



Week 2 - Peace

Week 2 - Peace

Day 7

**The government will be on his soulders. And he will be called...
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**

Advent Wreath

Today, we will add our PEACE candle to the wreath and we will also add some holly to the evergreen boughs. The holly reminds us that Jesus came to die for our sins. The prickly holly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns that would be placed on Jesus' head. Remember God's faithfulness to send Jesus, the Prince of Peace, so we could have peace with God.

Mary visits Elizabeth

Read: Luke 1:39-45

In today's Bible reading, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and when she arrived her baby leaped for joy in her belly!

What are some things that bring you joy?

How do you express joy? (smile, jump up and down, etc)

When we follow Jesus we have real joy and everyone expresses joy in different ways and that's just the way that God intended it!

Discuss together as a family what brings you joy and how you can spread joy to others!

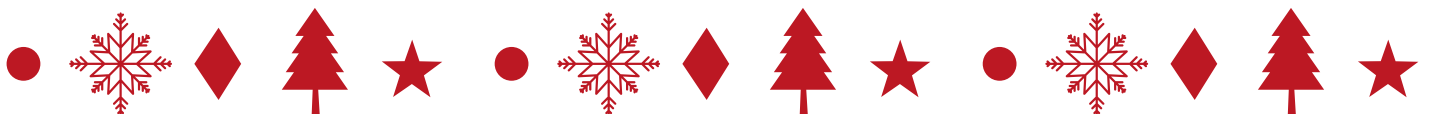
Advent Adventure

Supplies: wide-mouthed jar (salsa jar), light colored wrapping paper or tissue paper, glue stick, and tea light

Directions

- Wrap jar in paper
- Place tea light inside and light it

When God's Spirit is inside of us, like this candle in the jar, we can share joy





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Day 8

Mary praises God. Luke 1:46-55

Explore Before

Supplies: a magnifying glass or zoom on a camera

Examine objects around you.

What happens when you slowly move the magnifying glass or zoom out from the object?

What happens when you get closer?

What can you see that you couldn't see before?

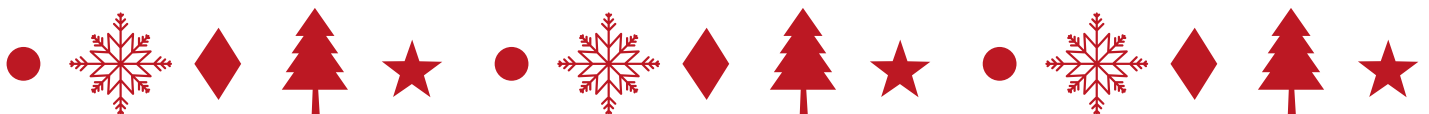
Magnify the Lord

Read: Luke 1:46-55

Just like a magnifying glass makes things bigger, we can "magnify" God with our words! Mary did this when she visited with Elizabeth. She said, "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Luke 1:46) God is so big that even if we tried to say all the good things God has done, that wouldn't even be enough because He is that good and He is that BIG!

Our words can be used to lift other people up or tear them down. We can make people feel important and special or our words could make them feel small and unimportant. When someone says something nice to you, how does it make you feel? Think about how it would make other people feel if they heard kind words coming from you?

Discuss as a family how our words effect others and how you can use your words to worship God!





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Day 9

John is born, and Zechariah talks again. Luke 1:57-80

Explore Before

Let's play, "What Am I?"
(How many guesses will it take for you to figure out what I am?)

- I am one of the smallest parts of your body. What am I?
- I am made up of muscles that bend and twist. What am I?
- I am covered with little flavor bumps called taste buds. What am I?
- You use me to swallow and to speak. What am I?
- I can taste bitter, sour, sweet, and salty. What am I?

Read: Luke 1:57-80

We use our tongues every day! We can lick an ice cream cone or make a silly face. We can tell a silly joke and give someone a compliment, but we can also use our tongue for not so nice things too.

