

★ CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY ★

GOOD NEWS

FOR A WEARY WORLD

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Use this book to help guide your family through Christmas season. There is a reading & activity for each week leading up to Christmas.

THE PROMISE

WEEK 1

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-12



Behold – that’s a fancy word for “Look! Give me the attention of your eyes and your heart!” Can you just picture this awesome angel spreading out his hands toward the shepherds, asking them to shift their attention from fear to joy, from sheep to a Savior?

The shepherds were humble people. They did a job that was super important, but that no one really appreciated (sheep were a pretty big part of life back then). Sometimes, shepherds weren’t even liked, because, well, to herd sheep means you hung out with- sheep. You didn’t always get a shower or brush your teeth or change your clothes (or keep up with clothing styles like the cool kids).

But isn’t it cool that when God’s angel had GOOD NEWS for the WHOLE WORLD He picked these humble shepherds to tell first? The Good News that even though they felt unseen and unfit to fit in with others, God saw them. They might have been watching their sheep, but God was watching them and called them to lift their attention to Him. He had Good News of Great Joy: Jesus, the One to save us and heal us from the brokenness of sin, had come.

Discuss:

- Do you ever feel unimportant or under-valued?
- How does it make you feel to know that you are seen by God?
- What is one way you can give “the attention of your heart” to the Good News of Jesus today?



ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN LOOK BOOK



Pay attention to how God shows His love, care, and presence—just like the shepherds paid attention when the angel said, “Behold!” with your very own book.

Instructions:

- Staple a few sheets of paper together or use a small notebook for your Look Book.
- Use markers, crayons, colored pencils and stickers to decorate your Look Book.
- Set aside time each day to record how you saw God working around you. You could draw a picture or write a phrase or a few sentences.
- Share your recordings with your family or friends.

Prayer: Today, God, I want to give You my eyes - the attention of my heart. Thank You that Jesus coming for me is the Good News. Open my eyes this season to see You in new ways.



SAVIOR

WEEK 2

Read John 3:16-17

Christmas is a time of joy and light; we gather with loved ones and enjoy the good news of the season. But in order to truly experience the good news of Christmas, we must first face the bad news - that we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve chose to turn their back on God, sin entered the world, and we have followed in their footsteps since. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a baby 2,000 years ago to save the world from sin. Jesus is fully God and fully man, which makes Him the only substitute for our sin and means by which we can have restored relationship with God.

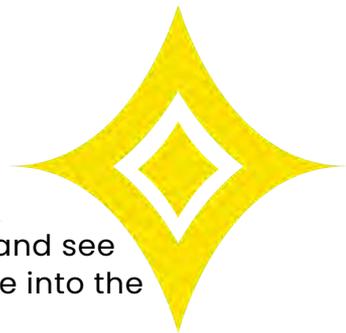
This Christmas, rejoice in hope that Jesus loves you so much that He came to save you from your sin. If you haven't turned to Him and put your trust in His saving work, you can today!

Discuss:

- Tell about a time you needed saving or rescuing. How did you feel?
- How does recognizing your own need for a Savior shape the way you experience Christmas?
- In what ways might this perspective deepen your gratitude, hope, or worship during the season?



ACTIVITY: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



Understand why Jesus came as Savior and see how His light brings hope, clarity, and life into the darkness of sin with this candle activity.

Instructions:

- You will need: One large candle (representing Jesus, the Light of the World), one small candle for each family member, matches or a lighter, a darkened room.
- Darken the room to symbolize the “bad news”—the darkness of sin that entered the world in the Garden of Eden.
- Have everyone sit quietly and talk briefly about how darkness can feel confusing, scary, or isolating—just like sin separates us from God.
- Light the large candle, explaining that Jesus came into the world to bring light, hope, and salvation.
- One by one, let each family member light their smaller candle from the large one. As they do, say something like: “Jesus brings light to your life.”
- Watch the room brighten as more candles are lit, and discuss how Jesus brings light to our hearts and restores our relationship with God. End with a short prayer together, thanking Jesus for coming to save us and asking Him to shine His light in your family.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for coming to shine Your light in our world. We know we mess up and need You to save us. Thank You for loving us and coming to rescue us. Help us remember this Christmas that You came to bring us close to God. Fill our hearts with joy and hope as we trust You.



Scripture Reading: Luke 2:11



Have you ever gone on a long trip and felt so excited for vacation? Maybe you were going to the beach, a big city, or a place you love. On the way, you start looking for signs that show you are getting close. You look for the water, the tall buildings, or the sand. Then the moment comes. You see it. Your parents say, “We are here” and you know the wait is finally over.

