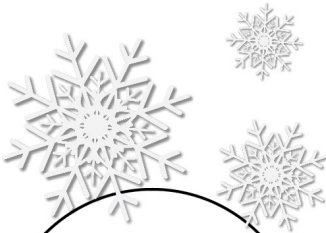


Simply Christmas: No Assembly Required



**First, watch
this week's
video!**

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born
to you. He is the
Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NIV

Bible Story

Gabriel Appears
to Mary
Luke 1:26-56

Key Question

What are
your plans for
Christmas?

Use this guide to help your family celebrate
Christmas all month long.

Activity

Planner

WHAT YOU NEED:

Two sheets of paper and two
writing utensils

WHAT YOU DO:

Tell your child that the two of you
will be writing a plan for each other
to carry out. Your child will write a
plan for you, and you'll write a plan
for them. Then, you'll attempt to
accomplish each other's plans, step
by step.

You can write plans for any task
that can be completed in your
home. It can be something your
child knows how to do, but you
don't know how to do (and vice
versa). It can be a plan for making
a specific snack or doing a specific
chore. Whatever the plan is, each
of you should write down each step
exactly as it should be carried out.

When you're finished writing, take
turns following each other's plans.
Have some fun with it by following
your child's steps very literally.
Monitor each other's progress and
make sure no one skips a step in
the plan!



Talk About the Bible Story

Do you like having set plans, loose plans, or no plans? (Ask
your child to elaborate on their responses.)

(If your family has already made plans for Christmas
celebrations, ask your child what parts of your plans they're
most looking forward to. If your plans aren't set yet, ask
your child what they're hoping IS part of your family's
celebration.)

How was Jesus a part of God's plan all along?

In our story today, who appeared to Mary? (*The angel
Gabriel*)

What did the angel tell her? (*That she would give birth to
the Savior of the world*)

How do you think Mary felt about the news that she
would give birth to God's Son? (*Joyful, scared, probably
overwhelmed*)

*Parent: Share a personal story about a time you had a plan,
but God's plan was different. Talk about how you handled it.
Were you able to find joy in the midst of your circumstances?
Were you able to feel God's presence with you?*

Prayer

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

"Dear God, thank You so much for the joy we have in You—
during the Christmas season, and always! Thank You for
sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for [name your
child(ren)], and how You made each of them special and
beautiful and smart and funny! We praise You for the plan
You have for us, and the truth that we can trust You no
matter what. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!"