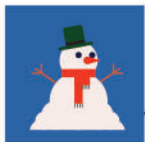


Deck the Halls: Countdown to Christmas



First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

"A child will be
born to us. A son
will be given to us."
Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears
to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Bottom Line

You can have
peace because
God has a plan.

Use this guide to help your family
learn why we celebrate Christmas.

Activity

Christmas Decisions

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game. Tell them that you'll ask them several questions that have two choices. If they choose the first answer, they should run to the left side of the room. If they choose the second answer, they should run to the right side of the room.

Would you rather:

- have a Christmas tree or Christmas cookies?
- have one fantastic gift or 10 okay gifts?
- get up early on Christmas Day or stay up late on Christmas Eve?
- eat peppermint candy canes or different flavored candy canes?
- decorate with colored lights or white lights?
- sing "Jingle Bells" or "Silent Night"?
- travel for Christmas or stay home?
- have a white Christmas or no snow?
- put up the Christmas tree before Thanksgiving or wait until December?
- receive wrapped gifts or gifts in bags?
- eat a turkey or ham dinner?
- have sweet potatoes or regular potatoes?
- open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?

When you're finished, say, "This time of year, we have lots of choices to make. We also have lots and lots of plans! Today, we heard about how God sent an angel to tell Mary about God's plan."

Talk About the Bible Story

What news did the angel give Mary? (*That she would give birth to Jesus*)

How did Mary respond to the angel? (*At first, she was upset. But she chose to trust God.*)

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 and read what Mary said to the angel.

What does it mean to have peace?

How can it give us peace to know that God has a plan?

Parent: Share about a time when something didn't go your way, and you prayed and asked God to help you get through it. How did it turn out? Explain how you were able to have peace because you trusted God in the middle of that situation.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, You had a good and perfect plan for Mary . . . and You have a good plan for our lives too. Help us remember that even when there are things we don't understand, we know that You will make everything right in the end. We want to trust You with the plan You have for our lives. Help us remember to come to You with our concerns, worries, and disappointments so we can live each day with Your peace. We love You! Amen."