

A FOUR WEEK GUIDE OF FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCES



### **EVERYTHING YOU RECEIVED:**

### Make It Christmas Book

- Week 1—Make It Christmas in Your Heart (page 3)
- Week 2—Make It Christmas in Your Home (page 5)
- Week 3—Make It Christmas in Your World (page 7)
- Week 4—Make it Christmas Always (page 9)

Each week includes the following activities: THINK ABOUT IT, READ IT, TALK ABOUT IT, PRAY IT, DO IT, and PLAY IT, as well as a GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE.

### Papers

- Advent Calendar—Begin on December 1.
- Make It Christmas Poster—Use in the Week 1 GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE (page 4).
- Chatool the Cat Coloring Page—Use in the Week 1 PLAY IT Activity (page 4).
  - You can take pictures with Chatool while you do other Make It Christmas activities.
- Jesus' Family Portrait—Use in the Week 2 DO IT Activity (page 6).
- Christmas Cards—Use in the Week 4 GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE (page 10).

### Items

- **Stickers**—Use to mark off the days on the Advent Calendar.
- Candle—Use each week in the PRAY IT activity.
- Paper Strips—Use them to make a Christmas paper chain. The paper chain can be used in the Week 1 GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE (page 4).
- Sticky Notes—Use in the Week 2 GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE (page 6).

### WEEK ONE: Make It Christmas in Your Heart

### Think About It

What makes it feel like Christmastime to you? Which of those things are most important to you?

### Read It

Sit down together. Read Luke 1:26-38. Then use a Bible app and read it in the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV).

# LK ABOUT IT

- Read verse 37 again. What do you think the angel Gabriel meant? What does that mean to you?
- Talk about Mary's response in verse 38. What do you like about it?
- Christmas began here with Gabriel's announcement to Mary. The first thing Mary did was say yes to everything God wanted to do. What might God want to do in you this Christmas? Will you say yes?

# Christmas is the celebration of **JESUS**the Messiah, coming to Earth as a human. Why would God choose to come to Earth?

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Turn off all the lights in the room. Safely light the candle from the kit and sit together in the candlelight.

- Listen to the song "Be Born in Me" by Francesca Battistelli. What do the words mean to you?
- Sing the song "The First Noel".
- Pray together for God to help you make Christmas about Jesus.
- Commit to help each other to remember to put Jesus first this week. Any time someone is getting angry, overwhelmed, or frustrated this week, gently remind them to MAKE IT CHRISTMAS.



### GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Find a space in your house that isn't usually decorated for Christmas. It might be a space only one person will see. Then decorate it to let that person know they are loved. If possible, make it a surprise.

The decorations don't need to be fancy or elaborate. You can use the strips of paper from the kit to make a paper chain. There is also a poster that says "Make It Christmas" for you to decorate and hang. (If you need instructions for how to make a paper chain, go to wikiHow for a good tutorial.)



In the kit, you will find an Advent Calendar and stickers. Find a place in your house to hang the Advent Calendar where you will see it every day. Starting on December 1, place a sticker on one square each day to count down the days to Christmas. When you place the sticker each day, take a minute to pray:

"Jesus, help me make Christmas about You today."

### PLAY IT

In the kit, you will find a paper with Chatool the cat. Color and decorate Chatool however you like. Then, cut out around her. Each day this week, have a different family member hide Chatool and everyone else tries to find her.

Cats are good at Hide and Seek.

### **WEEK TWO:**

### Make It Christmas in Your Home

### THINK AROUT IT

How would you explain Christmas to someone who had never heard of it?

### READ IT

Find Luke 2:1-7 and read it together. Then use a Bible app and read it in the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV).

### IK ABOUT IT

- You've probably heard the Christmas story many times before. What can you do to remember how special it is?
- Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted for the census because that's
  where his family was from. They would have stayed with family or friends because
  that's always what you did in Jewish culture. It's likely the guest room was full in the
  house because they had other family members visiting.
- Does this change how you think about Jesus' birth?
- What made it Christmas in that home if they didn't have decorations and special food?

