

Christmas Devotion

For the Whole Family



Things You'll Need:

- Bible
- Access to the internet (for the "He Chose the Shepherds" music video)
- Friends and Heroes Episode 5, *True Heroes* (optional)
- Activity Supplies (See below to pick the activity your family will enjoy best.)
- Pencils

Read (or have a family member read) **Luke 2:1-38** in the Bible.

Then watch the music video, "He Chose the Shepherds" at www.friendsandheroes.com/nativity. (Lyrics to the song, "He Chose the Shepherds," are provided.)

Discuss with your family what this Bible story is about. Use the discussion questions below to get everyone involved.

(Optional: Your family might also enjoy watching the video clip about Jesus' birth from the Friends and Heroes Episode 5, True Heroes from about 14:30 to 17:20. Feel free to do this in place of the music video or in addition to it.)

Discussion Questions

1. What's your favorite part of this Bible story?
2. How would you have felt if you were Mary and Joseph?
3. Why do you think the angel told shepherds (instead of someone more "important") about Jesus' birth?
4. Ultimately, why did God send Jesus to earth?
5. What's your favorite part about Christmas?
6. What's the most important thing about Christmas?

Activity

Choose the activity that is age appropriate for your children.

- Making Snowflakes (See page 4.)
- Story challenge (See page 5.) Answers to the Story challenge appear at the end of this devotional.



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Prayer time

Close today's devotional in prayer, asking God to give your family a clear perspective on the important things about Christmas and to set your focus on those things, rather than the things society tends to focus on.

Additional Christmas Time Activities

- Make giving to others who are in need a part of your family Christmas tradition. Volunteering, filling a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child, adopting an "angel" from the Angel Tree project, and donating to local charities are just a few of the ways you can get your whole family involved
- Attend your church's Christmas Eve service (e.g., Midnight Mass).
- Decorate sugar cookies together.
- Start a fun, new tradition of an atypical Christmas Eve dinner. (Tex-Mex, anyone?)
- Throw a birthday party for Jesus.
- Make salt-dough ornaments for the tree.
- Watch a classic Christmas movie each week leading up to Christmas.
- Start a Christmas afternoon board game tournament.
- Take a drive around town to see Christmas lights. Don't forget to bring hot chocolate!

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HE CHOSE THE SHEPHERDS

Jesus' Birth

(Daniel Lozinski)

Joseph and Mary, poor as can be
Went to Bethlehem for the Emperor's decree
Expecting a child and tired from the journey
They needed sleep and a place to lay
their heads

But no-one would let them in
Only a stable was free

*That day God chose to show a revelation
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds
That day God chose to show the
less respected
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds*

Humble shepherds, working in their field
Hearing a voice they fell upon their knees
Barely believing the news about this baby
Christ the Lord, bringing peace to all the earth

Then they heard angels sing
Glory to God, peace on earth to everyone

*That day God chose to show a revelation
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds
That day God chose to show the
less respected
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds
He chose the shepherds*

Glory to God, peace on earth to everyone

*That day God chose to show a revelation
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds
That day God chose to show the
less respected
God's Son as a baby, he chose the shepherds
And God chose us all
Sent Jesus, lived to save the world
He chose the shepherds*

Luke 2 (Episode 5)



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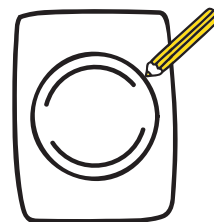
For the Whole Family



Let's make Paper Snowflakes

You will need

- White paper (or white "basket" style coffee filters)
- Scissors
- Thread, string, or tape to hang the snowflakes
- Pencil



How to make the snowflakes

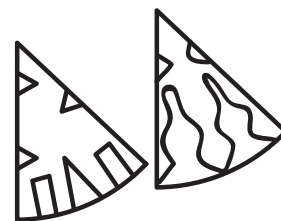
There is quite a lot of cutting out as part of this activity so you may need the help of an adult.

1. On a sheet of white paper, trace around the plate and then cut out the circle. If you're using the coffee filter, you may skip this step.
2. Then fold the circle in half.
3. Fold in half again.
4. Fold in half again.
5. Keeping the paper folded, lightly draw designs on one side to be cut out.
6. Keeping the paper folded, cut out your designs (cutting through all layers of the folded paper). Take care to not cut entirely through folded edges.



Now very carefully open out your paper to find a beautiful and unique snowflake!

Ask an adult to help you hang your snowflake.



Have Fun!



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Story Challenge

Getting to know the story of Jesus' birth.

Read the passage and try to figure out the missing words.

This passage can be found at www.friendsandheroes.tv/episode5_birth_of_jesus.html

The Birth of Jesus

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman _ _ _ _ _ (e5). (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All _ _ _ _ _ (g7) to their own ancestral _ _ _ _ _ (a7) to register for this _ _ _ _ _ (e4). And because _ _ _ _ _ (c9) was a descendant of King _ _ _ _ _ (h2), he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of _ _ _ _ _ (i1) in Galilee. He took with him _ _ _ (l5), his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

And while they were there, the time came for her _ _ _ _ (o2) to be born. She gave _ _ _ _ _ (j10) to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a _ _ _ _ _ (l5), because there was no lodging available for them. Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

Copy the words into the grid at the correct grid reference. This shows eight letters in highlighted squares which when rearranged will spell out the word from the sentence below.



	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															

We remember and celebrate this event with much praise and _ _ _ _ _.

(Use the squares around the outside to help you to rearrange the letters and find the word)



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Answers to Story Challenge

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
1									N						
2								D	A	V	I	D			B
3									Z						A
4					C				A						B
5					E	M	P	I	R	E		M	A	R	Y
6					N				E			A			
7	T	O	W	N	S			R	E	T	U	R	N	E	D
8					U				H			G			
9			J	O	S	E	P	H				E			
10										B	I	R	T	H	

R E J O I C I N G