FINDING THE light

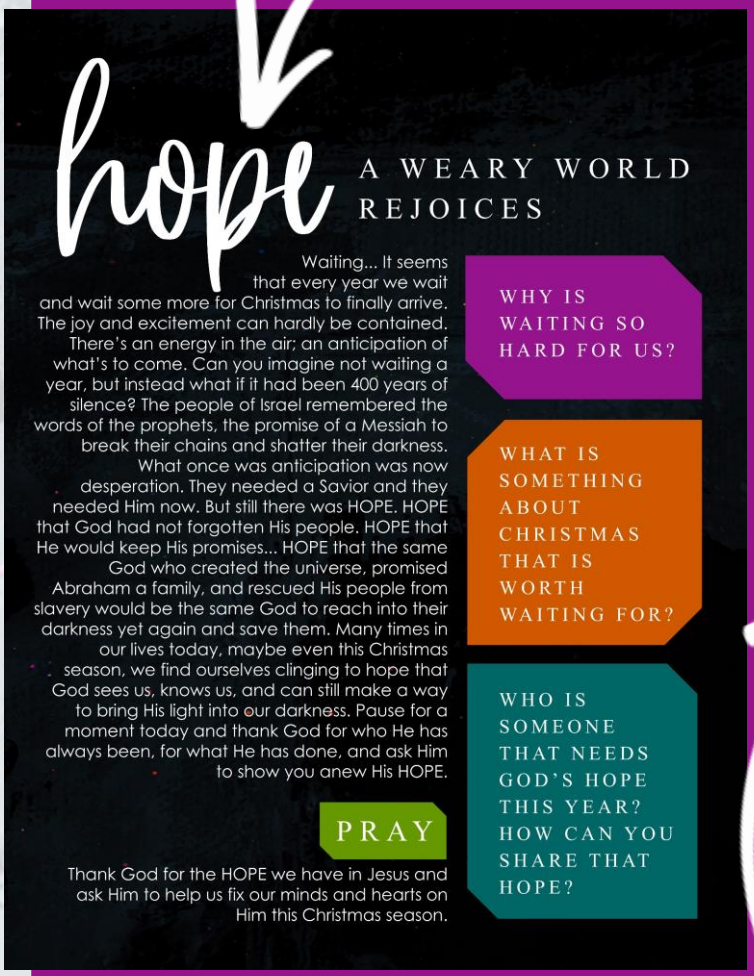
A GUIDE THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

WHERE TO begin

The pages included in this guide were thoughtfully created to help you and your friends and family spend time focusing on the real meaning of Christmas! Each week, follow these 3 steps:

STEP 1

Read the devotional, pray, then use the 3 discussion questions to talk as a family. Finish by choosing a family member to read the Scripture passage!



STEP 2

To continue your family worship time, use the carols and worship songs that go with the lesson then read and talk about the nativity connection together.

STEP 3

On these pages you will find a few fun ways to incorporate the light of Jesus into your week! They will be simple ways to capture what you may already be doing and make it intentional. Use as few or as many of these that work for your family!

START AT home

This week, find some time to set the tone for Christmas in your home! Make it a place ready to share HOPE with all those who live in your home as well as all those you welcome in this season!

PLAY SOME MUSIC: CREATE A CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST OR USE THIS ONE:

TALK ABOUT IT: ASK YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORIES. HOW CAN YOU INCORPORATE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO EACH FAMILY MEMBER?

TRIM THE TREE: TAKE A FAMILY TRIP TO PICK OUT A TREE OR UNBOX ONE TOGETHER! THANK GOD FOR PAST BLESSINGS AS YOU UNPACK FAMILY ORNAMENTS.

FOCUS IN: WHERE IS THE BEST TIME AND PLACE TO READ SCRIPTURE AS A FAMILY? GRAB A COZY BLANKET AND TAKE TIME TO FOCUS ON THE WORD TOGETHER! TAKE TURNS READING THE PASSAGE.

SET THE SCENE: LIGHT A CANDLE THAT SMELLS LIKE CHRISTMAS!

PAUSE TO PRAY: ASK YOUR FAMILY WHO YOU KNOW THAT NEEDS HOPE AND PRAY FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE THEM THIS WEEK!

