

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:

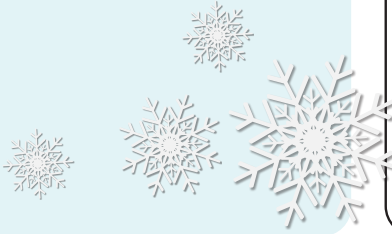
Two sheets of paper and two
writing utensils

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!"



Day 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

➡ Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked: _____

2. You learned: _____

3. You'd like to know: _____

Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

**WHAT ARE
YOUR PLANS FOR
CHRISTMAS?**

Day 4

Find a friend or sibling willing to play a short game with you.

Each person should grab a sheet of paper tear it into 12 different pieces. On four pieces, each person should write four jobs. On the next four pieces, each person should write a location/place. On the last four pieces, each person should write four hobbies.

Then make three different piles of your answers (a location pile, a jobs pile, and a hobbies pile) and mix up the pieces in each pile to scramble them. Then each person takes turn drawing from each pile to create a “plan” for your life.

“I will be a _____ living in _____, where I will enjoy _____ in my free time.”

Feel free to finish using up all the different pieces to create alternate plans as well.

How did your plans turn out? Pretty silly? Maybe you created one that actually sounded like you? Talk with your friend about what you hope your future really will look like. Then take a minute to thank God that He has a plan for you that is way better than you could ever imagine!



Day 5

Your family likely has some fun Christmas traditions, but it's always fun to add a new one into the mix!

Pick an activity (or two!) below that would bring you and others around you joy! Then work with your parents to make a plan for the activity and revel in the joy your plan brings!

- Make a birthday cake for Jesus
- Have a family dance party with Christmas music
- Make a gingerbread house
- Reenact the Christmas story with costumes and props you can find around your house
- Make Christmas cookies for your neighbors

Day 2

Read Luke 1:26-38

When the angel showed up with a message for Mary, Mary may not have had a lot of joy when she first heard what God had planned for her life. She was understandably surprised and had a lot of questions. As you read through Luke 1:26-38, put an exclamation point above sentences that you think call for it, and put question marks above the descriptions of Mary's confusion and questions.

Thankfully, the angel had some answers for her, and more than that, Mary soon realized that God's plan for her life meant great things for all of humankind: God would soon send His greatest gift: Jesus!

Day 3

Sometimes you can pray as a song. Read Mary's prayer to God in song in Luke 1:46-55.

Then write your own song. It doesn't have to involve a melody or any type of instruments (although it certainly can!) if that's not your thing; think of it more as a free verse poem. Your prayer could cover any or all of these themes: gratitude for the gift of Jesus, joy at the plan God has for your life, or what you're looking forward to about Christmas this year. After you write your prayer, read it or sing it out loud. **You can have joy because God has a plan for you.**

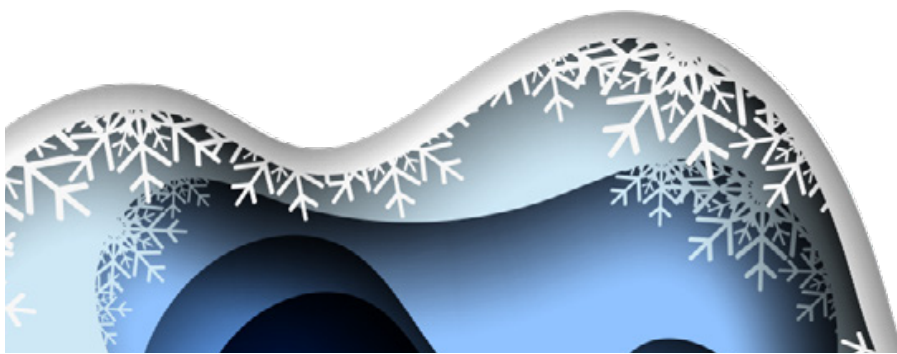
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