

**Day 1**  
**Evergreen Tree**  
**John 17:3**

We use the evergreen as a Christmas tree because it is a symbol of eternal life. Why is the evergreen a symbol of eternal life? What does that have to do with Christmas? What is the connection between Jesus and eternal life? Read John 17:3. When you decorate your Christmas tree you may want to include some special symbols or ornaments that remind your family of Jesus and His gift of eternal life. Some ideas are: a baby in a manger to represent Jesus' birth, a heart to represent Jesus' love for us, a cross to represent Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, etc. Or, instead of decorating your tree with these symbols, you might want to use these different shapes to make Christmas cookies.

**Just for fun:** Pull out sleeping bags and pillows and sleep around the Christmas tree.

**Day 2**  
**Snowflake**  
**Ephesians 2:10**

When we think of Christmas we think of snow. We sprinkle fake snow on trees, and decorate with snowmen. We even sing about dreaming of a white Christmas. Snowflakes are unique; each one has their own special design. God also created each one of us to be unique, a special masterpiece. Write each family member's name on a popsicle stick and pull them out one by one. Read the scripture together and talk about how each one of you is unique.

**Just for fun:** Have a snowball fight in your house with wadded up paper or cotton balls.

**Day 3**  
**Candle**  
**John 1:1-9**

After dinner, when it is dark, turn off all the lights and technology. Have everyone respond to this statement, "Imagine what the world would be like if there was no light." Light one candle and read John 1:1-8. Then give everyone their own candle and read John 1 verse 9. Light each candle and ask, "Why is Jesus called a light?"

**For younger children:** Read John 8:12 instead of the passage in John 1.

**Day 4**  
**Town of Bethlehem**  
**Luke 2:1-5**

Read Luke 2:1-5. Look at a map and figure out how many miles Joseph and Mary had to walk to get to Bethlehem from Nazareth. Determine where you would end up if you traveled that same distance from your home. To learn more about the towns, check out Biblemap.org and type in Luke 2. Click on the town names in the passage and discover interesting facts about the area. Close your time together by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

**For younger children:** After reading the scripture, create your own family census. Write each family member's name, age and place of birth on the census. Date it and roll it in a scroll, tie it with a ribbon and display it or hang them on your Christmas tree.

**Day 5**  
**Nativity**  
**Luke 2:6-7**

After reading the scripture, show pictures of when your children were babies, especially if you can find a picture of them in their crib or toddler bed. Read the words to the song "Away in the Manger". Compare and contrast the place where Jesus was born to the place where each of you were born.

**Day 6**  
**Angel**  
**Luke 2:8-12**

Read the Bible portion and say, "The angel in this story was a special messenger. Who sent this message? What was the message? How do you get messages today?" Discuss forms of communication (texts, letters, emails, phone, etc.). Share about how you would feel or react if an angel came to you with a special message.

**For younger children:** Act out the story.

**Day 7**  
**Musical Instruments**  
**Luke 2:13-14**

Sit in a circle and read Luke 2:13-14. As a reminder, you might want to start with verse 8 to get the context. How did the angels praise God? What is your favorite way to worship and praise God? Ask each family member to share his or her favorite Christmas carol about the birth of Jesus. Write the title of each Christmas carol on a separate slip of paper and then select one at a time. Read the words of the carol and sing together.

**Just for fun:** Use musical instruments as you sing. You can create your own with pots and pans!

**Day 8**  
**Candy Cane**  
**Luke 2:15-20**

Before reading the Bible passage, give each family member a candy cane and a cup of hot chocolate. While listening to the story have everyone stir their hot chocolate with the candy cane and enjoy their drink. Discuss the role of the shepherd in Bible times. Say, "When I hold the candy cane it reminds us of the shepherd's staff. How did the shepherds use their staff? "

Read about the symbolism of the candy cane. One source for this is: [kiddtokid.org/candycanestory](http://kiddtokid.org/candycanestory). Make sure there are plenty of seconds!

**Day 9**  
**Baby Jesus**  
**Matthew 1:21**

Look up the meaning of the names of each family member. Talk about why those names were chosen. Read the Bible verse and explore the meaning of the name Jesus. (Jesus means "Savior" and "the salvation of the Lord.") Then go to the Grace Church website at [gracechurchin.org](http://gracechurchin.org) and watch the video: *No Other Name*.

**Additional activity:** Make ornaments using the different names of Jesus.

**Day 10**  
**Dove**  
**Isaiah 9:6**

The dove represents peace. In Luke 2:14 the angels told the shepherds that peace had come to earth. What did the angels mean? Read Isaiah 9:6 and discuss the following questions: How is Jesus our peace? What does it mean to be a "prince" of peace? Why do you think the Bible calls Jesus by that name? Why do we need peace? What does peace mean to you? Parents, share a story from your own life when you experienced God's peace.

**Day 11**  
**Star**  
**Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10**

On a clear night, bundle up and go outside to look at the stars or find an app about stars and constellations. Read the Bible passage as family members gaze at the stars. Talk about how the wise men might have known that Jesus' star was unique. What was the purpose of the star? What guides us to Jesus today?

**Additional activity:** Make a star ornament for your tree. On each point of the star, write or draw something that brings you joy.

**Day 12**  
**Gifts**  
**Matthew 2:11**

The wise men brought their best gifts to Jesus. Read the Bible verse and talk about what gifts you can give to Jesus. Have each family member write or draw a picture of the best gift they want to give Jesus. Wrap these together in one package and place it under the tree to be opened on Christmas morning, reminding your family that Christmas is all about Jesus and His gift to us.

**Additional activity:** Look through the Grace Church Giving Guide and discuss the various ministries. As a family, choose to give a gift to one or more of the ministries.