Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

DAY 1

Read Luke 2:8-12 (NIrV)

Imagine a group of smelly shepherds, out in a field, watching over their sheep. Some of them may have been asleep. Some may have been counting sheep in an attempt to go to sleep. However, sleep wasn't on the agenda this special night. Because God was about to send an angel to make a very big announcement.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I bring you good news for all people . . . a Savior has been born to you." That "you" included those shepherds. "You" included all the people in the sleepy town of Bethlehem. "You" includes, well, you.

God sent Jesus as a gift for every one of us. Jesus brought peace. He made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever!

Find an adult and ask him or her following the questions:

1. When do you first remember hearing the Christmas story about Jesus? Who told you?
2. Why do you think God sent an angel to tell a bunch of everyday shepherds about Jesus' birth instead of someone else with more power or influence?
3. If Jesus had been born today (in 2020), who do you think the angel would have told first?

DAY 2

Read Luke 2:16-20 (NIrV)

What did the shepherds do as soon as they heard about Jesus' birth? They left that field and headed straight to see Him for themselves! What did they find? Everything the angel said was true. They saw Jesus lying in the manger. They also knew that He was the one they'd been waiting for. It was such good news that they immediately started telling everyone about it.

If Jesus had been born today with all the technology available to us, there would be so many ways to tell people all about it. In the space below or on a piece of paper, write out all the ways you could share the good news about Jesus (we've listed a few ideas below to help you get started):

- Send someone a text message.
- Type up an email to send to all your friends and family.

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Ask God to help you tell others the good news about Jesus, just like the shepherds did on that first Christmas. Remember, God's peace is for everyone and He wants us to share this good news with all of the people around us.

Read John 14:27 (NIrV)

When you hear the word "peace" what do you think about? Write down your definition of peace below or on a piece of paper:

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Some would say that peace is the absence of arguments or disagreements. Most would say that peace means no war or fighting. Others define peace as a feeling of calm or quiet.

Jesus came to make things right between us and God. He came to make a way for us to be a part of God's family. That's why we celebrate Christmas! Because God sent His only Son so that we could have peace forever.

Have you ever watched a baby sleeping? There is something so calm and peaceful about a sleeping baby. Head back over to your nativity and look at the baby Jesus figure sleeping away. Spend some time thanking God for sending His only Son to bring you peace forever.

Read John 16:33 (NIrV)

Do you ever wonder why you seem to fight with your siblings so much? Chances are you've been spending a lot of time with your brothers or sisters lately. The more time you spend with each other, the more opportunities you have to get on each other's nerves.

However, peace is possible, even when you're fighting with your brother or sister. Why? Because of Jesus. Jesus reminds us that even though we will have trouble in this world *(like those fights with your sister)* it's okay, because He is bigger and stronger than any of the hard stuff we might face.

Grab your "PEACE" ornament from week one. Decorate the front with paint and run some ribbon through the top. Instead of packing this ornament away with the rest of your decorations, hang this one up in your room all year. Every time you face trouble *(like a fight with your brother or a super bad day)*, remember the PEACE, deep down that you have because of your relationship with Jesus. Ask God to help you tell others about Jesus too because God's peace is for everyone.

God's peace is for everyone.