



**Parent
Cue**

SMALL TALK

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us." Isaiah 9:6, NCV

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus Wants to be My Friend Forever

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

DECEMBER

WEEK 1 | MICAH 5:2, LUKE 1:26-33, 38, 46

God sends an angel to tell Mary that she will give birth to His Son, Jesus.

WEEK 3 | LUKE 2:8-18

An angel tells the shepherd men that Jesus has been born. They run to see Jesus and then tell everyone about Him.

WEEK 2 | LUKE 2:1-7

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem where Jesus is born in a stable.

WEEK 4 | MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

The wise men come from afar, following a star, to honor Jesus with gifts.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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PLAY TIME: You should receive a wonderful Christmas story rhyme for you and your child to learn together. There is one verse for each week in December. Take time each day to

review the verse for that week with your child. By the end of the month, your child will be able to tell the entire Christmas story!



CAR TIME: Play preschool Christmas songs as you drive around this month. Talk to your child about how Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday. Mommy and Daddy have birthdays.

You have a birthday. And Jesus has a birthday. The reason we decorate at Christmas time is to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Look out the window for special Christmas decorations. When you see some say, "Happy birthday, Jesus!"



BATH TIME: Take a baby doll into the bath with you. While your child gives the doll a bath, talk about how God gave us baby Jesus to be our friend forever. If your

child doesn't have a doll, try some farm animals instead. As your child plays with the farm animals, remind him of the night baby Jesus was born in a stable. God gave us Jesus!



PARENT TIME:

December is a month full of "to-do's." Decorate the house. Buy the Christmas tree. Decorate the Christmas tree. Bake the cookies. Wrap the presents. See the kids'

Christmas programs. Get gifts for the kids' teachers. Make plans with family. The list could literally go on forever.

While you're making your list this year, pay special attention to one particular piece. Who in your child's life are you honoring with a Christmas gift? Who has enough influence over and love for your child that you feel compelled to recognize their importance at Christmas? Is it your child's teacher? His Small Group Leader? A family friend? These people, the people for whom you're buying/making Christmas gifts, they are impacting your child's life. They are important. They are the voices your child hears when he's not with you. They give the advice your child listens to when he's not paying any attention to you. These people are your partners in this parenting adventure. Take a minute this busy season to acknowledge these very important individuals and to encourage these relationships, for the older your child gets, the more they will matter.

Since these relationships will continue to guide and develop your child, you need to be strategic in both identifying and supporting these key influences in your child's life. Carey Nieuwhof challenges us in this month's Parent Link Live to help our children spend time with other key adults. He gives several practical tips to help encourage these relationships. You can find this terrific podcast on www.OrangeParents.org.



CUDDLE TIME: Cuddle up with your child and pray with him. "Merry Christmas, God! Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus. We love Jesus. We are SO glad He wants to be our friend forever. Help us to remember that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday. We love You, God. Amen."



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