

## Activities to Celebrate Christmas and the Birth of Christ

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up your Nativity set, but have the Baby Jesus wrapped in a special box. Set aside.</li> <li>• Show the Old and New Testament portions of the Bible.</li> <li>• Read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9: 6-7.</li> <li>• Explain that in the Old Testament of the Bible, many people were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the King spoken about in the Bible. The Old Testament foretold the birth of God's chosen King and Savior.</li> <li>• Have your child unwrap the small gift box.</li> <li>• The Old Testament was telling us of Jesus! Explain that the New Testament is the fulfilling of the prophesies and shows Jesus' ministry and love for us.</li> <li>• Sing 'Jesus Loves Me.'</li> <li>• Place Baby Jesus in the Nativity.</li> </ul>
2	<p>Angel Tells Zechariah of John's Coming Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 1:5-25</li> <li>• Make an angel craft (<i>Ideas: shape angel, glitter on an angel, feather on an angel, etc.</i>)</li> </ul>
3	<p>Angel Tells Mary of Jesus' Coming Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 1:26-38</li> <li>• Make another angel craft</li> </ul>
4	<p>Mary Shares Her Good News and Joy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 1:39-56</li> <li>• Read <u>Mary's First Christmas</u> – chapter 1</li> <li>• Make a whispering tube out of a paper towel roll. Cover the roll with construction paper and have the children decorate them with stickers, crayons, or markers. Discuss ways we can tell people about Jesus. What could we whisper through the tube to share with them? <i>Idea from: <a href="http://www.daniellesplace.com">www.daniellesplace.com</a></i></li> </ul>
5	<p>John the Baptist is Born</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 1:57-80</li> <li>• Tell the children how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by telling others to be ready because he was coming soon. They are going to play a match game and clear the way for Jesus by getting rid of all the bees and locust in the way. In order to clear the way, they have to turn over two cards that match. When they make a match they will pick up the cards and keep them to get them out of the way. Before class make some honey bee and locust cards. Make half the cards with locusts on them and half with honey bees. <i>Idea from: <a href="http://www.daniellesplace.com">www.daniellesplace.com</a></i></li> </ul>
6	<p>Angel Tells Joseph of Jesus' Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Matthew 1:18-24</li> <li>• Read <u>Mary's First Christmas</u> – chapter 2</li> <li>• Write the Family Christmas Letter and tell others the good news of Jesus!</li> </ul>
7	<p>Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem and give Birth to Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 2:1-7</li> <li>• Read <u>Mary's First Christmas</u> – chapter 3</li> <li>• Make a nativity</li> </ul>

8	<p>Angels Tell the Shepherds of Jesus' Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 2:8-20</li> <li>• Lamb Craft (Glue cotton balls onto a lamb printout.)</li> <li>• Read <u>The Crippled Lamb</u></li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read The <u>Legend of the Candycane</u></li> <li>• Candy Cane Craft <i>(Ideas: candy cane cookies, easel paint a candy cane with paint mixed with peppermint extract, glue red and white squares to a candy cane shape, places red and white beads to form a candy cane on a chenille pipe cleaner, etc.)</i></li> </ul>
10	<p>Jesus is Named and Presented in the Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Luke 2:21-38</li> <li>• Decorate Jesus' name and hang <i>(use confetti, glitter, small stickers, etc.)</i></li> </ul>
11	<p>The Wise Men Follow the Star to Find Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Matthew 2:1-12</li> <li>• Read <u>Mary's First Christmas</u> – chapter 4, 1<sup>st</sup> half only</li> <li>• Go on a treasure hunt</li> <li>• Star Craft <i>(Ideas: Watercolors on a star cut out, cut pieces of foil on a star cutout, etc. – Save for use on tomorrow's craft.)</i></li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>Lift the Flap Nativity</u></li> <li>• Make and attach links on to the bottom of the star <i>(or glue the star to construction paper and attach the strips to the edges)</i>. Use it to countdown the days until we celebrate Jesus' birth. Attach the following poem. <i>(shared by barb on the T- Net Kindergarten chatboard)</i></li> </ul> <p>Each evening when goodnights are said, Take off one link and hop into bed. When only the star is left to shine, Then you will know it's Christmastime!</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>Little Drummer Boy</u></li> <li>• Make a Gift <i>(Ideas: Decorate a frame using sticker Foamies, ,help with a fleece scarf or pillow, decorate a flower pot, etc.)</i></li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>Christmas Gifts</u> by Susan Heyboer O'Keefe</li> <li>• Read <u>Mary's First Christmas</u> – chapter 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> half</li> <li>• Make Wrapping Paper and Bow</li> </ul>
15	<p>Herod Becomes Angry; Jesus' Family Flees; Jesus Grows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-40</li> <li>• Sing Christmas Carols</li> <li>• Wrap gift</li> </ul>
16	<p>Why Did Jesus Come?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read 1 John 4:9 and John 3:16</li> <li>• Read <u>The Tale of the Three Trees</u></li> <li>• Make Christmas Cards or Gift Tags</li> </ul>

17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>Santa, Are You For Real?</u> by Harold Myra.</li> <li>• Discuss who he was, how he relates to Christmas and Jesus, and why we see Santas everywhere this time of year.</li> </ul>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>The Legend of the Christmas Tree</u></li> <li>• Make an Ice Cream Cone Tree</li> </ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Ornaments <i>(Ideas: pipe cleaner tree, candy cane, applesauce dough, etc.)</i></li> </ul>
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>My Merry Christmas and the Real Reason for Christmas Joy</u></li> <li>• Make Christmas Cookies to Share (<i>Angel, Trees, Stars, Candy Canes, etc</i>)</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>Baby Jesus Is Born</u></li> <li>• Deliver cookies and sing carols</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <u>This Is the Star</u></li> <li>• Use the nativity characters to retell the Christmas story</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reread favorite Christmas books and sing carols</li> <li>• Focus on God's great gift to us –Jesus!</li> </ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a Birthday Cake for Jesus</li> <li>• Sing Christmas Carols</li> </ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the Christmas Story in Luke and Matthew</li> <li>• Open Presents</li> </ul>

Other Ideas:

- Read the story of the first Christmas from Luke 2 and Matthew Set up the tree on the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. Talk about the meaning of the star, angels, etc. and meanings behind special ornaments.
- At dinner, read Christmas Cards that are received each day. Pray for those that sent the card.