

SOJOURN FAMILY

SERMON SERIES GUIDE: ADVENT

-Integrating the Gospel in our daily family life-

A birth like no other

Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2: 1-20

The birth of Jesus is one of the most well-known stories in the whole Bible. Even though we know the details, it is important to remember just how important and amazing this story is.

Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

Jesus' birth was similar to other births, but it was very different too. No other person's birthday was marked by the stars in the sky, proclaimed by angels, and promised by God from the very beginning. Jesus was laid in a feeding trough- a humble bed for any baby but especially for God's Son. Jesus was visited by shepherds and even wise men with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh- symbols that Jesus was no ordinary baby. The wise men knew Jesus was different.

A special prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your faithfulness to send Jesus as You promised. we know that it is only by Your grace and mercy that we can love You and obey Jesus. Help us to honor Jesus as King of our lives and give our best to You in everything we do.

In Jesus' name, amen.



Jesus: A Gift to celebrate!

Psalm 100

Psalm 100 calls us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord..."

We do not have to wait for Christmas day to celebrate Jesus.

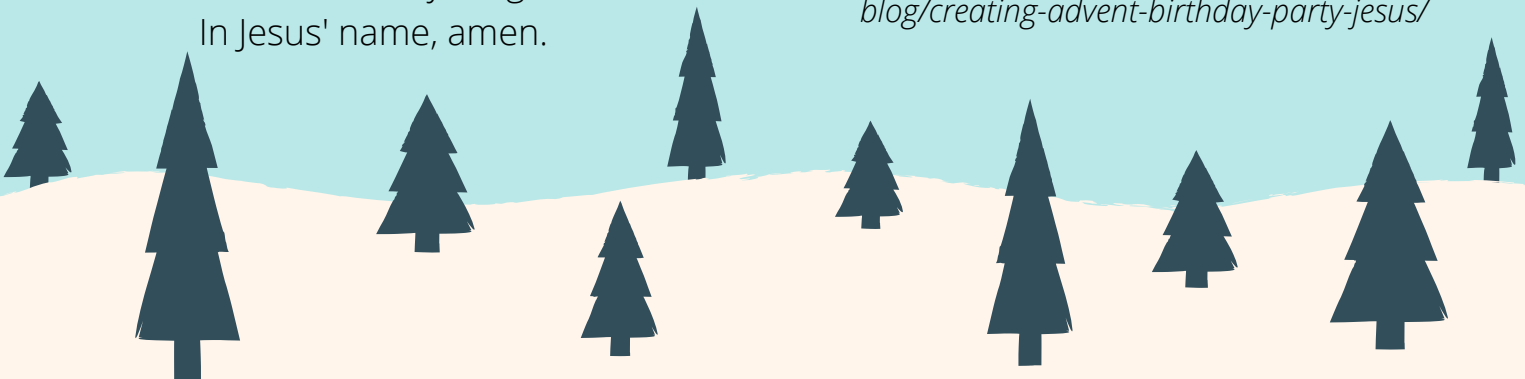
As you read Psalm 100, try acting out the verses and then think of some special ways you can celebrate Jesus.

Birthday Party for Jesus!



As much as the advent season is a time of waiting and contemplation, with young children you can't help but be drawn towards the celebratory side of Jesus' birth. Create an advent birthday party for Jesus as a way to keep Christ at the center of your Christmas, while celebrating His birth. The link below has some incredible ideas in planning your epic birthday party for Jesus:

<https://www.littleshootsdeeproots.com/kids-ideas-blog/creating-advent-birthday-party-jesus/>



"A Christmas Story"

Have children write or dictate to you the Christmas story. Write each sentence on a different sheet of paper—keeping it in the children's words. Then have kids illustrate each page. Put the pages together in order, put a cover on the book, and staple it together. Use your new book as part of a family read aloud.



My gift to Jesus

Jesus is definitely the BEST. GIFT. EVER. Think about how we can give gifts to Jesus. Guide children in thinking of something they promise to do that Jesus would really like, such as tell a friend about Jesus or pray.

Have kids write gift cards: "Lord Jesus, this Christmas my gift to you is (promise). Love, (child's name.)" Have each child put his or her card in a small box, wrap it, and label it: "To Jesus. From (child's name.)" Children can place their gift under the tree and open them for Jesus on Christmas day.



Spreading Cheer

Christmas is a great time to help kids show their love for their family, friends, and community and grow closer to God.

Have children brainstorm ways in which they can show someone love this Christmas season.

Some other fun activities to do locally could include:

- Filling large stockings or gift bags with non-perishable food to donate to Plenty! Food Bank (540) 745-3898
- Donating new toys or baby supplies to the CHIP program at New River Community Action in Floyd (540) 745-2102
- Creating Christmas cards for residents at local nursing homes (please check with the center's administrator about COVID-19 concerns)

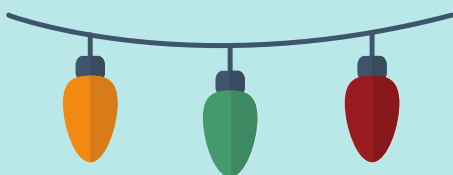
Family Resources

- **Christ Centered Christmas Activities:**

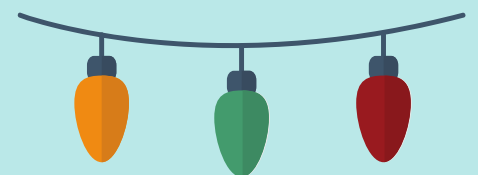
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/christmas-activities/>

- **No-Prep Advent Ideas:**

<https://faithfulmoms.org/no-prep-start-right-now-advent-ideas-for-families/>



TREE-MENDOUS Blessings Craft



What you'll need:

- a set of four craft sticks in four different lengths for each person
- One long craft stick
- markers (lots of green plus other colors)
- one chenille wire per person
- glue
- decorating items

First, give kids a set of craft sticks to color: one long craft stick brown for a tree trunk and the rest green for branches. Then, glue the branches onto the trunk to create a tree shape. As the glue dries, talk about people they're grateful for. Then write the names of those people on the branches of the tree. Finally, glue a chenille-wire loop onto the back of the tree to create a hanger.

Encourage children to thank God for the blessings of all the wonderful people God has given them.