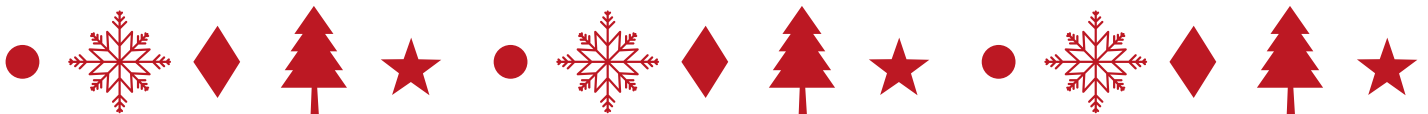
In our reading today, Zechariah used his tongue for not so nice things . He didn't believe what the angel said. The angel stopped him from talking! He shut his mouth. For how long did Zechariah stay this way? If you said, until the baby was born. You're right! That's nine whole months of no talking! He had to use his hands, write, or grunt, to communicate with people. Can you try to talk without using your tongue? Give it a try!

Just like Zechariah, we can use our words for good or for not so good things.

How will you use your words? Will you use your words for good?

If you feel like saying something unkind or bad, close your mouth quickly and speak no words. No words are better than bad words.

Tonight - enjoy some ice cream, a popsicle, or taste test the difference between salty, sour, and sweet things on your tongue!





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Day 10

An angel tells Joseph that Mary's baby is God's son. Matthew 1:18-25

Read: Matthew 1:20-24

God knew that Jesus needed to have an earthly father just like me and you. God planned it out that we would have special adults in our lives to love us, maybe it's a mom, or a dad, or a grandma, or an aunt or an uncle. God wants us to have people in our lives to show us what He is like.

**Even if your child doesn't have both parents at home, asking the following questions will give you a peek into what they are thinking:*

- What do moms do?
- What do dads do?
- What's one thing that you like about _____(mom, dad, grandparent, guardian, etc..)
- When you grow up, what will you do with your kids?

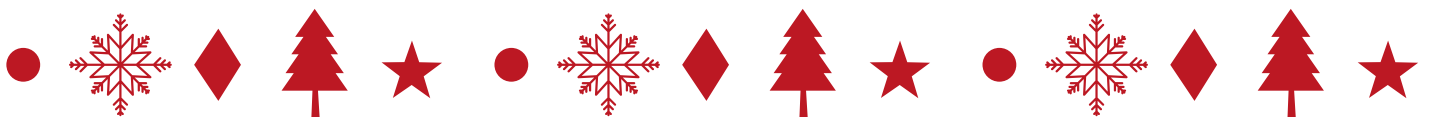
Advent Adventure

Parents, if your child can read, have them ask you the following questions. Otherwise you can paraphrase these questions or use the sample in the parenthesis. Have fun!

1. When you were a kid, what chores did you do? (What did you like to play)
2. What did you want to be when you grew up? (What do you think that I dreamed of being when I grew up?)
3. What's the best thing about being a mom or dad(grandparent) (Why do you think I like being your mom, dad, or grandparent?)

I'm so thankful that God gave you to me. You are a gift from God.

Name Alert: _____





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Day 11

Joseph and Mary leave for Bethlehem. Luke 2:1-5

Read: Luke 2:1-5

Can you imagine how Mary and Joseph felt walking all the way to Bethlehem? I'm sure that they must've wondered why they had to travel at the same time that Mary was going to have a baby, but they didn't complain. What is something that you might have a hard time being thankful for? God can use the hard things in our lives to show us that He loves us. It might not be easy to see, but it is for our good! Just like going to bed might not be fun for your, but if you don't get sleep you won't have a very good day the next day.

Remember to keep a good attitude even when things aren't always fun or easy. Let's do an activity together to illustrate this.