FUN FACT: A "CRECHE" IS THE OFFICIAL WORD FOR A NATIVITY SCENE, A DEPICTION OF JESUS' BIRTH. INITIALLY PORTRAYED WITH LIVE CHARACTERS, THE TRADITION OF A CRECHE BEGAN IN ITALY IN 1223.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE: PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD I PETER 1:3

FINDING THE light

PLACE YOUR NATIVITY IN A PROMINENT PLACE THAT WILL HELP YOU REMEMBER THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON. DON'T HAVE ONE? CUT OUT THE CHARACTERS AT THE END OF EACH LESSON AND ADD THEM TO YOUR FRIDGE EACH WEEK!

READ THE WORD: GET EVERYONE INVOLVED! EVEN LITTLE ONES CAN FOLLOW ALONG WITH A PICTURE BIBLE.

FINDING THE light

Watch for this special box with an easy activity you can do with friends or family!

Share your special family moments with us at Facebook.com/SeminoleBCtally

hope

A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

Waiting... It seems that every year we wait and wait some more for Christmas to finally arrive. The joy and excitement can hardly be contained. There's an energy in the air; an anticipation of what's to come. Can you imagine not waiting a year, but instead what if it had been 400 years of silence? The people of Israel remembered the words of the prophets, the promise of a Messiah to break their chains and shatter their darkness. What once was anticipation was now desperation. They needed a Savior and they needed Him now. But still there was HOPE. HOPE that God had not forgotten His people. HOPE that He would keep His promises... HOPE that the same God who created the universe, promised Abraham a family, and rescued His people from slavery would be the same God to reach into their darkness yet again and save them. Many times in our lives today, maybe even this Christmas season, we find ourselves clinging to hope that God sees us, knows us, and can still make a way to bring His light into our darkness. Pause for a moment today and thank God for who He has always been, for what He has done, and ask Him to show you anew His HOPE.

PRAY

Thank God for the HOPE we have in Jesus and ask Him to help us fix our minds and hearts on Him this Christmas season.

WHY IS WAITING SO HARD FOR US?

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT CHRISTMAS THAT IS WORTH WAITING FOR?

WHO IS SOMEONE THAT NEEDS GOD'S HOPE THIS YEAR? HOW CAN YOU SHARE THAT HOPE?

READ ISAIAH 9:2-3A; 6-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. **3** You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You.

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

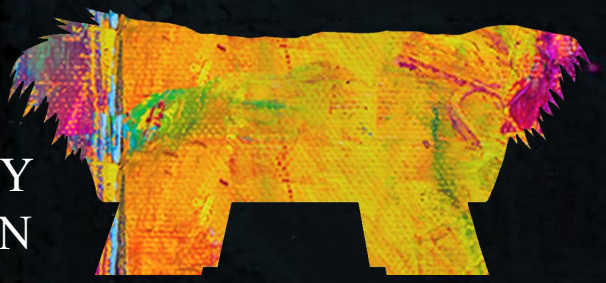
WORSHIP

Listen to these Christmas carols and worship songs as you begin getting your home ready for Christmas this year!

CAROLS:
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
"O Holy Night"

WORSHIP SONGS:
"Emmanuel" by Charity Gayle
"Holy Spirit" by Bryan and Katie Torwalt
"Same God" by Elevation Worship
"Living Hope" and
"Lion and the Lamb" by Phil Wickham

NATIVITY CONNECTION



From the very beginning, sin entered the world leaving Creation broken...desperate...waiting for a Savior, and the empty manger shows us the depth of our need. Today, a life without Jesus is just as empty. A manger, a place to feed animals, is not the place we would imagine for the King of the universe to lay His head. But Jesus humbled Himself to meet us where we were...empty, so that He could fill us with His light.