For hundreds of years, God's people waited for a special promise, the Messiah, which means the chosen one. He would save His people and bring hope to everyone. Just like looking for signs on a trip, they watched and hoped for signs that He was coming. What is something you have had to wait a long time for? Read the following prophecies in Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6.

Then, on the very first Christmas, God kept His word! Jesus came – the true Messiah. Read Luke 2:25–32.

Even today, when things feel hard, we can remember that Jesus, the promised King, has come. God always keeps His promises, and Jesus is proof of that. At Christmas, we celebrate not just a baby in a manger, but the fulfillment of God’s promise: Jesus, our Messiah.

Discuss:

- Why is it good news that Jesus the Messiah came to us?
- How do you see God keeping his promises for you today?



ACTIVITY: PROMISE CHAIN



See that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's greatest promise and celebrate the many promises God continues to keep in our lives today by making a Promise Chain.

Instructions:

- You will need: strips of paper, markers, tape or stapler.
- Write one promise of God on each strip (for example: "God loves me," "God will never leave me," "God forgives me.")
- As a family, link the strips together to make a "Promise Chain."
- Hang it on your Christmas tree or across a doorway.
- Every time you see it, remember: Jesus is the Messiah, God's promise kept!

Prayer: God, thank you so much for keeping your promise and sending Jesus our Messiah to save us. Help us remember that you always keep your promises, and remind our hearts that we can trust you every day.



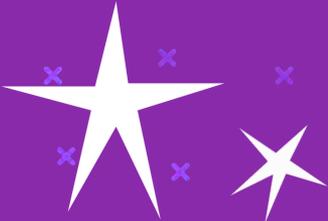
Scripture Reading: Luke 2:10–11 and Matthew 28:18

The season of Christmas is a joyous time because it's when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. When we think of Jesus, we usually think of Him as Savior, which He is, but He also holds many other titles. One of those titles is Lord, which means, "someone having power, authority, or influence." When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus had all of those things. He healed the sick, forgave sins, and sacrificed His life so people could have a relationship with Him.

We just read verses that told us that Jesus is Lord and that He has authority over everything in heaven and on earth. Christmas can be a busy season, and we can forget why we should be celebrating. During this season, celebrate that Jesus is Lord and that He has all power, authority, and influence so we can praise Him in everything we do.

Discuss:

- Tell about a time when Jesus had power, authority, or influence.
- In what ways can recognizing Jesus as Lord change the way we celebrate Christmas and live out our faith during the Christmas season?



ACTIVITY: ORNAMENT CRAFT

Make this visual reminder that Jesus isn't only our Savior - He is Lord over all.



Instructions:

- You will need: Paper or cardboard, scissors, markers, ribbon, stickers, glue.
- Cut out a circle on the paper or cardboard.
- Write "Jesus is Lord" on a paper circle.
- Decorate however you would like with markers, stickers, etc.
- Punch a hole at the top and tie a ribbon to hang it on the tree.

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for being Lord. Please help me to remember to celebrate who you are and your birth this Christmas season.



JESUS, THE BEST NEWS



DEC. 24

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:10-11, 17-18



"Good news or bad news - which do you want first?" You've probably heard someone ask that question before. Usually, we want the good news first! Good news makes us excited, and when we have really good news, we can't wait to tell someone!

That's exactly what the angel did with the shepherds. He announced: "I bring you good news of great joy!" What made this the BEST news ever? We're all sinners separated from God. That's the bad news. But the good news? Jesus was born to save us! He came to rescue sinners, love us completely, and be with us forever.

The shepherds couldn't keep this news to themselves! They immediately ran to see Jesus, then told everyone they met (Luke 2:17-18). This wasn't just good news - it was the BEST news that changed everything.

This Christmas, you have the best news to share: Jesus came to save you!



Discuss:

- What's the best news you've ever received? Who did you tell first?
- How can we, like the shepherds, tell someone about Jesus right now?



ACTIVITY: SHARE THE BEST NEWS



The shepherds couldn't keep the good news to themselves - they told everyone! Your family can do the same.

Instructions:

- Each family member picks someone to contact (call, text, or video message.)
- Share the good news: "Jesus came to save us! He loves you so much!"
- Keep it simple and joyful - like sharing exciting news with a friend.
- Call or text someone personally or record a short family video announcing "We have the BEST news!" and send it to multiple people.
- Ask those people to pass the good news on to someone else.
- For more fun: Start your video like a news report: "Breaking news from Bethlehem! A Savior is born!"

Prayer: God in Heaven, Thank You for Jesus being the best news our hearts could ever hear. Even though we're sinners, You came to save us! Help us be like the shepherds - so excited about You that we can't wait to share the good news with others! Amen.



