

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

DAY 1

Read Galatians 4:4, NIV

Have you ever read the book *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*? Goldilocks breaks into the bears' house and tries their porridge, their chairs, and even their beds until she finds one that is "just right."

Remember earlier this month when we talked about how God had a big plan to rescue us? How God knew from the very beginning that creating humankind would mean one day sending Jesus to be our Savior? When the time was "just right," God sent Jesus as a baby, the greatest gift ever. God sent Jesus at the chosen time out of great love for us.

Write this week's bottom line on an index card (*Celebrate because God sent a Savior*) and place it next to your favorite Christmas decoration. Thank God for loving you so much to send Jesus at just the right time.

DAY 2

Read Luke 2:6-7, NIV

Grab a piece of paper and pretend for a second that you are the king of a very large kingdom. What would your throne room, or royal playroom, look like? Draw it on the page.

Do you have a nativity set at home? If so, hold up the picture you drew next to your nativity. Spot any differences?

When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place stay, so they ended up rooming with animals. And it was there that Jesus, our Savior, was born. The surroundings were so humble that the King of all Kings wasn't placed in a beautifully carved crib. Instead, this precious gift to the whole world was placed into a feeding box.

Jesus didn't come as a king to rule over us. Jesus came as one of us so that He could save us. Set the baby Jesus from your nativity on top of your drawing. Then spend a few minutes thanking God for loving you enough to send Jesus to save you.

DAY 3

Read John 3:16, Nlrv

In one verse, we see God's big plan for creation. Out of God's great love for the world, God gave us Jesus. Jesus came to teach us how to follow God and to give His life for us. Because of sin, we cannot save ourselves. Instead of turning away from us, God chose to send Jesus to take the punishment for sin so that we can be forgiven.

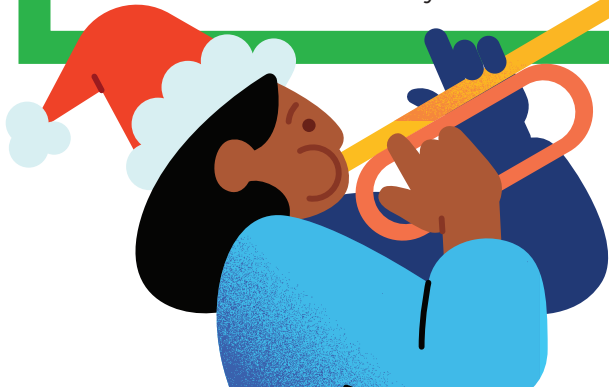
God loved who?

God's salvation is available to who?
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God made a way for ALL so that ALL could be saved. That's a BIG reason to have joy. We celebrate Christmas because God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

John 3:16 Hopscotch

Write out the words of the verse on separate pieces of paper. Lay them out in a hopscotch pattern. Jump from one to the other as you repeat the words of the verse. Then flip two pages over to the blank side. Repeat, hopping along as you say the verse. Continue flipping pages over each round until you can recite the verse from memory.



DAY 4

Read 1 John 5:11, Nlrv

When God sent Jesus, He made a way for us to know Him. Before Jesus came, people had to make sacrifices at the Temple to be forgiven of their sins or the wrong things they did. But out of love for us, God put a plan in place, forgiving all of the wrong things we've already done and will do. In fact, that was God's plan from the beginning.

Imagine making a list of every wrong thing you've ever done. Now imagine everyone all over the world making the same list. Now imagine every single person that has ever lived before you and every single person that isn't even alive yet one day making a list. When Jesus died and rose again, He took care of every single thing on ALL of those lists. Forever.

That's GOOD news. And that's why we should celebrate big, because God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Party Time

Ask your family to think of one NEW way to celebrate Jesus' upcoming birthday! You could bake a cake and sing "Happy Birthday." Or blow a party horn and yell "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

Celebrate because God sent a Savior.