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FINDING THE *light*

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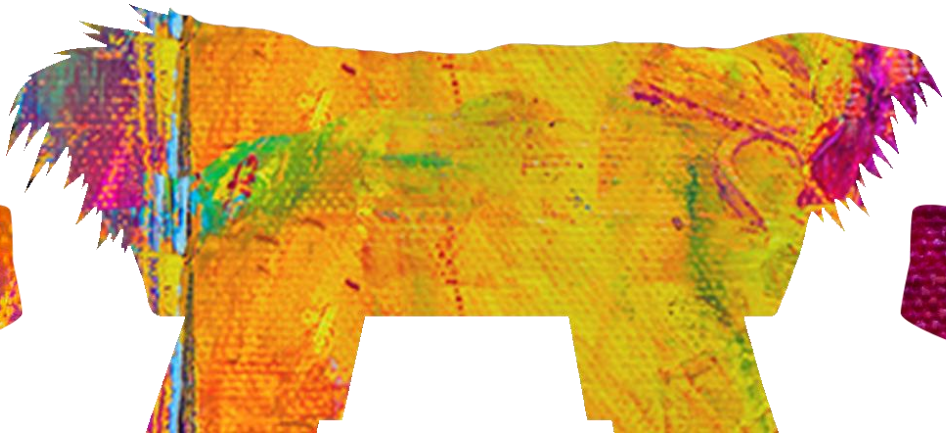
READ THE WORD: GET EVERYONE INVOLVED! EVEN LITTLE ONES CAN FOLLOW ALONG WITH A PICTURE BIBLE.

If you don't have a nativity scene at home, you can use this template to create your own! The bottom portion of this page contains this week's Scripture verse! Place it on your fridge and thank God for the HOPE He gives us in Jesus!



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hope

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love

O COME TO US; ABIDE WITH US

When we think about the word "love" we often think of a mixture of emotions, but to understand the love of God, we look to God the Father, who SO loved the world that He gave His Son, Jesus, for us. At just the right time, God prepared Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of a little boy who would grow up to be the Savior of the world. Can you imagine the shock of Mary and Joseph when angels told them about God's plan? What must it have been like to travel to Bethlehem and try to find a place good enough for a King, but end up with only a manger? God entrusted Jesus to sinful, imperfect people who would protect Him and raise Him until it was time for Him to accomplish God's plan. Humble and simple though it was, Jesus' earthly family was hand-selected. God created families in the very beginning with Adam and Eve, and it is through family that God passed down His covenant from generation to generation. Our families, though imperfect and sinful, are meant to be the place where we learn about God's love for us and our need for Him. Think about how God wants to use your family to understand His love this Christmas season and in the New Year!

HOW WOULD IT FEEL TO BE JESUS' PARENTS?

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD SENT JESUS AS A BABY AND GAVE HIM TO A SINFUL FAMILY?

WHY DO YOU THINK FAMILY IS SO IMPORTANT TO GOD? HOW CAN WE LOVE EACH OTHER MORE LIKE HIM?

PRAY

Thank God for His love that caused Him to send His Son Jesus for us. Thank Him for your family and ask Him to show you how to love each other more each day!

READ LUKE 2:1-7

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

WORSHIP

Listen to these Christmas carols and worship songs and thank God for sending Jesus! Ask Him to use your family to show his love!

CAROLS:
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"What Child Is This?"
"Silent Night"

WORSHIP SONGS:
"His Name Is Jesus" by Travis Cottrell
"Behold" by Phil Wickham

NATIVITY CONNECTION

When Mary first learned she would become a mother, the angel's first words to her were "Do not be afraid". Undoubtedly, this was not just about the angel's presence, but also about the magnificent task that lay before her. Mary and Joseph were ordinary people that were used by God in a mighty way, and He desires to use us too (broken as we are) for His glory. Let your family shine God's love this Christmas.

IN YOUR family

This week, focus on your family, both those that God has placed in your home, and those you have chosen to be a part of your family. Ask God to allow His love to be evident in your home throughout this Christmas season and beyond.

SNAP A PHOTO: PUT ON CHRISTMAS SWEATERS AND TAKE CHRISTMAS FAMILY PHOTOS. DON'T FORGET THE SILLY FACES!

TAKE A TRIP: SCOUT OUT THE BEST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TAKE A CAR RIDE TO SEE THEM TOGETHER. BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU! BONUS POINTS IF YOU WEAR CHRISTMAS PJS.

