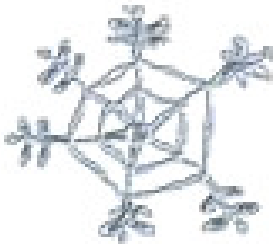




# **CELEBRATING JESUS!**

**Activities & Devotion  
Ideas for a Meaningful  
Christmas Day**

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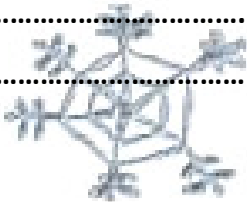


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## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

### Attribute Ornaments

Knowing Jesus as the baby in the manger is a wonderful place to begin. It was His life as God-Man, however, that fully reveals His divine nature. Helping children to see and understand the attributes of Jesus will lay a foundation for them that will help them to savor their Savior for a lifetime, not just during the holidays.

Need: Glass Christmas balls, paint pens, Bible

Directions: On each ball, write one attribute (or godly quality) of Jesus. Before hanging on the tree, talk about the ways that Jesus displayed that quality. Look up the Bible verses about them. Pray together, thanking God for that aspect of His character, but also asking to be more like Him.

Examples of Attributes of Jesus:

- Full of Goodness: John 10:11; I Peter 2:3
- Trustworthy: Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:138
- Gentle: Matthew 21: 5; II Corinthians 10:1
- Compassionate: Mark 1:41; James 5:11
- Forgiving: Psalm 86:5; Colossians 3:13
- All-Knowing (Omniscient): John 1:48
- All-Present (Omnipresent): Psalm 139:7-12; Matthew 18:20
- All-Powerful (Omnipotent): Matthew 28:18
- Loving: Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 2:4-5; Revelation 1:5

\*\*This could also be adapted to make Namesake Ornaments, featuring all the different names of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

### Prophecy Boxes

This would be a great way of creating a wonderful tradition for years to come! The family will decorate 25 Prophecy Boxes that will each contain 2 different scripture passages. One passage is a prophecy about Jesus from the Old Testament, and the other would be the New Testament revelation of Jesus as the prophecy being fulfilled!

Need: 25 unfinished craft boxes, paint and decorating items, paint pens (to number the boxes), scriptures written out

In the future: Each night after you would open a prophecy box, you would spend time praying, giving thanks for the fulfillment of that Scripture. This first year would be a great way of spending time on Christmas day seeing that God's Word is true and that what was prophesied came to pass.

Prophecy Boxes:

- **December 1 PLACE OF BIRTH**

**Micah 5:2**-You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

**Matthew 2:1**-After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.

- **December 2 HEIR TO THE THRONE OF DAVID**

**Isaiah 9:7**-Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Matthew 1:1**-A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham.

- **December 3 BORN OF A VIRGIN**

**Isaiah 7:14**-The LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:18**-This is how the birth of Jesus came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

- **December 4 KILLING OF INFANTS**

**Jeremiah 31:15**-This is what the LORD says; "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more."

**Matthew 2:16**-When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

- **December 5 ESCAPE INTO EGYPT**

**Hosea 11:1**-When Israel was a child, I loved him and out of Egypt I called my Son.

**Matthew 2:14**-He (Joseph) got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left to Egypt.

- **December 6 MINISTRY IN GALILEE**

**Isaiah 9:1-2**-There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

**Matthew 4:12-16**-When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali-to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

- **December 7 AS A PROPHET**

**Deuteronomy 18:15**-The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brother. You must listen to him.

**John 6:14**-After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

- **December 8 HIS REJECTION BY THE JEWS**

**Isaiah 53:3**-He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**John 1:11**-He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

- **December 9 HIS CHARACTERISTICS**

**Isaiah 11:2**-The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

**Luke 2:52**-Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **December 10 HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

**Zechariah 9:9**-Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**John 12: 13-14**-They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written.