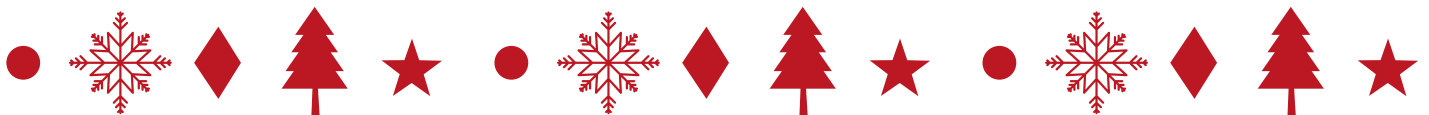
Advent Adventure

Supplies: 1 piece of construction paper, scissors, markers, (or old magazines and glue stick)

Directions:

- Fold the construction paper in half lengthwise
- On one side, make two cuts up towards the fold, creating three equal flaps.
- Draw or cut out pictures of three of your not-so-favorite things. Glue them to the top of the flaps. For example, if you don't like going to bed find a picture of a bed.
- Think of one good thing about each of your not so favorite things. Draw or cut out pictures that show those good things. For example, you draw a picture of big muscles that represent the energy you'll get when you sleep.

Whenever you feel like complaining about _____ (fill in the blank with one of your complaints), take a peek under the flap and remember how what can seem like a bad thing can be a good thing.





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Day 12

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Read: Luke 2:6-7

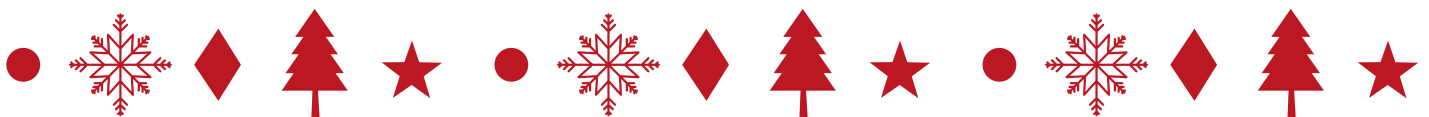
When Jesus was born he was laid in a manger. (Do you know what a manger is?) Jesus left his home in Heaven to come to earth as a baby because of His great love for you and me! Today we are going to celebrate by acting out this scene together!

Give everyone a part in the story - dress up in costumes and have fun reenacting this story together!

Names of Jesus

Name Alert:

_____ D _____ O _____
 _____ Y _____ O _____
 E _____ F _____
 _____ R _____ of _____ E _____





Week 3 - Joy

Week 3 - Joy

Day 13

Angels praise God. Luke 2:13

Read: Luke 2:13

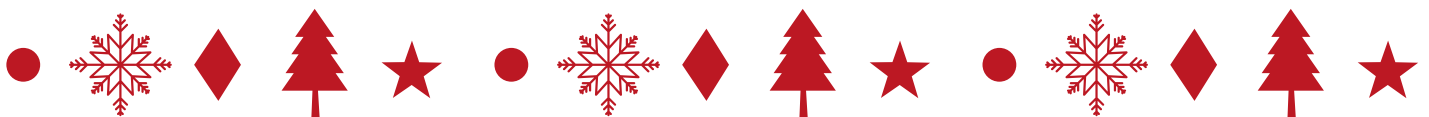
Have you ever noticed that there are a lot of angels in this story? An angel speaks to Zechariah, an angel shows up to tell Mary she is going to have a baby, then another angel appears to Joseph and lastly a whole choir of angels appeared to the shepherds. So let's talk about angels for a minute.

Do you know what an angel is? (An angel is a messenger of God!) Do you know what an angel looks like? Angels don't usually have bodies like we do and typically when they appear there is a bright light, but the Bible does tell us that sometimes angels can be in disguise and they could look like people! Pretty crazy, right?! Now, it might make more sense as to why the Shepherds were afraid when the angels appeared to them. Did you also know that angels have other important jobs too? Not only do they deliver messages, but they can also break open prison doors, and they love to party! That's right. When someone turns away from their sin and makes Jesus the leader of their lives, the Bible tells us that the angels rejoice and celebrate together! They have a big party! How exciting it must be!

No matter what they are doing angels primary job is serve one person and that is God!

Advent Wreath Activity

Add the third candle to your wreath, the JOY candle. In addition to your candle add a candy cane into the greenery. Candy Canes are in the shape of a J for JESUS and for the JOY he brings to us. Remember the joy that Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds felt when they looked at the brand new baby Jesus.





Week 3 - Joy

Week 3 - Joy

Day 14

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

Read: Luke 2:8-14

What do you think a shepherd does? (Allow children to discuss the job of a shepherd and then guide them through what a real shepherd's day would look like. Feeding, watering, protecting the sheep, etc...)