BE INTENTIONAL: MAKE CHRISTMAS EXTRA SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY BY SPENDING TIME TOGETHER DOING SOMETHING THEY LOVE!

MAKE MEMORIES: HAVE A FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT...OR WEEK! TAKE TURNS WATCHING EACH FAMILY MEMBER'S FAVORITE. DON'T FORGET THE POPCORN AND SNACKS!

WRITE A NOTE: LEAVE AN ENCOURAGING MESSAGE ON A BATHROOM MIRROR.

CHRISTMAS COCOA: USE THIS SPECIAL TREAT FOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT OR DATE NIGHT!

3 CUPS MILK
2 TBSP COCOA
3 TBSP SUGAR
1/4 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
1/4 TSP SALT
OPTIONAL: 2 DROPS PEPPERMINT EXTRACT

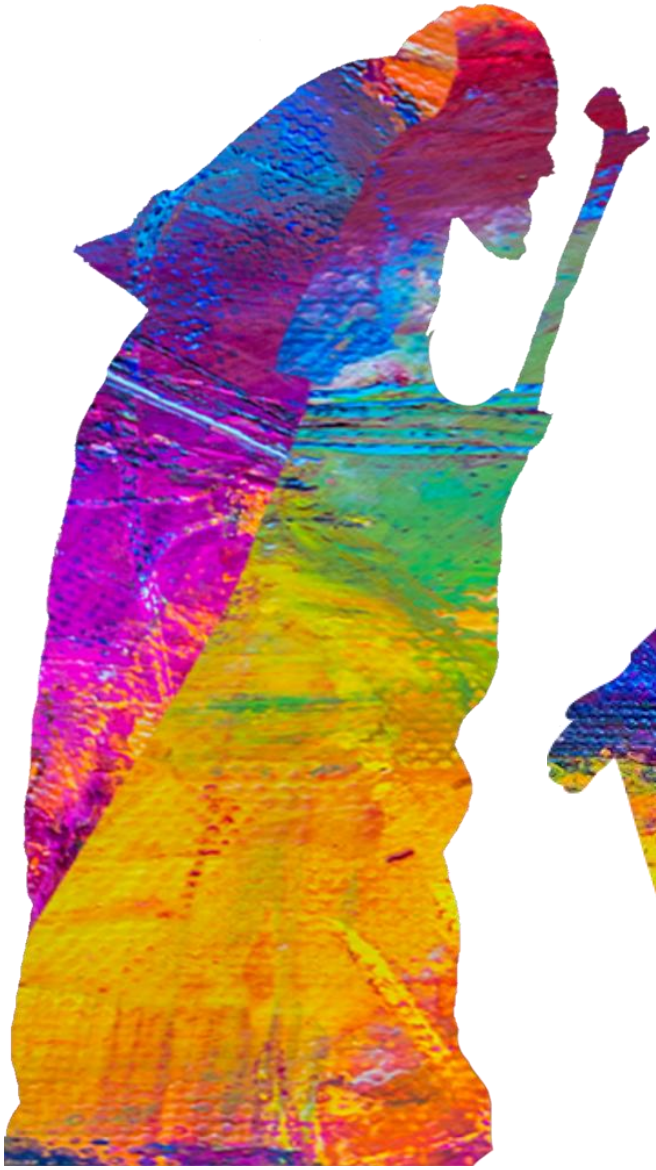
WHISK ON LOW HEAT; MAKES 2 SERVINGS.

