

December 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

Christ is born! Together and apart, we rejoice with all the earth and embrace the hope in the gift of a child.



Through this Advent and into the 12 days of Christmas, we find ourselves full of energy and movement. Each movement has purpose, though, as we are eager to find what wonders have already begun in our ordinary lives.

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As we celebrate the joy of God-with-us in the birth of Christ, our joy is full of quiet wonder and loud song.

When Joy Is Quiet

Read [Psalm 98](#) or listen to the audio story "[Shout for Joy](#)" or gather around as someone tells the story "[Wonder-Full](#)" in this week's Exploring Our Faith.

A well-known Christmas song imagines "the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes" on Christmas morning. He is quiet. That's not common for babies. Babies make noise. They giggle and coo, and sometimes they even cry.

Christmas can come with a lot of noise, but there are lots of quiet moments, too. Look for those moments of quiet this week and wonder:

- What is happening in the quiet?
- Do you feel hope and joy in the quiet?
- What do you feel in the quiet?

Listen to the Rend Collective sing "[Joy to the World \(You Are My Joy\)](#)" and notice how these songs add new meaning to the more familiar carol.

- What's your most loved part of the song?
- What was the silliest part of the video?
- What brings you joy at Christmas?
- Who brings you joy? Why?

Ring, Craft, Write

Ring bells to celebrate the birth of the Christ. Before unwrapping presents and pouring coffee, go out into your yard, balcony, or porch and ring bells to celebrate that this is a day unlike any other. After your arms are tired from ringing, sing your most-loved carol loudly for all to hear.

Craft this [popsicle stick manger](#) to hang on your tree and remember the joy that comes in Jesus Christ's birth.

Write a new song all about your joy at Christmas. Get some tips on songwriting from Jack and his dad in [this video](#).



During the Week

Read the Good News

There are so many wonderful books that share the good news of Christmas that children cherish. Some wonderful possibilities that paraphrase Luke include:

Nativity by Cynthia Rylant

Silent Night by Lara Hawthorne

Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones

This Is the Stable by Cynthia Cotten

Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale by Martin Waddell and Jason Cockcroft

If you can't find these books in your local library or under the Christmas tree, try reading all of the translations of all the Bibles in the house of Luke 2:1–20 or John 1:1–18 and wonder what in this story brings you the most joy. Try writing a new translation of your own that celebrates the joy you know in Jesus' birth.

Listen to a birth story

Maybe there is a newborn baby in your family, or your friend from school just got a baby sister. Ask if it is ok to hear the mother's story of that baby's birth. If you don't know of any newborn babies, ask your parents and your grandparents to tell the stories of when their babies were born. As you listen to these stories, note how many times you hear these parents talk about their joy.

Send joy

Many people send Christmas cards to send love to their friends and family. Those cards bring joy, but everyone needs more joy. This week, send five cards. Write on the front of the card "You are my joy," and inside the card, write or draw why the recipient brings you such joy.

Prayer

O God, we lift our voices
to sing a new song
for the good news of Jesus' birth
and for every birth that brings us joy
and wonder of your love. Amen.

Listen to the song "Joy to the World" (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase and download).

Visit [Lecture Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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