

Light Show: Let the Christmas celebration begin

Use this guide to help your family learn about and celebrate the Christmas story.

First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Key Question

When has something worked out differently than you expected?

Activity

Ornament Roll

What You Need:

a few large gift bags, several non-breakable round ornaments (or other round Christmas decorations), masking or painter's tape

What You Do:

Mark a starting line with the painter's tape. Place the gift bags on the floor, about 15 feet away from the start line. Put a couple bags on their side, at an angle so the opening is not directly facing the starting line. Place one bag on its side, with the opening straight toward the start line.

Say, "Let's see how well you can roll these ornaments into the gift bags. You have to stand behind the start line, but you can move around to get a better angle, as long as you stay behind the line. Try to get one ornament in each bag."

Watch your child play. As they roll the ornaments, ask, "Do you have a plan for how to get the ball into the bag? What's your strategy?" Play a few rounds and let your child see if they can get better and more accurate at getting the ornaments in the bags.

Talk About the Bible Story

What was your plan for getting each ornament into the bag? Was it a good plan?

Whose plan did the angel share in our story today? (*God's plan*)

Why did Mary sing a song to God? (*She was full of joy because of the news that she would be Jesus' mother.*)

How was Jesus a part of God's plan? (*Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.*)

Sometimes things in life don't go the way we expect. How can we remember to celebrate God's plan, even when things don't go our way?

Parent: Share about a time when you didn't understand God's plan in the moment, but later, you were able to see what God was up to.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, we know the names of our friends and we can pray for each other, but YOU know EVERYONE! You have a good plan for each and every one of us. You loved us so much that You gave us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us remember to celebrate because You have a plan for each of us. Amen."