- **December 11 BETRAYED BY A FRIEND**

**Psalm 41:9**-Even my close friend, who I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

**Mark 14:10**-The Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.

- **December 12 SILENT WHEN ACCUSED**

**Isaiah 53:7**-He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

**Matthew 26:60-61**-Many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

- **December 13 STRUCK AND SPAT ON**

**Isaiah 50:6**-I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

**Mark 14:65**-Some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

- **December 14 SUFFERED VICARIOUSLY**

**Isaiah 53:4-5**-Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**Matthew 8:16-17**-When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

- **December 15 CRUCIFIED WITH SINNERS**

**Isaiah 53:12**-I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Matthew 27:38**-Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

- **December 16 HANDS AND FEET PEIRCED**

**Psalm 22:16**- Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

**John 20:27**-He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands;. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

- **December 17 MOCKED AND INSULTED**

**Psalm 22:6-8**-I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

**Matthew 27:39-40**-Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

- **December 18 PRAYS FOR HIS ENEMIES**

**Psalm 109:4**-In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.

**Luke 23:34**- Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- **December 19 HIS SIDE TO BE PIERCED**

**Zechariah 12:10**-I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

**John 19:34**-One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

- **December 20 SOLDIERS CAST LOTS FOR CLOTHES**

**Psalm 22:18**-They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

**Mark 15:24**-They crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

- **December 21 NOT A BONE TO BE BROKEN**

**Psalm 34:20**-He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

**John 19:33**-When they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

- **December 22 TO BE BURIED WITH THE RICH**

**Isaiah 53:9**-He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

**Matthew 27:57-60**-As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

- **December 23 HIS RESURRECTION**

**Psalm 16:10**-You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

**Matthew 28:9**-Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

- **December 24 HIS ASCENSION**

**Psalm 68:18**-When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious - that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

**Luke 24:50-51**-When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

- **December 25 HIS SECOND COMING**

**Acts 1:11**-"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

**Hebrews 9:28**-Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## THE INDESCRIBABLE CHRIST

Describe Jesus Christ--call Him a teacher, a prophet, a good man, the Son of God--but whatever your beliefs, at some point, you will exhaust the capabilities of the English language, or any language, to fully portray the wonders and mysteries of His Being. To the born-again Christian, He is truly indescribable. He is more, He means more, than human language can adequately express.

We know, without qualification, that He is the Son of God, the One able to meet every human need. But we must present Him to our world in understandable, graspable words so each human being has opportunity to know Him. And we must answer His call. For He Himself has commissioned each Christian to proclaim His Name throughout all the earth.

Then where do we start? At the only place we know--the alphabet, from A to Z! Even then, at our very best, we can only attempt to describe Him in the human languages we know. For He is indeed, the Indescribable, Wonderful, Magnificent Christ!

### Jesus Christ our Lord

#### All-sufficient

- And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

#### Believable

- Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

#### Comforting

- I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John 14:18)

#### Delivering

- And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. (2 Timothy 4:18)

#### Encouraging

- Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work. (2 Thess. 2: 16,17)

#### Faithful

- Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

#### Gracious

- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

#### Healing

- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. (Luke 4:18)

#### Inviting

- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

#### Just

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

#### Kind

- That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)

### Life-giving

- The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

### Merciful

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Peter 1:3)

### Never-forsaking

- ... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

### Overcoming

- These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

### Peace-giving

- Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

### Quick and powerful

- For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

### Reliable

- Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (Hebrews 10:23)

### Strengthening

- I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. (Phil. 4:13)

### Truthful

- Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (Jn. 14:6)

### Uncondemning

- And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (John 8:11)

### Victorious

- But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

### Wonderful

- For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

### exalted

- Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (Philippians 2:9)

### Yearning

- Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! (Luke 13:34)

### Zzzzz...and He never sleeps!

- Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. (Psalms 121:4)

## FAMILY TREE

This is a fun Christmas day activity for kids of all ages! Don't limit your tree-trimming traditions to just the everygreen. Transform Dad into a decorated Christmas tree in this hilarious after-dinner activity. Supply your kids with green and red crepe paper, aluminum foil and masking tape. Have the kids decorate Dad like a Christmas tree. When they're done, gather around the tree and take a family photo.

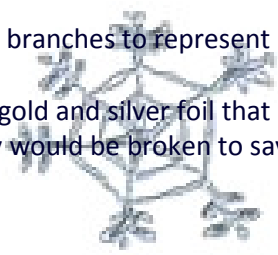
## THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

According to tradition, the Christmas tree originated in Riga, Latvia. The Christmas legend says that a monk named Boniface used its triangular shape to explain the trinity-that God was Father, Son and Holy Spirit. From that point on, the Germans call the tree "God's Tree." By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the trees were then used in plays to represent the garden with Adam and Eve decorated with apples. They were called Paradise Trees and were soon brought into homes and still

decorated with apples and other fruits to celebrate Christmas. Later, dates, pretzels and nuts were used to decorate the tree.

