### Week 1: Send an email with a link to a video of the Christmas Story

Standing out for following God

Holidays bring warm feelings to many of us. We have a sense of expectancy for what this season holds: good meals, time with family, joy-filled celebrations, gifts, and more.

As a family, share some of your favorite traditions. Parents, share some of your favorite childhood traditions with your children.

For Mary & Joseph, while they were expecting Jesus’ birth, there was also much that was uncertain and even scary. Accepting this assignment from God meant potentially being made fun of and rejected by their friends and family.

Read Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25

Talk about how Mary and Joseph responded to the message from the angels.

What do you think made them confident to accept the message?

What things does God ask of us that might make us stand out from our community or make us feel scared? (befriending a new student at school or church, standing up to a bully, praying over a meal in public, etc.)

What helps us overcome those fears?

As we begin celebrating Christmas, remember Mary and Joseph and their commitment to God by saying “yes” to the angels’ messages. Know you can say “yes,” too, because God is with you!

Pray as a family.

### Week 2 - Send with a link to [**this comic!**](https://ministrybrands.app.box.com/s/7l5su6jp7lmiufal88w0qkudmyrbp0gh)

God is Amazing - Go and Tell!

This week, download [this Bible comic](https://ministrybrands.app.box.com/s/7l5su6jp7lmiufal88w0qkudmyrbp0gh) of Luke 2:1-20 to share as a family.

Could you imagine what the shepherds experienced that night? They were just hanging out with their sheep when BAM! An angel appeared, telling them that the Messiah had been born?! They were dirty, stinky shepherds living outdoors; no one came to visit them, but this night was different. Not only did one angel appear – but a whole army of angels then filled the night sky, singing of God’s glory and peace to fill the earth – WOW!

Re-read the story together.

What did the shepherds do when the angels left?

Why do you think they decided to look for the baby?

What did the shepherds do after they saw the baby?

Why do you think they told everyone about the angels and the baby?

What is something wonderful about God that you can share with others?

Pray as a family.

### Week 3 - Send a coloring page to reinforce ‘being the light.’

Light in the Darkness

It is fitting that this holiday comes as the days get shorter, the nights get longer, and nature hibernates. In times when life seems dark, cold, or lifeless, we have the Light of the World walking beside us. Many families will decorate with colorful lights and exchange gifts but don’t know or understand the gift of life and light that God provided.

Read John 1:4-5

John 8:12

 Matthew 5:16

Jesus is the Light of the World. He came so we wouldn’t have to walk in spiritual darkness or be separated from God anymore. What great news of hope!

In Matthew 5:16, what did Jesus instruct us to do?

How can we be a light by our actions?

Is there someone you know who has had a hard year? Maybe this is their first Christmas after losing someone they love? Maybe they are new and don’t have family nearby? Maybe they have been sick. How can you be a light of hope in their world this week?

Pray as a family.

### Week 4 - Encourage Service to the community (expression of God's Love as a reflection of the season)

Love One Another

This season, we celebrate God’s plan for salvation. His great love. His promise of peace on Earth.

Re-read the Christmas comic of Luke 2:1-20 from week 2 as a family.

Read John 3:16 (The challenge this week is to memorize this verse)

Re-read John 3:16, replacing “the world” with the name of each person in the family – let this sink in.

 “For God so loved Sue…”

 “For God so loved Mom…”

The birth of a child is always a joyous celebration, but at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ because we know the rest of the story. His birth without His death wouldn’t mean anything. We know Jesus Christ was born out of God’s love and as part of the plan for salvation. We know he died for our sins, rose from the dead, and is seated at the Father's right hand, making intercession for us. That is worth celebrating! There is no greater love!

How can you share the love of Jesus with your family this week?

How can you share the love of Jesus with a neighbor this week?

How can you share the love of Jesus with a friend this week?

Re-read John 3:16

Pray as a family.