

PARENT GUIDE - Christmas Eve

Materials Needed: Optional: Craft materials (paper, coloring utensils, tape, scissors, etc.) and gift tags

Need to Know: I Can Celebrate Jesus

Bible Story: Jesus Is Born (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23)



CIRCLE UP

Use this time to gather together and get everyone talking.

DO

Have each family member choose a favorite ornament to see on a Christmas tree and tell why it is their favorite.

OR

Have everyone use craft materials to make a special Christmas ornament. After everyone shares their ornament, hang them on your tree or in a special place.

SAY

It's fun to decorate Christmas trees with special ornaments. Christmas trees point up (point up) to remind us at Christmas, we celebrate God's special gift to us — Jesus! Say this after me!

Elementary

I Can (point to self)

Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)

Jesus (point up)

Preschool

I Can (thumbs to chest)

Celebrate (wave both hands up high)

Jesus (both hands point up)

WATCH

Watch today's Elementary and/or Preschool video on the web page where you found this lesson or on the YouTube channel.

ASK your Elementary Schooler:

What did the shepherds do when they heard the news about Jesus' birth? (They went to Bethlehem to see Him, told everyone what happened)

Can we only celebrate Jesus at Christmas? (No) No way! Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday, but we can celebrate Jesus every day!

ASK your Preschooler:

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, did they sleep at the inn or in a stable? (In a stable)

What happened while they were staying in the stable — a baby animal was born or baby Jesus was born? (Baby Jesus was born)

Did the shepherds hurry to find and celebrate baby Jesus or a sheep? (Jesus)

HAVE FUN TOGETHER

From a birthday party to praying together, celebrate Jesus as a family!

DO You could do any of the following to celebrate Jesus!

- Make a cake or treat as a family, and sing, "Happy Birthday," to Jesus!
- Turn up some of your favorite Christmas carols and have a sing-along dance party!
- Draw a picture or write a note telling Jesus how much/why you love Him. Share these with each other, and then display them in a special place.
- Cut paper into strips. As the family shares things they know and love about Jesus, have someone write these things onto the paper strips. Use the strips to create a paper chain to decorate your Christmas tree with or to hang up for decorations.
- Spread Christmas cheer by singing some Christmas carols for your neighbors! Then you can tell them why you celebrate Christmas!

SAY We can celebrate Jesus at Christmas and every day! Say this after me one more time:

Elementary

I Can (point to self)

Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)

Jesus (point up)

Preschool

I Can (thumbs to chest)

Celebrate (wave both hands up high)

Jesus (both hands point up)

DO Have your kids repeat each phrase/section of the verse below in a fun way (galloping like a reindeer, standing like a snowman). If you have some extra gift tags, write each word or phrase of the verse on a tag, and have your kids put them in order.

After practicing the verse, allow your child to say it from memory.

"Thanks be (wave hands in air)

to God (both hands point up)

for His gift (pretend to rock a baby)

that is too wonderful (wiggle fingers up high)

for words." (cup hands around mouth)

2 Corinthians 9:15 (make book with hands)

PRAY God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to Earth for us! We are so excited to celebrate Him together! As we get gifts and celebrate over the next few days, help us remember Your special gift of Jesus! We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!