The Bible says in our passage today that the angels appear and the shepherds were _____ (fill in the blank) Were they happy to see the angels? Were they sad that suddenly the sky opened up with heavenly messengers? NO! They were afraid! Have you ever been afraid of something before? (discuss together some things that might make us fearful) Just like God told the shepherds, good news, God has good news for you too! This good news is that God is always with us! The Bible says over and over "Do not be afraid" Just like how the angels told the shepherds to not be afraid, we don't have to fear, because God is with us! We are going to do a little experiment tonight to further demonstrate how God brings JOY to our hearts and takes away our fears. Let's jump into that, now!

Advent Adventure: Joy in a Jar

Supplies: small jar or container, large jar or container, dish soap, food coloring

Directions:

- Place a little water and some dish soap in the small jar/container
- Shake the jar/container until its full of bubbles
- Fill the large jar/container with water and add food coloring
- Slowly pour the colored water into the jar of bubbles.

What happened to the bubbles? When you poured in the colorful water, the bubbles tumbled out of the top. We're like the jar and the bubbles are like fear. When we pray and ask God to be with us, He pours his JOY inside us and our fear comes spilling out!

Name Alert:

_____ I _____

_____ H _____ the _____ R _____





Week 3 - Joy

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Day 15

The Shepherds spread the good news of Jesus' birth. Luke 2:15-18

Read: Luke 2:15-18

Do you think that the shepherds had beautiful feet? It sounds kind of strange to say the someone has beautiful feet, but that's exactly how the Bible describes the feet of those who bring the good news of Jesus to others! The shepherds heard from the angels that Jesus was born and they all decided to go see what that angels were talking about. How do you think the shepherds got there? They walked! And after they met baby Jesus, they shared the news with everyone! We can share this good news too! We can share God's love with people at the grocery store, the playground, at school, or even with family members. God can use your feet wherever you go!

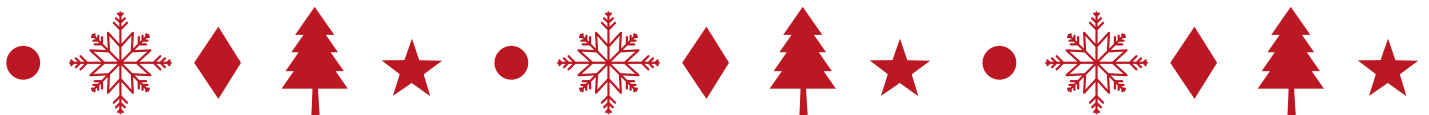
Advent Adventure: Card

Supplies: construction paper, paint, paintbrushes, etc.

Directions:

- Fold construction paper in half
- Make a fist and paint the pinky side.
- Press your fist onto the paper. Then using your painted fingertip create toes
- Create a poem or greeting inside the card

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Isaiah 52:7





Week 3 - Joy

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Day 16

Simeon and Anna meet Jesus in the temple. Luke 2:22-38

Read: Luke 2:22-38

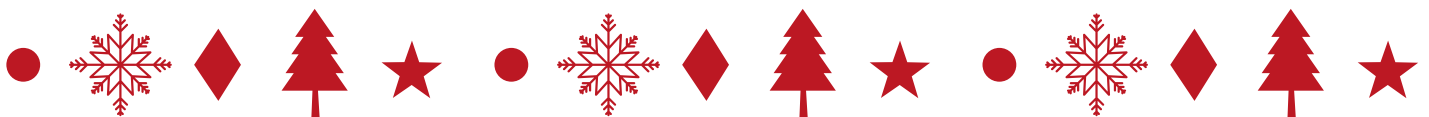
Simeon was waiting for the promised Messiah to arrive and then one day he heard the voice of the Lord! "Go to the Temple" It was there that Simeon (Simeon means "Hearing") found Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus.

Anna was a prophetess (God's messenger) and her name means "grace" or "favor" God showed Anna favor when she had the opportunity to meet God's Son!

What does your name mean? Why did your parents choose your name? Were you named after a special person? What does your name say about the kind of person you are?