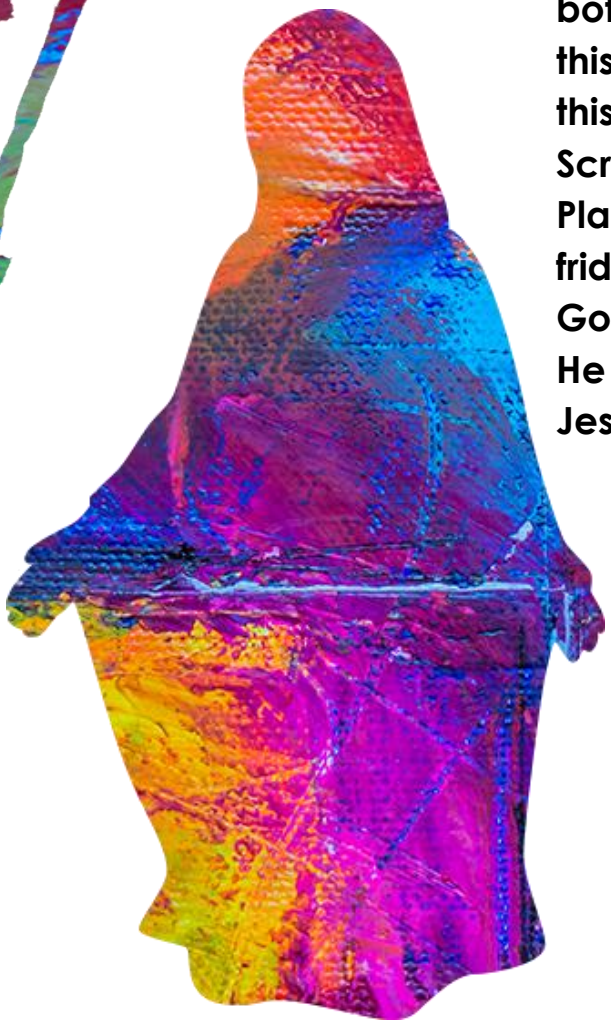
FINDING THE *light*

ESCAPE THE CHRISTMAS HUSTLE AND TAKE A SHORT WALK TOGETHER. RECALL THE LONG JOURNEY THAT MARY AND JOSEPH TOOK FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. FIND THINGS ALONG THE WAY THAT MAKE YOU THINK OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

PAUSE TO PRAY: PRAY AND THANK GOD FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY BY NAME. LOVE THEM WELL TODAY!

VERSE TO MEMORIZE: FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD IN THIS WAY: HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM. JOHN 3:16-17





Cut out Mary and Joseph and add them to the nativity! The bottom portion of this page contains this week's Scripture verse! Place it on your fridge and thank God for the LOVE He gives us in Jesus!

FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD IN THIS WAY: HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM.
JOHN 3:16-17

peace

ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT

It seems like more than any other time of year, at Christmas we are all longing for a little more peace, And since Jesus is our "Prince of Peace", shouldn't a time of year that celebrates His birth be filled with extra peace to go around? Sometimes though, the Christmas season becomes so packed and overwhelming that it can be difficult to see what really matters. For some this Christmas season may bring new celebrations and traditions, for others it means a time of grieving, missing a loved one who won't be there to celebrate Christmas this year. At the time of Jesus' birth, God's people needed Him desperately. They had waited for over 400 years, when the angels burst out in praise declaring "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" to announce the birth of the Savior! Finally, there would be peace...not a life without problems, loss, and heartache...peace between God and man. Jesus had come to forever break the power of sin. Jesus brings peace. Do you need to see and know God's peace this Christmas season? Allow Jesus to be your Prince of Peace. Call out to Him and allow Him to restore your soul. Only He can fill this season with peace.

PRAY

Ask for God's peace to be clear throughout the Christmas season. Pray for opportunities to bring God's peace to others!

WHAT DOES THE WORD "PEACE" MAKE YOU THINK OF?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO HAVE GOD'S PEACE THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS?

DOES THE WORD "PEACE" DESCRIBE YOUR CHRISTMAS SEASON? IF NOT, WHAT CHANGES WOULD HELP US SEE JESUS?

READ LUKE 2:8-14

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."**13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

WORSHIP

Listen to these Christmas carols and worship songs to think about the gift of God's peace through His Son, Jesus!

CAROLS:
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

WORSHIP SONGS:
"Glory in the Highest" by Travis Cottrell
"Whom Shall I Fear" by Chris Tomlin
"Emmanuel, God With Us" by Chris Tomlin

NATIVITY CONNECTION

God uses angels throughout the Bible to be His messengers, and on the night of Jesus' birth, the first words delivered to the shepherds were, "Do not be afraid." Undoubtedly, those were necessary words after an angel appears out of nowhere…but how fitting that before we were told about the peace Jesus would bring, we are reminded that now we do not have to be afraid. Thirty-three years later after Jesus was crucified, it was also an angel that said, "Do not be afraid….He is not here for He has risen." Jesus' peace casts out fear.

