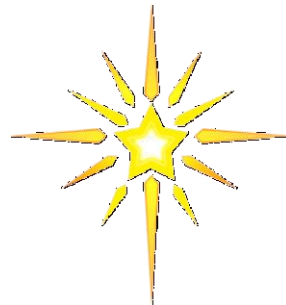


Symbols of Christmas

Advent Bible Study
Crossroads Kids
2017



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Swaddling Clothes

I have spent many years misunderstanding the true significance of the Swaddling Clothes that Mary wrapped Jesus in shortly after his birth as she laid him in the manger. Swaddling clothes were similar to how we would “swaddle” a baby today. Mothers would take strips of cloth much like the one in your packet and wrap the baby up tightly so they would feel warm and safe. This is just what mothers did with their babies... something any baby would experience. But Jesus was not just *any* baby. He was a Savior. He was the Messiah. He was the King. HE WAS GOD! But Jesus came as a humble baby... a baby that looked normal; but held so much power, so much hope, and the solution to a world plagued with sin, pain, and death.

Jesus’ birth was the first example of Jesus’ humility. Humility is acting in a way that puts others before yourself and not considering yourself more important or better than those around you. But that is the most amazing thing.. Jesus was more important... and he was definitely better. He was PERFECT! Even in his perfection, he never bragged about himself, but always pointed to God. Christ lived his life loving others, and died on the Cross saving the world. Everything he did was to bring Glory to God and to bring salvation to God’s people.

Spend time in prayer thanking God for sending us the most precious gift the world has ever known -- Jesus to save the world.

Read these bible verses to learn more:

- [Luke 2:1-20](#)
- [John 13:5](#)
- [John 6:38](#)
- [Philippians 2:8](#)
- [Matthew 20:28](#)

Family Discussion Questions:

Why is Christmas important?

What are some ways that Jesus was humble?

How can we imitate Christ’s humility in our life?

Songs:

How Far Love Goes - VBS 2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_fza4uryzY

You're Here Francesca Battistelli - Mary & Jesus Christmas Music Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHKJ1aWt1J4>

Activity: Color and construct your own nativity scene

<https://www.biblestoryprintables.com/BibleCraftsChristmasNativity.html#.WhmvooWcHIU>

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells are one of the most distinct sounds of Christmas. The sound of Santa's sleigh, the sound of an elf's shoe... the sound of one of our very favorite Christmas Songs. You know when you hear a Jingle Bell, Christmas is here. There is no other time of year, no other season, no other sound that sounds quite like a jingle bell.

Look back at your nativity scene from yesterday. Do you see the Shepherds? They take care of sheep. The sheep know which way to go, where to eat, where to sleep, and where to find food by the commands of the shepherd. The sheep are so dependent on the shepherd that they can recognize the shepherd's voice, and they trust them for guidance. Just like the jingle bell has a special and recognizable sound to us, the shepherd's voice would be a special sound to the sheep. God uses sheep and shepherds to teach us how we are to hear and respond to his voice.

John 10:27 says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." The Bible is God's word, and as we grow we should learn more and more about what is inside. We must be able to know what is God's truth and what is lies. Once we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us in the same way the Shepherd leads the sheep. We NEED God. We need His guidance, His protection, and His provision. God is the GOOD SHEPHERD who doesn't only take care of His sheep, but also laid his life down for us as John 10:11 says.

Let's pray today to thank God for protecting, guiding, and providing for His people.

Read these Verses to learn more:

- [John 10:11](#)
- [Psalm 23](#)
- [Ezekiel 34:11-16](#)
- [Matthew 18:12-24](#)

Family Discussion Questions:

What is a Shepherd's Job?

How is God like a Shepherd?

Songs:

Do you hear what I hear?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t84OSRahBRo>

I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKXjYfTyriU>

Activity: Good Shepherd Game

<https://www.lds.org/bc/content/ldsorg/children/resources/topics/jesus-christ/Good-Shepherd-Game-2001-03-friend.pdf?lang=eng>

Star

Read Matthew 2:1-12

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

There was a special bright star that hung in the sky above where Jesus was located so that the Magi, which were also called Wise men, would know where to go. Just as this star guided the Wise men towards Jesus, we are called to lead people towards Christ too. With the way we act, speak, and love others, we have the opportunity to show people the LOVE of Christ. We can also share with them the story of how Christ came as a baby, lived a perfect life without sin, and died on a Cross that he didn't deserve so that we could experience God as our father and an eternal relationship with Him.

