should you just sit around, twiddle your thumbs, and stare at the clouds? How can you make the best use of the time you have between now and the special day you're looking forward to? Well, today we're going to talk about Advent, which is the time of year when people of faith begin to anticipate the coming of Christmas. We're going to discuss what they do during that time. We're also going to talk about a *very* special day, a day Christians have been eagerly looking forward to for over two thousand years—ever since Jesus left his disciples and went up to heaven. That special day is the day when he will come back to earth!

Today's devotion is based on Acts 1:9, which says, "[Jesus] was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight." The devotion is called "Watching the Sky."

DEVOTION

Andre and Elena lay on the grass, watching the clouds. "That one looks like a castle," Elena said, pointing.

Andre cocked his head. "Nah, I don't get it."

Elena rolled her eyes. "Well, what do you see?"

"A ship! It has three sails," Andre said, pointing at another cloud.

Elena stared at the cloud. "Doesn't look like anything to me."

Andre put his hands under his head. "That's because you have no imagination."

Glaring at him, Elena said, "What do you mean? I just imagined a fortress. That beats a boat!"

Laughing, Andre said, "Uh-oh, my ship just ran into your castle. Now the whole thing looks like a snowman."

Elena looked up. "You're right! Ooh, it reminds me of Christmas."

Think about how you long for Christmas during Advent season. It seems that day will never arrive. But you know it will! That's the way it was for God's people before the first Christmas, as they waited for the Messiah to come. And that's the way it's been ever since Jesus left. The present time is a kind of Advent season. Even though it sometimes seems Jesus will never return, one day soon he will.

WORDS TO TREASURE

*They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven,
with power and great glory.*

—Matthew 24:30

QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of things does your family do during Advent to get ready for Christmas? Which of those things do you think is the most fun? Which is the most meaningful to you in terms of reminding you what the Christmas season is all about?
2. What do you think it was like for God's people before the very first Christmas, when they were waiting for the Messiah to come? What do you think they were doing during that time? What were they thinking about? How were they feeling? In what ways was that time similar to the present time, when God's people are waiting for Jesus to come back?
3. What kinds of things do you think Christians should be doing as we wait for Jesus' return? Should we be sitting outside all day, staring at the clouds and watching for him? Or does he have more important things for us to do? What did he say just before he left?

For a clue, either have children look up Acts 1:8, which says, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," and Matthew 28:19–20, which says, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you," or read these passages to them. Besides fulfilling the Great Commission, Christians are to live holy lives until Christ returns and minister to people in need.

4. Nobody knows exactly when Jesus will return, so what should you do about any sinful habits you may have right now?

Answer: Confess them and repent of them. Ask God for help in this.