Parent Note: Not every name has a biblical or spiritual meaning (that's okay!), but help the kids understand that our names also represent who we are. How do we treat others? Are we kind? Helpful? These are the kind of things that people will remember you for and when they hear your name what follows? List names of historical figures or people in your life and ask them what is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear that name?

If you belong to Jesus, you're a part of God's family! You are _____ son or daughter of God!





Week 3 - Joy

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Day 17

The Magi follow the star. Matthew 2:1-2

Read: Matthew 2:1-2

Sometime after Jesus was born a very bright star shone in the sky and the Magi followed this star to find Jesus and worship him. Just like the star at that time pointed the Magi to Jesus, we can look at creation all around us and it points to God!

Can you think of something that lives in the sky?

Can you think of something that might be in the ocean?

What might be in space?

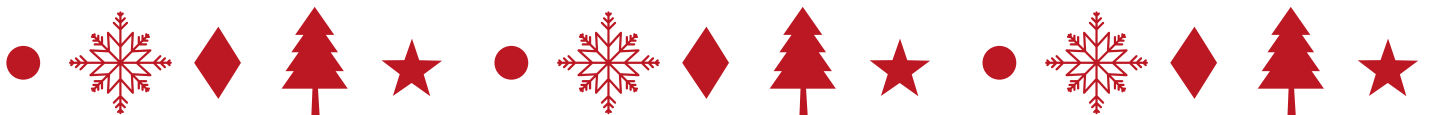
Everything in heaven and in earth and under the earth praises the Lord!

Whenever you play I-spy remember that all the things outside in nature point us to God who made all of it! That's amazing!

Play a few rounds of I-spy and be sure to incorporate things like trees, animals, etc.. reiterate how these things were made by God and how amazing His creation is!

Names of Jesus

____ N ____ of the ____ S





Week 3 - Joy

Week 3 - Joy

Day 18

"When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the **Christ** was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: " Matthew 2:3-5

King Herod had heard that a new king was coming. This made King Herod nervous. He wanted to be the king and have all the power belong to him. That is why he asked the Magi to bring him news of what they found. He didn't want to lose his palaces, his armies, and his crown.

Every day we have to decide who will be our leader. Will we listen to our parents or our friends? Will we do what mom and dad say or will we choose to follow other people? Will we decide to follow God or not follow God? If mom says to clean up your bedroom, but your brother says let's play video games instead, who will you listen to? If the Bible says "Don't lie" and your friend says "You can lie, no one will know" Who are you going to listen to? Who will you follow? Who will be your leader?

Play a few rounds of follow the leader and ask, "Could you play this game if there were two leaders?" Why or why not?

Advent Adventure: The Best King

Supplies: Handful of salt, or sugar

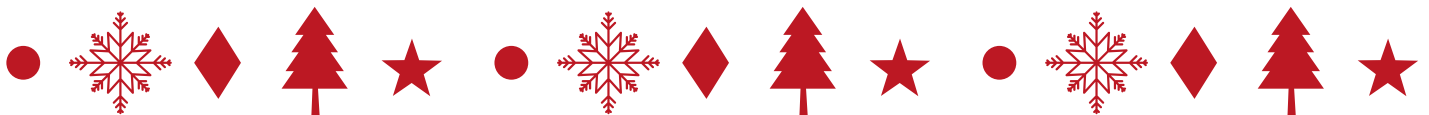
Directions: Read the following:

Stand up. Sit down. Look behind you. Now in front of you. Think about your favorite ice cream but don't say it out loud. Now hold out your hand. Try to count each of the grains of (salt/sugar)

Jesus is God and King of everything. He knows when you sit down and when you stand up. He goes behind you, before you, and His hand rests on you. He knows what you're thinking when no one else does. If you could count his thoughts toward you they would be more than the grains of sand on the seashore. (Based from Psalm 139)

Jesus is the BEST King.