### **PRAY ABOUT IT**

Turn off all the lights in the room. Safely light the candle from the kit and sit together in the candlelight.

- Listen to the song "Christmas This Year" by Toby
   Mac. Talk about what you want your Christmas to be like this year.
- Sing the song "Silent Night" together.
- Pray together. Ask God to help you make Christmas about Jesus and not about what you do or don't get.
   Share God's gifts of love and forgiveness with each other this week.

The strips of cloth Mary wrapped around Jesus are called chatool in Hebrew. Since cats wrap themselves around people's legs, that word became a nickname for cats. That's how I got my name, Chatool!



### **DO 17**

Does your family pose for a special photo at Christmas? Imagine if Jesus' family did the same thing. In the kit, you will find a paper with a frame. Inside the frame, draw a portrait of what you think Jesus' family might have looked like.

### PLAY IT:

### CHRISTMAS A TO Z

This game is great to play in the car or any time you are waiting for something. The first person says, "At Christmastime, I love..." then they say something that starts with the letter A you would have at Christmas like Advent or apple pie. The next person says, "At Christmastime, I love..." Then they say the A item and add one that begins with the letter B. Continue playing through the letter Z, saying each of the previous items before adding a new one.

### **GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE**

For this challenge, each family member will need some of the sticky notes from the kit. All this week, you will use them to leave funny and encouraging messages and pictures around your house. Think carefully about what you can say to MAKE IT CHRISTMAS for someone when they find your note. Challenge yourself to place them in surprising places. Inside a lunch bag or pocket? On the milk carton or laundry basket? In a book or drawer? Will they find them all?

### WEEK THREE:

### Make It Christmas in Your World

### THINK ABOUT IT

When something amazing happens to you, who do you most want to tell?



# ILK ABOUT IT

- Sharing God's love is the heart of Christmas. The shepherds were quick to share their story with others. Have you ever told a friend about Jesus? When you give God's love to someone, it will grow in them and grow in you too.
- When the shepherds told their story to others, it helped them connect to people
  in Bethlehem they didn't usually talk to. Talk about why stories are important and
  how they connect us with others.
- Verse 20 says the shepherds glorified and praised God. How do people give glory to God? How will your words and actions point others to God?

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Turn off all the lights in the room. Safely light the candle from the kit and sit together in the candlelight.

- Listen to the song "Welcome to Our World".
- Sing the song "Hark, the Harold Angels Sing."
- Ask God to show you people you can share His love with this Christmas. Ask God to help you speak even if you feel embarrassed.
- Work together to MAKE IT CHRISTMAS for others. Each time you leave the house, remind each other to spread love in the things you do and say.

### DO IT

Get an apple, a plate, and a knife. Cut the apple in half horizontally, opposite of the way you would normally cut it. Examine each half. What do you see? How many apples have you eaten but you never knew there was a star inside?

God used a star to show where to find Jesus. The star was there for anyone to see, but not many knew what the star meant. That is still true today. Jesus is there for anyone to see and follow, but they need someone to show them the way to Him.



carefully and asking questions.

### EXPERIMENT WITH IT

#### Experiment #1:

In a clear glass, mix together 1/2 cup of water and one teaspoon of baking soda. Mix in one table-spoon of lemon juice. Take the seeds out of the apple you used in DO IT and put them in the glass. What happened?

#### Experiment #2:

Cut the apple into six pieces. Put each piece in a bowl or cup. Add nothing to one piece. Add a different liquid, such as lemon juice, milk, soda, water, and vinegar, into each of the others. Wait a few hours. Compare the pieces and how they each reacted to the liquids.

People, like the seeds and the apple pieces, are affected by the things around them. What if we affected people in a way that helped them? How can sharing God's love help to change someone?

