

READ IT

This Rotation's Bible story is **Jesus is Born**

from Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-58;
2:1-20.

God has given us the gift of Jesus!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jesus ▪ Joseph
- Immanuel ▪ Mary
- Stable ▪ Star

Mary and Joseph were obeying Emperor Augustus' command that everyone had to go back to their hometown to be counted. This census was taken so that the emperor could tax the people.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 196-207 and 212-223

Spark Bible pages 1058-1059 and 1127-1130

Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for Jesus! Help us to celebrate his birth a little every day! **AMEN.**

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1** What do you think angels look like?
- 2** How has Jesus been a gift in your life?
- 3** The angels told the shepherds of Jesus' birth. Who can you tell about Jesus?
- 4** Get out your nativity set—or make a simple one with craft items or dolls and stuffed animals. Take turns retelling the story of Jesus' birth using the nativity characters.



Eye Spark

When you see a baby wiggle, wiggle your fingers against your stomach and think about what it would feel like to have a baby in your tummy.



Ear Spark

When you hear singing, shout "Glory to the Lord!" and remember the angels singing to the shepherds.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Throw a birthday party for Jesus! Have a birthday cake and sing "Happy Birthday!" Play games and sing songs. Invite members of your church family, and bring presents to donate to people who need them. Share the love of Jesus!

For younger kids

Donate a birthday package to your local food shelf — a gift bag with a cake mix, candles, and some decorations can bring joy to lots of people!

For older kids

Find out about different Christmas traditions all over the world. Ask different families from your church about their traditions, too!



TRY IT

Art

Make an Advent wreath to use at home. Place the wreath in a place where your whole family will see it. Take time to light a candle and say a prayer every Sunday night before bed. **Dear God, we anxiously await the arrival of your Son, the light of the world. Amen.**

Computer Lab

Create your own Christmas greeting card! Search for your favorite Christmas images on the internet, and make a collage of pictures for the front of your card. Put your favorite Christmas Bible verse on the inside of the card. Print and send!

Creative Drama

Use an inexpensive nativity scene to tell the story of Jesus' birth. Each person chooses to be one or two characters and holds those pieces in their hands. Take pictures of each scene, then develop the pictures and make your very own Christmas storybook!

Video

What are your favorite Christmas movies? Have each member of your family pick a favorite and over the four weekends of advent, watch all of them once. Wear your pajamas, eat popcorn, and enjoy movies from two or more generations!

Bible Skills and Games

Play hide and seek with the baby Jesus from your family's nativity set. Take turns hiding the holy baby in unexpected places around your home for your family members to stumble upon, like in the fridge, a box of tissues, or a shoe.

Cooking

Start a family Christmas tradition. Find a marshmallow recipe, and make marshmallows together. Float them in hot chocolate and sing Christmas carols or read Christmas stories together in your pajamas.

Music

Go Christmas caroling! Invite your church friends. Use chenille craft stems and store-bought jingle bells to make jingle bell shakers for your family and all the kids. Print off lyrics for everyone to see. Make sure you have some good bell-shaking songs!

Science

Mary traveled a long way with a baby in her belly! Make your own belly by placing 2 sacks of flour in a plastic grocery bag. Take turns putting your arms through the holes to wear the bag in front. Sit on the arm of a chair like you're riding a donkey to Bethlehem.