The evergreen was used as a symbol of eternal life. Candles were soon added to the evergreen branches to represent the stars and that Jesus was the light of the world.

Besides apples and other fruits, tradition says they also added Communion wafers wrapped in gold and silver foil that represented that Jesus came into the world to save it, that like the communion bread, his body would be broken to save us from sin.



## **A GIFT**

OBJECT LESSON: A wrapped Christmas present

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8

Hold up a wrapped Christmas gift. Lead the family in discussing the giving of gifts at Christmas and how much fun it is to give.

Ask questions like:

Do you have to work or pay to receive a gift? Why do we give gifts? How do you know who the gift is for?

Tell the God sent us a special gift that is for everyone. Quote John 3:16. Tell them that really means EVERYONE—all people, you, them, - anyone that would like to receive it.

Explain that we don't have to earn the gift or do anything other than receive it. Read Romans 2:8: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

However, the gift is not really ours until we choose to receive it. It is of no use to us unless we take it for ourselves, unwrap it and make it our own.

God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is the same. It is not ours automatically. We must first choose to receive it.

- Matthew 7:8: "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."
- John 3:36: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

## **STORY OF THE CANDY CANE**

OBJECT LESSON: Candy Cane

Give each family member a candy cane. Explain how the cane tells us about Jesus Christ.

WHITE: Jesus was pure and holy. He was without sin.

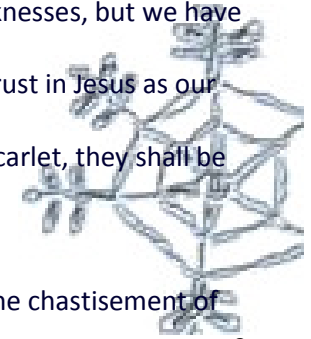
- Hebrews 4:15: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin."

The white is also a picture of how God washes our sin away and makes us white as snow when we trust in Jesus as our Savior.

- Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

RED: This is a picture of the blood of Jesus and depict the stripes on His back as He was beaten.

- Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."



**THE HARDNESS OF THE CANDY CANE:** This represents that Jesus is our Rock! If we build our lives on Him, they will be secure and lasting.

- Luke 6:38 “He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.”
- Ephesians 2:20 “built on the foundation of the apostle and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

**THE CANDY CANES SHAPE:** The candy cane is shaped like a shepherds staff; the Bible calls Jesus our Good Shepherd who watches over us and cares for us; we are called the sheep of his pasture.

- John 10:11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
- Psalm 100:3: “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

**UPSIDE DOWN CANDY CANE:** Turn the cane upside down and it makes a J for Jesus!

- Matthew 1:21: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**OBJECT LESSON:** Bring a string of Christmas lights to plug in and light up. Make sure you’ve looked over the list of the colors so you can talk about meaning of each color.

Ask: Why do we have Christmas lights? What is light good for?

One of the greatest things about light is that it helps us to see. The Bible calls Jesus the “light of the world.”

- John 8:12: “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of of life.”

He is the one that shows us the way to Heaven because He is the only way. We must follow Him.

- John 14:6: “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

### **GOLD CHRISTMAS BULB**

The Gold Christmas bulb reminds us of Heaven which is filled with the glory of God. The Bibles tells us that in Heaven, the streets of the city are pure, clear gold-like glass (Revelation 21:21). God wants you to be with Him in heaven someday.

### **HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BLACK CHRISTMAS BULB**

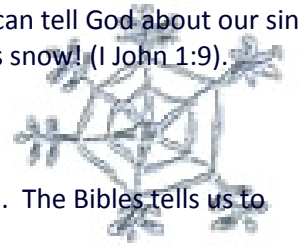
There is NO Black Christmas bulb. Just like there is no black Christmas bulb, there is one thing that can never be in Heaven. That is sin. Doing, or saying, or thinking bad things is called sin. Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin has caused sorrow and sadness in our world. God tells us in the Bible that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). But just like there is no black Christmas bulb, God doesn’t allow sin in Heaven.