Name Alert: ____ _ S ____





Week4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

Day 19

The Magi give gifts to Jesus. Matthew 2:9-11

When the Magi brought their gift to Jesus they fell down and worshipped him. They did this because they were witnessing a promise come to pass. This filled them with awe, wonder, and amazement, and all they could do in response is worship God! God loves to hear his children worship him. We may not be able to bring gifts wrapped in boxes and tied with pretty bows, but we can worship God! What are some ways that you can worship God? (Allow the kids to give their responses) The Bible gives us several ways that we can worship, clapping our hands, shouting, singing, giving thanks, serving, there are so many ways we can worship and give "gifts" to God.

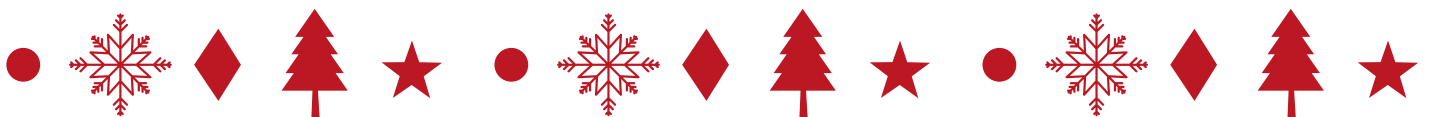
Think of some different ways that you can bring gifts of worship to God this week.

Play worship music and together as a family clap your hands, sing, and worship God together!

The Lord loves to hear your praises!!

Advent Wreath

Add a fourth candle, the LOVE candle, to the wreath and place pinecones all around. Pinecones represent life, the seeds deep inside them waiting to burst open. Because God loved us so much, He sent His Son, the Way the Truth, and the Life to give us everlasting life. Nothing can separate us from that love.





Week 4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

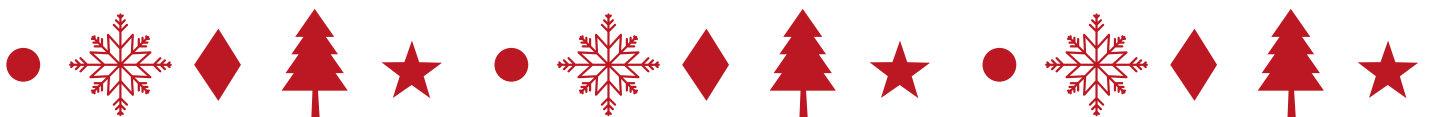
Day 20

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt. Matthew 2:12-14

Can you imagine if after the angel told Joseph he needed to leave he said, "Mmm.. I'm not sure we'll wait until tomorrow." Or what if he was complaining about it? "Aww, really? Right now? But it's the middle of the night, can't we leave later?" That's not what happened. The angel visited Joseph and he immediately jumped out of bed, woke up Mary and Jesus, packed their things and they left in the middle of the night.

God wants us to be quick to obey. Just like Joseph was quick to obey the angel's words. We should obey our parents because they love us and want what is best for us. When they ask us to do something it's for the best. The angel's words to Joseph telling them to run was to protect them. The same is true of our parents if they say don't cross the street, they are protecting us from being hurt. We should be quick to obey!

How can you be quick to obey this week?





Week 4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

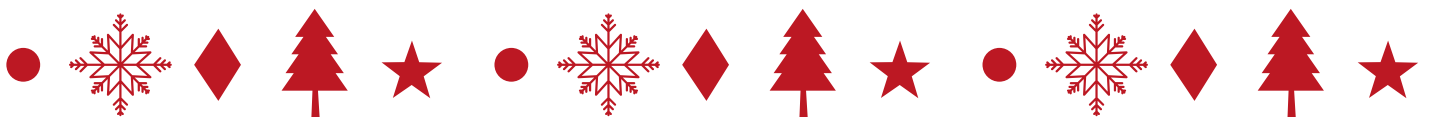
Day 21

Herod sends his soldiers to Bethlehem. Matthew 2:16-18

Read: Matthew 2:16-18

Herod was ANGRY that the Magi didn't tell him where Jesus was! He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to find Jesus, but he wasn't there. He was far away in Egypt. Just like a strong tower God protects those He loves! He keeps them safe. Just like He kept Mary, Joseph, and Jesus safe from Herod's soldiers. He keeps us safe everyday! When is God protecting us? (Allow responses) Where does God protect us? (*Everywhere*) Why does God protect us? (Because He loves us!) He is our strong tower!

