

Small Talk

DECEMBER 2010

Key Question:

Why is Jesus special?

Memory Verse:

"God loved the world so much
that He gave His only Son."
John 3:16, GNT

Basic Truth:

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

Bottom Line:

Jesus is God's Son.

BIBLE STORY SUMMARIES:

WEEK 1

Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46

God sends an angel to tell Mary she will have a son. The angel tells her that His name will be Jesus and He will be God's Son.

WEEK 2

Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem. Jesus is born in a stable and Mary lays Him in a manger.

WEEK 3

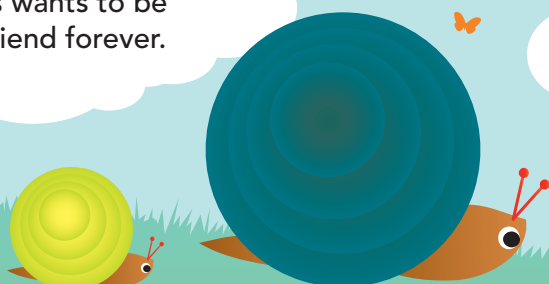
Luke 2:6-18

God sends angels to local shepherds to announce that Jesus, the Messiah, has been born. The shepherds quickly go and see Jesus. They tell everyone the good news that Jesus has been born.

WEEK 4

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

The wise men follow a star in search of the newly born king. The star leads them to Jesus in Bethlehem. They present gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus and worship Him.



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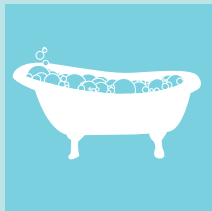
PLAY TIME

Play a game of star search all month long. Every time someone in your family sees a star they have to point to it and say, "Jesus is God's Son!" Look for stars on Christmas trees, in the mall, on houses, on Christmas cards, in the sky, in books, on toys...you'll begin seeing stars everywhere you go!



CAR TIME

As you drive down the road, talk about how Mary and Joseph had to travel down a long road to Bethlehem. As you pull up into your driveway, mention that Mary and Joseph didn't sleep in a house. God gave them a warm, safe barn to sleep in, and that is where Jesus was born. As you drive to a Christmas party to exchange presents, point out that the wise men traveled a long way to bring presents to Jesus.



BATH TIME

Bubbles are fun! Put a lot of bubbles in the bath this month. Use them to make a "cake" by piling them up in one place on top of the water or in your child's hands. Sing the "Happy Birthday" song to Jesus as loud as you can and then blow the "candles" out real hard. Watch the bubbles fly everywhere! Scoop them up and do it again!



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child and pray with him. "God, thank you for loving (*name of child*) so much that you gave him Jesus to be his friend forever. Happy birthday, Jesus. We love you."

IMAGINE THE END:

Is it possible for our children to hear the word Christmas and think of Jesus' birthday before they begin making a wish list of what they want to get? Possible? Yes. A challenge? Definitely! It's something we have to be intentional about, but we can do it. When we turn our homes into places that truly celebrate Jesus and His birth, our children will grow up naturally focusing on Him rather than the things this world has to offer. Imagine your home focused on the birth of Jesus this Christmas and then make it happen. Each time you do, you are teaching your preschooler the true Christmas story.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

It happens every year. Somehow we allow Jesus' birthday to become a time of absolute craziness. We're frustrated, busy, in debt, stressed out, exhausted and for some even depressed. Would we dare admit that we're actually relieved once it's all over? We know this time of year should be a glorious time for believers as we celebrate God sending us His only Son, Jesus, the Messiah, but sadly it's not. Could this be the year that we finally put our foot down and fight for the true Christmas story. Take time to get alone, read the Christmas story in the Bible and talk with God about the traditions you are creating for your family.

