

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

**For questions, contact:**

Wheaton Bible Church Director of Children's Ministry Ginny Stair  
gstair@wheatonbible.org, 630.876.6636

Tri-Village Church Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Jennifer Westering, jwestering@trivillagechurch.org, 630.876.6657



**Church and Family Partnering Together**



**Today's Big Idea**

Jesus Was Born  
Read about it: Luke 2:1–20



**The Main Point**

Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.



**What Did We Learn?**

- ▶ Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted.
- ▶ While they were there, the time came for Jesus to be born.
- ▶ Angels appeared to shepherds to tell them about the King's arrival.
- ▶ Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

**TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION**

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY 7

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

*After pausing in our lesson schedule to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, we return to our regular lessons, remembering that the reason Jesus was born was to rescue us from our sin. Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18 and read together as a family about when Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive. Or read the children's version of the passage below.*

Jesus came with His disciples to Gethsemane. He prayed, "Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan."

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The crowd grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Jesus was led to the high priest. The high priest asked, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right."

The high priest said, "Ah ha! He has spoken against God. He deserves to die!" They led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. "Are you the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. "Yes, that's right," Jesus replied.

The soldiers put a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus. Then they mocked Him, "Here is the King of the Jews!"

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus shouted again and then He died.

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. The angel spoke to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would."

The women hurried to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus met them. "Good morning!" He said. "Don't be afraid," Jesus told them. "Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there."

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ Why did Jesus die? (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.)
- ▶ Jesus is alive! Where is He today? (See Hebrews 10:12.)
- ▶ Have you trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Play the role of detectives and make a case for the resurrection.
- ▶ Cover a balloon with paper mache. When it dries, allow your kids to pop the balloon and show that the sculpture is empty, like Jesus' tomb.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)

## BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
John 18:1–14	John 18:15–27	John 18:28–19:16	John 19:17–42	John 20:1–18

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

## UNIT MEMORY VERSE

What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. —1 Corinthians 15:3–4