Together with legos, blocks, or other objects build a strong tower!





Week 4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

Day 22

Jesus and his family go home to Nazareth. Matthew 2:19-23

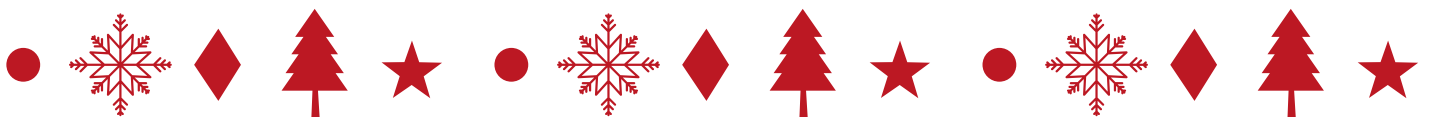
Read: Matthew 2:19-23

Again in this passage of Scripture we see that an angel visits Joseph and tells him it's now safe for them to go home! Can you imagine how excited Mary and Joseph must've been to return to their home?

I wonder what they talked about on their journey home. I imagine that at some point they probably discussed how good and faithful God had been to them. How God had protected them from King Herod. God was faithful when he provided the stable when there were no more rooms in the inn. God was faithful when an angel warned them to leave and flee to Bethlehem

We should take time often to remember all the good things that God has done for us! So we don't forget how good God is! What is something that God has done for you? Spend some time talking as a family and remembering all the good things God has done for you. Pray together and thank God for being faithful.

Tonight make hot cocoa and put some fun toppings on and discuss as a family your favorite Christmas traditions and share some of your favorite Christmas memories.





Week 4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

Day 23

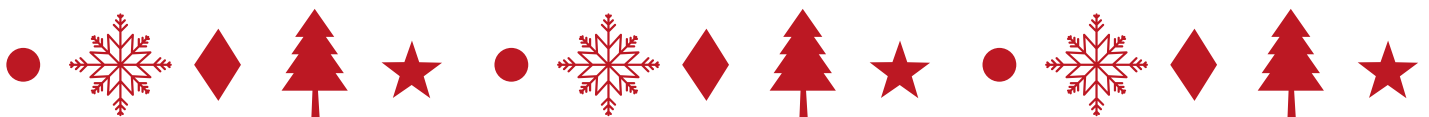
Jesus grows up in Nazareth. Luke 2:39-52

Read: Luke 2:39-52

Have you ever been so excited about something that it made it hard to wait for it? Maybe it was a special trip, or a birthday present, or a fun day, was it hard to be patient? What did you do while you were waiting?

Jesus gives us a great example of being patient. He was on the earth for 30 years before he performed a miracle, or healed someone. Everyday Jesus would wait, He probably went to school, played with his friends, and as he grew He may have even had a job! He had to wait until God said it was time! Just like Jesus waited to perform miracles, we have to wait for the things we are excited about.

What is something you are excited about? How can you wait patiently? What are some other things that you can do while you wait? Good things come to those who wait. Be patient and good things will come! Check out what this verse from the Bible promises: "Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7





Week 4 - Love

Week 4 - LOVE

Day 24

Jesus brings light into the world. Isaiah 9:2; Luke 1:78-79

Read: Luke 1:78-79

Have you ever watched the sunrise? The sun peeks over the trees and it's bright light shines over the mountains, waking everything in it's path. The darkness shrinks back as light begins to take over. Where the light shines darkness has no place to hide. This is a great picture of what Jesus came to do for us! He came to bring light to the dark world! Jesus came to bring hope to our hearts when we were lost in our sin. Sin in our hearts brings darkness, but Jesus came to bring light. That is why the Bible tells us He is the Light of the World! We have so much to celebrate because the Light of the World has come!

Advent Wreath



Today we will add one last and final candle to the wreath. This CHRIST candle is added to the center of the evergreen boughs. As you light each of the five candles, remember that Jesus is why we celebrate Christmas. He is at the center of everthing we do. He is the Light of the world.

