

LEARN IT!

For the parents

Bible Memory Verse: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Main Idea: People in Bible times waited with anticipation for the coming of the Savior. During Advent, we wait and prepare to celebrate the birth of the promised Savior, Jesus. The coming of Jesus is the gift of Christ, something we can remember and celebrate all year.

Objectives: Children will prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, will hear that Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah, will recognize Advent as the name of a special time in the church year, and will learn to recognize Jesus as God's greatest gift to all people. They also will discover what it means to say that God is with us.

Bible Story: Micah 5:2-5a (Foretold about the Messiah) The Old Testament prophet states that Bethlehem, one of the smallest cities in Judah, will be the birth place of a great ruler of God's people. (Summary: Luke 2:1-21) As a descendent of David, Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered since Bethlehem was the birthplace of David. Joseph took Mary, to whom he was engaged, with him. Mary was pregnant and due to give birth at any time. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son. She wrapped the baby in swaddling cloths as was the custom, and laid him in a feeding trough because there was no room for them in the inn.

Bible Background: The story of Jesus' birth is a story remembered and celebrated every year in the life of the church. Whether it is a memory of a child in a pageant, a Christmas Eve service, a parent reading the story around a fire, or Linus from the video, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," the words (the Bible memory verse Luke 2:11) "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" have the power to take us back to memories of Christmas days long ago. Each year, millions of us prepare our hearts and minds to take the journey back into the story of the birth of Jesus, God with us here on Earth. It is a journey to a small town, with humble people. It is a journey to find a poor family away from home. It is a journey to see a newly born baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. It is a journey to the time when God, the all powerful, Creator of all, the great I Am, became one of us. The reason we journey to Bethlehem every year during the season of Advent is to remember the heart of the story: The Messiah, our Savior and God's Son, Jesus was born! The greatest story ever told began with the simplest beginning ever imagined!!!!

LIVE IT!

For the family

- 1) **One night each week before bed**, read some of the story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-21) from the Kids' Adventure Klub Bible or another Children's Bible.
- 2) **One night at dinner**, talk about how Jesus came to earth as a helpless baby. Discuss all that you need/have to do to take care of a baby. Consider donating some baby items/food to a local pantry or bring them to Joy! for the COOL food pantry that Joy! supports.
- 3) **Each night**, discuss one of the Advent activities that will be given to each family on 11/23. Begin on Sunday, 11/30.
- 4) **Do an activity/coloring sheet** during the week (resource packets available at the children's check-in desk) and bring the completed activity to the welcome center at check-in to receive an extra sticker for your rotation log.
- 5) **Memorize the Bible Verse** for Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:11).
- 6) **Do a random act of kindness** for a neighbor or friend. (Maybe bake cookies or brownies together and give some to your teacher or bus driver.)
- 7) **As a family, sign up** to help at the Family Worship Breakfast or bring an item to share. Receive an extra sticker for participating in the program on 12/14.
- 8) **As a family**, pick a name off the Giving Tree to donate to a child in need. The Giving Tree is located by the front entrance.
- 9) **Worship together**, on Christmas Eve (Joy! services are 4pm, 8pm & 11pm).

Receive an extra sticker for your check-in log for each activity completed.

TALK TO US!

I HAVE A...

- o PRAYER REQUEST
- o QUESTION
- o COMMENT

Please write your prayer requests, questions and/or comments on the back.

First Name:

Last Name:

Thanks for coming to Joy! We hope you had a great time and look forward to seeing you again!!

Comments and/or
Suggestions

Kids' Adventure Klub Workshops

Key Concept: Just like a flashlight helps you find your way in the dark, the Journey to Bethlehem rotation is about journeying to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. The symbol (flashlight) is to help remind us that we are on the journey too, seeking the baby Jesus.

Cinema Workshop: All ages will watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas." We sometimes get lost in all the hype of the holiday season. Charlie Brown discovers the true meaning of Christmas, and Linus delivers a very impactful message.

Art Workshop: All age groups will learn the colors of Christmas and make a luminary with a symbol that when lit will remind them of the birth of Jesus.

Cooking Workshop: All age groups will be recreating the story of Jesus' birth with various food items. They will create a star from gum drops to help remind them that the wiseman followed the star to see baby Jesus.

Games Workshop: All grades will play various games to help them learn and reinforce the concept of taking a journey. PS-K will be going on a journey to find the baby Jesus (similar to going on a bear hunt game). Older kids will read the "Shepherd's Story" and play "Finding your Path to Bethlehem" and "Nazareth to Bethlehem Hop."

Family Worship 12/14 w/Breakfast (No Classes)
No classes on 12/21, 12/28, or 1/4.
Classes resume 1/11/15

Family Activity Guide



Journey to Bethlehem

November 16, 2014
Through
December 7, 2014

Remember these activities are suggestions of ways to be the faith center of your family and bring home what your child is learning in the classroom on Sunday morning.