



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

We all have our favorite things about Christmas time. Maybe for you it's the cookies, or the decorations, or maybe you're just one of those (how do I say it?) strange people that like listening to Christmas music all year round. (You know who you are.)

But for me, my favorite thing at Christmas is the lights. Here's why: My daughter was born a few weeks before Christmas. And like many newborn babies, ours was not sleeping much through the night. So, my daughter and I spent lots of time in the wee hours of the night walking around the house with no light except for the glow from the Christmas lights. Whether they were on our Christmas tree or on the trees outside of the house, my daughter was simply mesmerized. Her eyes would get big and would almost glow. Even at just a few weeks, there was already a sense of wonder in her eyes.

It's easy for me to imagine Mary and Joseph looking down at their newborn baby and then looking up at the stars and being filled with a sense of wonder. Maybe while looking at the lights of the sky, they remembered one of the promises that God made to the prophets — that one day a Savior would be born — the Redeemer, the King, the Light of the World. Maybe they remembered the words of Isaiah, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

Through this newborn baby — a baby named Jesus — a promise was kept. A promise to defeat sin, to conquer death, and to make things right once again. This promise was the greatest gift that mankind has ever known. During this Christmas season, reflect on this promise and be filled with the joy and happiness that come to all who believe it!

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Sunday Check-In

Sunday morning check-in to build connection, encourage spiritual growth, and reinforce our expectations upstairs.

1. Check-In (5–7 min):

Ask each child:

- What was a high from your week?
- What was a low from your week?
- Any prayer requests?

(Feel free to share your own too!)

2. Rule Reminder (2–3 min):

Go over our 3 rules for upstairs:

1. Respect God – Worship, listen, use kind words
2. Respect People – Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. Respect the Building – Take care of the space & supplies

Thanks for leading with love and consistency!

