

Simply Christmas: No Assembly Required

Use this guide to help your family celebrate
Christmas all month long.

First, watch
this week's
video!

Christmas:
Celebrating
Jesus, God's
greatest gift

Memory Verse

Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born
to you. He is the
Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NIV

Bible Story

Shepherds Visit
Luke 2:8-20

Bottom Line

God's peace is
for everyone.

Activity

Sheep Basket

WHAT YOU NEED:

Six pairs of white balled-up socks, a laundry basket

WHAT YOU DO:

Place the basket in the center of a room. Give your child three of the pairs of balled-up socks. You take the other three pairs. Then, challenge your child to see who is better at tossing the white balls of socks into the basket. Stand on one side of the basket and have your child stand on the other. Both of you walk 10 steps away from it, then toss.

If time allows, play another round—with a variation. Blindfold your child and give them all six pairs of socks. Have them take five steps away from the basket, and see how many they can toss in. Another variation would be to have another family member come in and blindfold BOTH of you; then both of you take five steps and toss.

When you're finished, say, "Do these white, fluffy socks remind you of anything from our story?" (The sheep the shepherds were taking care of.)

Talk About the Bible Story

Who visited Jesus in our story today? (*The shepherds*)

How did the shepherds know that Jesus had been born? (*An angel appeared to them and told them.*)

Read what the angels said to the shepherds in Luke 2:14.

What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? (*They went and spread the word that Jesus had been born. Then, they praised God.*)

Who is God's peace for? (*Everyone*)

When you think of peace, what do you think of?

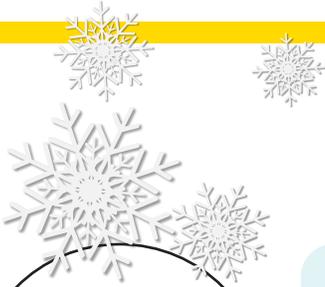
Parent: Share a personal story about a time you felt peaceful in a non-peaceful situation. Where did that peace come from? Did you ask God to provide it? Was there someone else with you who helped you experience peace?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You so much for giving us a Savior. Thank You that because of Jesus, we can have peace in every situation—and all we have to do is ask. We ask that You would help us to be peaceful people—kind and loving, generous and forgiving. We love You. Amen!"

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Key Question

What does it mean to have peace?

Activity

Peaceful or Not Peaceful?

WHAT YOU NEED:

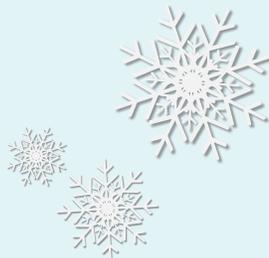
Two sheets of paper and a writing utensil

WHAT YOU DO:

Write down the word "Peaceful" on one sheet of paper, and "Not Peaceful" on the other. Tell your child that you're going to describe a situation to them. If they think it sounds like a *peaceful* situation, they hold up the "Peaceful" sign. If they think it doesn't sound peaceful, they hold up the "Not Peaceful" sign.

As you read the following scenarios, pause after each one, allowing your child to choose the "Peaceful" or "Not Peaceful" sign.

- ▶ Watching a big parade
- ▶ Taking a test
- ▶ Hiking in the mountains
- ▶ Hearing a thunderstorm
- ▶ Singing and worshipping God
- ▶ Arguing with a friend or sibling
- ▶ Reading the Bible
- ▶ Sleeping



Talk About the Bible Story

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Read what the angels said to the shepherds in Luke 2:14.

What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? (*They went and spread the word that Jesus had been born. Then, they praised God.*)

When you think of the word "peace," what do you think of?

What is the opposite of peace? What does that feel like?

What are some things that make you feel worried or afraid?

Parent: Share a personal story about a time you felt peaceful in a non-peaceful situation. Where did that peace come from? Did you ask God to provide it? Was there someone else with you who helped you experience peace?



Prayer

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