

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:

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Church and Family Partnering Together



Today's Big Idea

Jesus Was Born



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 NEXT WEEK

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1–21 and read together as a family about the wise men who visited Jesus. Or read the children's version of the passage below.

Long ago, God promised to send a king to save His people from their enemies. Then Jesus was born in Bethlehem at the same time Herod was king.

God sent a star to show the wise men that Jesus had been born. They came to King Herod. "Where is the king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

King Herod was very angry. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him." But Herod didn't want to worship the new king; he wanted to kill Him!

The wise men followed the star until it led them to Jesus. They fell to their knees and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Jesus gifts. When it was time for the wise men to go home, God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was. So they took a different way home.

After the wise men were gone, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt." So in the middle of the night, Joseph got up and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

King Herod was so mad. He killed all the boys in Bethlehem under two years old—just to make sure he killed Jesus. But he didn't know Jesus and His family had escaped.

A while later, an angel spoke to Joseph again in a dream. Joseph did what the angel said to do. He got up and took Mary and Jesus to Israel.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ How did the wise men know about Jesus' birth? (See Matthew 2:1–2.)
- ▶ How did the wise men show their respect for Jesus?
- ▶ How can your family worship Jesus together?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Invite your family members to talk about a favorite gift they received for Christmas. Explain that God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus is the best Christmas gift.
- ▶ Help your kids gather old toys in good condition and donate them to a children's home.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all our worship.

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
Matthew 2:1–2	Matthew 2:3–6	Matthew 2:7–12	Matthew 2:13–18	Matthew 2:19–21

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

The Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

—1 John 4:14