I can share love
by sitting in your lap and
shedding on you. How do you
show love for others?



### WEEK FOUR:

### Make It Christmas Always

#### THINK ABOUT IT

What things do you say take forever or last forever but they really don't? What does eternal mean?

#### DEAD IT

Read Luke 2:19 and Isaiah 9:6-7.

Then use a Bible app and read it in the Easy-to-Read Version (ERV).

### K ABOUT IT

- Mary remembered the amazing things God did because she thought about them often. She took the time to pause and think. How can you do that too?
- We love how Christmas makes us feel. Talk about ways to make those feelings of love and connectedness last all year.
- Jesus came to Earth because He loves us. He will rule forever in Heaven and He wants you to be with Him. You can make it Christmas always by making Jesus the king over your heart. Talk about what that means.

### **PRAY ABOUT IT**

Turn off all the lights in the room. Safely light the candle and sit together in the candlelight.

- Listen to the song "Jesus at the Center" by Maverick City Music. Focus on Jesus being the center of your heart forever.
- Pray a prayer of salvation with any family member who has never prayed it before.
- Sing the song "Joy to the World" together.
- Ask God to help you make Jesus shine in everything you celebrate this week.
- Work together to make time with Jesus a priority in your family.

### DO IT

Instead of making a gingerbread house, make a gingerbread nativity scene. Draw paper characters and animals or use toy figures you already have.

Option: If you don't want to bake, use graham crackers for the walls and roof. Also, you can use hot glue for easier assembly if you don't intend to eat the structure later.



Anyone want to give me an eternal belly rub?

### **GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE**

who teach you and help you all year long. Color and decorate the Christmas cards from the kit. Write special notes on the inside.

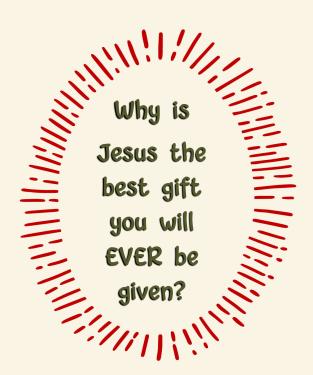
Then give them as a thank you to teachers, pastors, coaches, babysitters, or anyone else you want to thank.



### PLAY IT: WOULD YOU RATHER

Would You Rather is a fun game to play around the dinner table or in the car. Take turns making up questions that ask everyone else to choose between two options. Make it a Christmas version by asking questions such as, "Would you rather be a shepherd or a wise man?" or "Would you rather eat cereal with eggnog for milk or buttered toast with crushed candy canes?" Do an internet search if you need question ideas.





# What I Love About CHRISTMAS

Write your answers to the questions. Then interview family members and write their answers too.

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AT (	CHRIST	MASTIME,	I LOVE T	O EAT	
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MY FAVORITE PERSON IN THE BIBLE CHRISTMAS STORY IS...

THE BEST PART OF CHRISTMAS IS...

**MV FAVORITE DRESENT IS...** 

IF I COULD GIVE ANYTHING TO SOMEONE, I WOULD GIVE...