You are NEVER too little to be used by God. God uses all kinds of people to make his plan happen. He used poor people (Mary and Joseph), scared people (the shepherds), and people with a King who wanted to kill Jesus (the wise men) to get his plan done... AND HE WANTS TO USE YOU!!

Lets pray and as God for oppourtunities to tell and show people about the love of Christ this Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season!

Read these verses to learn more:

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 5:13-15
- 1 Timothy 4:5
- John 13:35

Family Discussion Questions:

What are some talents you have? How can those be used to bring Glory to God and tell others about Christ?

What does it mean to be the Light of The World?

Songs:

We Three Kings of Orient are

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8mjRxkMBkE>

Be a Missionary Everyday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5GJ5accXXQ>

Activity: Weakness Matching Game

<http://www.hearts-at-home.org/nmpkchapter7.pdf> (Found also in the packet)

Evergreen

As winter turns to fall, all the trees lose their leaves... except for one kind, the evergreen tree. Get it? It is “for-ever green”! Just like an evergreen tree looks the same all throughout the year. Jesus’ character never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Here’s what that means: as far back as time can go, Jesus has been loving, humble, all-powerful, merciful, just, saving, (and so much more). He is that way *now* no matter what our current situation and he will be that way forever...and ever...and ever...and ever... and ever.

Because Jesus never changes, his words will remain true forever. Matthew 24:35 says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” This means that all that the bible says about how much Jesus loves us will *always* be true. This means that Jesus will *always* be with us. This means that Jesus will keep his promise to come back one day and remove all pain and death from the world.

The Jesus that died on the cross for our sins is the exact same Jesus that was born in a stable and laid in a manger. That same Jesus is now reigning in Heaven, and He will come back soon to reign over the ENTIRE world.

Make a list of the things that Jesus is. Pray and thank Jesus for being all those things.

Read these verses to learn more:

- Isaiah 9:6
- Colossians 1:17
- Matthew 28:20

Family Discussion Questions

What are some Characteristics of Jesus that we can be thankful for?

Why is it important that Jesus that never changes?

Songs:

Oh Christmas Tree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeJ14W2lXCw>

Chris Tomlin - Noel (Live) Ft. Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vwu-t7QRaE>

Your Love Never Fails WORDS 1080mpQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbQcEaLKHUJ>

Activity: Guess the Green Game

As a family, list as many green things as you can, and write them on the green slips of paper in your packet. Take turns drawing a GREEN thing, and act out or describe it while the others guess. If you have kids that can’t read it, they can just come up with something on their own... that may get *quite* creative!

Candy Cane

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Matthew 28:4-8

The candy cane is a Christmas treat with an Easter message. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed on the cross, and the white represents the salvation made possible by His death. As we celebrate Christmas day, we must remember that while Jesus' birth was a day of celebration because the Savior had come, it was also the beginning of an earthly life that would end brutally on the cross. The baby in the manger was born free from sin, and the only one who would live a life completely free of sin. The humble baby would become a humble man full of love and sacrifice. Jesus followed the Father with complete obedience even to the point of death. Suffocating, Jesus used his final breath to cry, "IT IS FINISHED!" The plan that God had written before the formation of the world –revealed in pieces through the prophets, set in motion in a stable, and proclaimed by the mouth and deeds of the savior himself –had been realized on the cross. When he arose 3 days later, death had been conquered and salvation had been bought by Jesus and offered to the world. SALVATION is the *only* gift that really matters today and every day.

Let's pray to thank Jesus for his Gift to us, and to help us remember the TRUE meaning of Christmas.

Family Discussion questions

Isn't this the Easter story?! Discuss further why this passage is essential for proper celebration of Christmas.

What do the colors of the Candy Cane represent? How can we live in a way that recognizes both Jesus' sacrifice and gift to us?

Songs:

The Anthem - Planet Shakers Kids

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0Zf9q9tpLs&list=PLdzx7_RnUUeTjhqHkC9s07XnnlpejxSF6&index=23

Forever Kari Jobe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeJ14W2lXCw>

Activity: Candy Cane Cross

Color the cross to demonstrate the colors of Christ's sacrifice and gift. Hang on your christmas tree, mantle, or window to remember the reason we celebrate Christmas!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
CROSSROADS**