### **RED CHRISTMAS BULB**

The Red Christmas Bulb shows the way God made for you to have your sins forgiven-taken away. God loves you. He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, from Heaven to take the punishment for your sin (John 3:16). Jesus came into the world to save us from punishment for sin. He is called our Savior! “...the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin” (I John 1:7).

### WHITE CHRISTMAS BULB

The white Christmas bulb reminds us that you can be made clean from sin. When we sin, we can tell God about our sin, and ask for forgiveness and when we do His blood washes away our sin and makes us white as snow! (I John 1:9).



### THE GREEN CHRISTMAS TREE

The Green Christmas tree reminds us of the new life, everlasting life, we can receive from God. The Bible tells us to “grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18).

### THE BLUE CHRISTMAS BULB

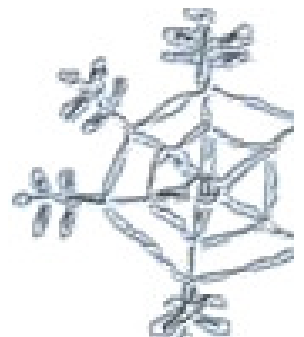
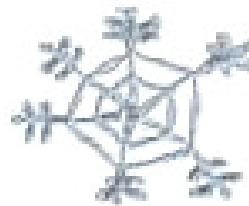
The Blue Bulb reminds us of water. Jesus said “...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14). But, it also reminds us of baptism. “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, who I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22). This is a great time to visit with the family about baptism.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Jesus was born as the light of the world. He came to bring us out of darkness and into light. Do you want to walk in the light of Jesus this Christmas?

### A SILVER OR GOLD STAR

You can add a star at the top of the Christmas tree as a reminder that the wisemen followed the star looking for Jesus. Will you seek Jesus today?



## MOVIE DEVOTIONS

### The Polar Express

1. What does the boy learn from his journey to the North Pole that gives him the ability to hear his special sleigh bell?
2. As Christians, who should we believe in (like the boy believes in Santa)? What is different between believing in Jesus and believing in Santa?
3. From scripture, what does it mean to have faith (*Heb. 11:1, 6; Eph 2:8-9; Rom. 10:9-10*)?
4. Why do you think many parents teach their kids about Santa, the North Pole, elves, and present (even Christian parents)? What value (if any) do these things have for children and their families?

### Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

1. Why did the Grinch hate Christmas for most of the movie? What happened as a child that caused his heart to be so small?
2. What did the Grinch and many of the Who's first think Christmas was all about?
3. Why did Christmas still come after the Grinch stole nearly all the Christmas gifts, food, and decorations of Whoville?
4. For Christians, what is Christmas truly about? How do we resist the temptation to make Christmas about the wrong things?

## The Nativity Story

\* More suitable for elementary kids or older

1. How did the people of Nazareth treat Mary, her parents, and Joseph after they learn that she is pregnant? Why did they react in this way? Why is it dangerous to judge people without knowing their entire story?
2. Why did Herod seek to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and its surrounding area? Why was he afraid of Jesus and the coming of the Messiah? What was foretold in the Old Testament that the Messiah would accomplish?
3. How does Joseph show incredible courage and love in the midst of difficult circumstances? What other examples of fatherly love do we see in the movie?
4. Why did the producers of this movie make this story as they did, with real people and modest settings? What did they hope to accomplish in trying to make the story as authentic to the Bible as possible?

## It's a Wonderful Life

1. Who in the movie prays for George (including George himself), and why do they pray for him? Are these prayers answered, and if so, how?
2. In *It's a Wonderful Life*, George is shown what Bedford Falls *would* have been like if he had never been born. It does not show several different ways it *could* have been like. Are there other ways things could have turned out if George had not been born? What would have made a difference between these ways things *could* have turned out and how things *would* have turned out?
3. What is it that really convinces George that this is how things would have been if he had not existed? How does George react emotionally when he comes to believe this?
4. If your life is not what you dream for yourself or if it is less than the ideal you envision for yourself, can it still be a good, wonderful life? How much does this depend on your attitude? How much does it depend on your trust or faith in Jesus Christ?