# Christmas WORD SEARCH

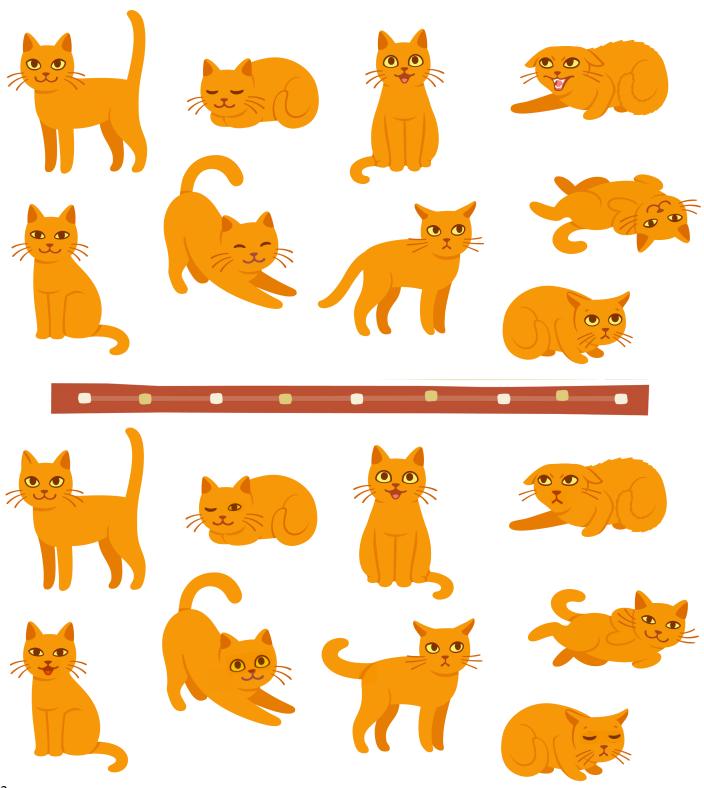
find the word CHRISTMAS as many times as you can.

M	A	ı	S	A	M	T	S	ı	R	H	C	S	Т
C	H	R	1	S	T	M	A	S	A	M	H	R	H
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R	R	A	1	H	M	C	T	A	R	A	1	S	1
1	C	M	T	M	C	A	S	1	C	T	S	R	C
s	H	T	M	A	S	H	1	H	C	M	T	C	H
т	R	S	C	T	C	H	R	1	S	T	M	A	S
M	1	1	H	A	R	1	H	1	A	C	A	H	R
A	S	R	S	M	S	T	C	H	S	C	S	T	A
s	T	H	A	T	C	H	R	1	S	T	M	A	S
ı	M	C	M	R	S	T	A	C	ı	S	M	H	R
м	A	A	S	H	T	M	C	A	M	1	T	A	C
A	S	A	M	T	S	ı	R	H	C	R	1	H	S
Т	C	H	R	1	S	T	M	A	S	H	M	R	A
C	H	S	A	M	T	S	ı	R	H	C	H	H	ı

How many times did you find CHRISTMAS?

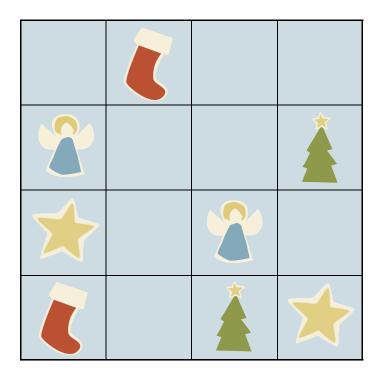
### Chatool SPOTTHE DIFFERENCES

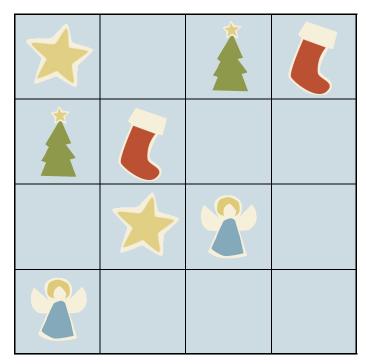
find and circle the 10 differences between the top and bottom pictures.



### SUDOKU

Complete the Sudoku puzzles below. fill in the empty squares by drawing the missing pictures. Place only one of each picture in each row and column.





### **COLOR BY NUMBER**

Color the numbers in the grid to reveal a picture.

### 1=GREEN 2=RED 3=BROWN 4=YELLOW 5=BLUE

5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	2	5	5	5	2	5	5	5
5	5	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	5	5
5	5	2	5	2	2	2	5	2	5	5
5	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	5
5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5
5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	4	2	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	3	3	5
5	5	5	5	1	1	1	5	3	3	5
5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5
5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