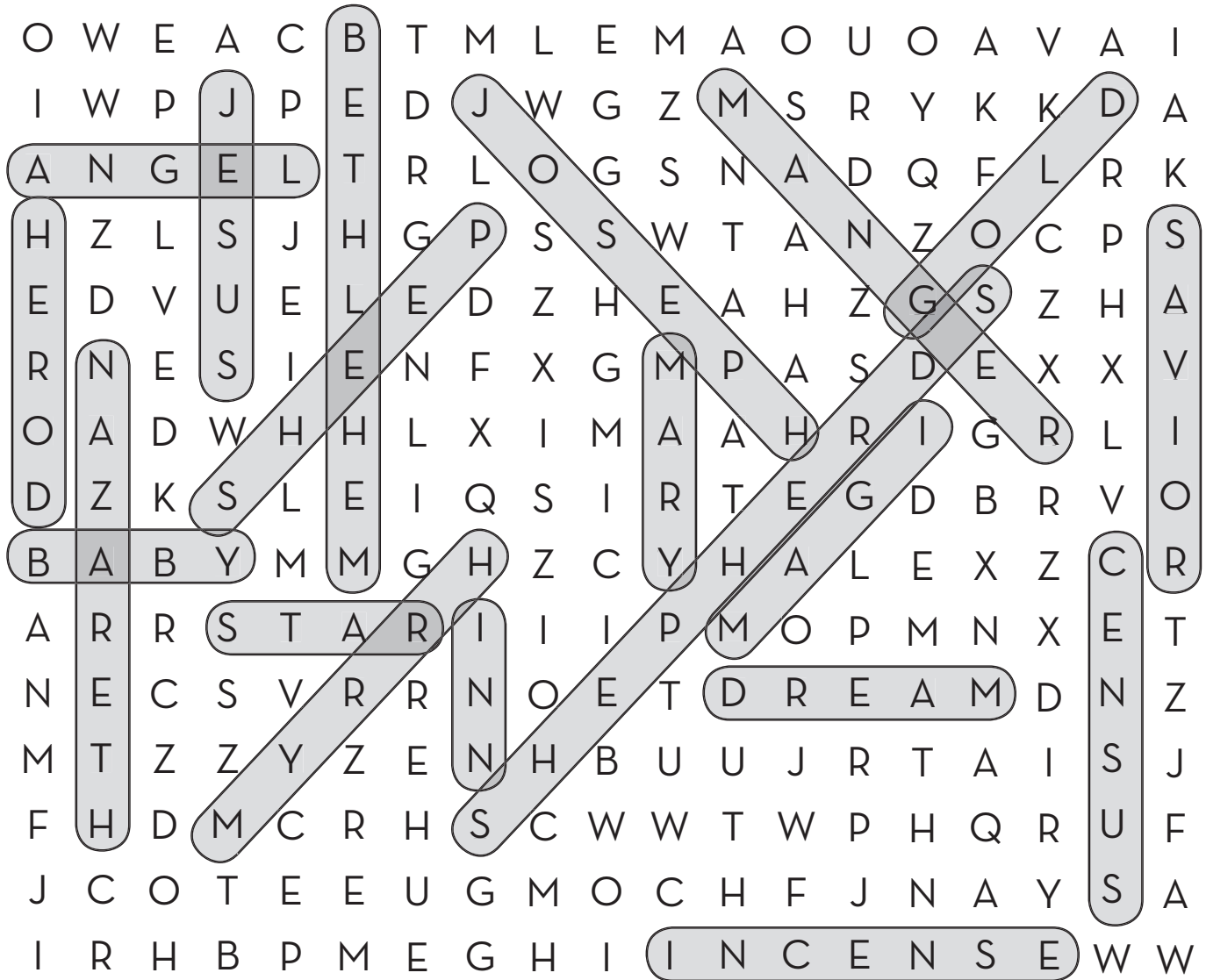
5. Do you think we should only think about important events like Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection on holidays such as Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter? How can we remind ourselves, all year long, about these great events and what they mean for our lives?

One answer is: read about them regularly in your Bible, any time of year—and when you do, think about what they mean to you.

Consider spending some time playing a game or doing an exercise to help children memorize the "Words to Treasure" Scripture verse.

THE NATIVITY STORY *Answer key*

Can you find all the words in this word search?



Jesus
Shepherds
Manger
Star
Gold

Mary
Magi
Census
Baby
Incense

Joseph
Sheep
Bethlehem
Herod
Myrrh

Savior
Inn
Angel
Dream
Nazareth

JESUS' MIRACLES *Answer key*

1. During the transfiguration, Jesus had a conversation with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9).
2. Jesus cured many people who suffered from leprosy, a highly contagious skin disease (Luke 5).
3. Bartimaeus was the name of the blind man of whom Jesus restored his sight (Mark 10).
4. The resurrection is perhaps Jesus' greatest miracle (Matthew 28).
5. The Centurion's servant was cured because of his master's faith in Jesus (Luke 7).
6. During his forty days in the desert, the devil asked Jesus to turn stone in to bread to prove he was the son of God (Luke 8).
7. As the disciples witnessed when caught in a storm, even the wind and the water obeyed Jesus (Mark 4).
8. The leader of the synagogue was angry because Jesus healed a woman on the sabbath, the holiest day of the week (Luke 13).
9. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, much to his sisters' delight (John 11).
10. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus after his Resurrection (John 20).
11. Mary asked Jesus to perform his first miracle of turning water into wine (John 2).
12. The ascension is when Jesus was taken up to Heaven body and soul (Luke 24).
13. On the Mount of Olives, when Jesus was arrested, one of the disciples cuts off a servant's ear (Luke 22).
14. Because of her faith, a sick woman had only to touch Jesus' cloak to be healed (Mark 5).
15. The greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12).
16. The Last Supper is where Jesus first consecrated the body and blood (Mark 14).
17. Jesus fed thousands of people with only a few loaves of bread and a couple fish (Matthew 14).
18. Jesus healed Mary, Peter's mother-in-law, from a dangerous fever (Matthew 8).
19. Out of the ten lepers Jesus healed, only one came back to thank him (Luke 17).
20. Jesus told many parables, or stories, to teach his followers lessons (Mark 4).