THROUGH THE church

Just as the angels delivered the message of Jesus' peace, God uses the Church to spread the Gospel. Consider ways you can partner with the Church to bring Jesus' peace to others this season.

WORSHIP WITH US: INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO JOIN US DECEMBER 7 AT 10:45AM FOR "ADORE".

IT'S OK TO SAY NO: SOMETIMES CHRISTMAS CALENDARS MAKE IT VERY HARD TO EXPERIENCE PEACE. CONSIDER WHAT MIGHT NEED A "NO" THIS SEASON TO PRIORITIZE WHAT REALLY MATTERS. THIS COULD BE AN EVENT, UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, OR A TRADITION THAT HAS RUN ITS COURSE. IF WE WANT OUR FAMILIES TO KNOW JESUS, WE HAVE TO MAKE ROOM FOR HIM!

SHARE PEACE: CHRISTMAS CAN OFTEN BE A DIFFICULT SEASON. SPEND TIME WITH THOSE WHO ARE MISSING FAMILY (A WIDOW, A COLLEGE STUDENT, THE HOMEBOUND, THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE). BE MESSENGERS OF PEACE!

PAUSE TO PRAY: PRAY GOD WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UNITY AND PEACE IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY SO WE CAN BE A LIGHT FOR HIM!

SKIP THE STAMP: MAIL CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OTHERS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY USING THE CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX AT THE DONATION STATION, THEN CONSIDER DONATING THE MONEY SAVED ON STAMPS TO THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO SUPPORT WORLD MISSIONS.

SERVE TOGETHER: GRAB A FRIEND FROM CHURCH AND DO AN ACT OF SERVICE FOR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS JESUS' PEACE!

FINDING THE *light*

GRAB A BLANKET AND LAY OUTSIDE UNDER THE STARS! TALK ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TO SEE ALL THE ANGELS PRAISING GOD.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE: PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU; NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES DO I GIVE TO YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID. JOHN 14:27

Cut out the angel and add it to the nativity! The bottom portion of this page contains this week's Scripture verse! Place it on your fridge and thank God for the PEACE He gives us in Jesus!

peace

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU; NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES DO I GIVE TO YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID.
JOHN 14:27

joy

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

On a quiet night out in a field, a few shepherds received the shock of their lives when God sent a host of angels to announce His Son's birth! Out of all the people who could have received this news first, God chose shepherds…outcasts in their society; they were unwanted, unclean. But God didn't just tell the shepherds of Jesus' birth; He wanted them to go and see Him for themselves. The shepherds didn't hesitate, but immediately went to see the newborn King, and look into the face of the Messiah. God knew exactly what He was doing. He could have told anyone He chose of Jesus' birth, but He told the ones who understood His heart, the ones who wanted to hear, the ones who would give praise and glory to God…the ones who would go and TELL the good news. Through the Old Testament covenant, God set up the sacrificial system where spotless lambs were used to temporarily take the place of sin. In the New Testament, Jesus is called the Lamb of God, the one whose sacrifice would permanently break sin's chains. And who better to witness the birth of THE Lamb, than a shepherd.

PRAY

Thank God for the gift of Jesus and ask Him to fill your heart with His joy this season. Ask for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL TO SEE GOD IN PERSON?

HOW DO YOU THINK THE SHEPHERDS FELT TO BE THE FIRST TO MEET JESUS?

WHY WERE THE SHEPHERDS SO EXCITED TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS? HOW CAN WE BE LIKE THAT?

READ LUKE 2:15-20

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. **17** Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

WORSHIP

Listen to these Christmas carols and worship songs and think about the JOY God gives us when we tell others about Him!

CAROLS:
"The First Noel"
"Joy to the World"
"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

WORSHIP SONGS:
"Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)" by Phil Wickham
"Wrap This One Up" by Christy Nockels
"What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship

NATIVITY CONNECTION

The shepherds received the news of the newborn King, it filled their hearts with joy, and once they had seen Jesus, they told everyone that would listen about all God had done! Sometimes today we get distracted and forget to thank God for what He has done in our lives. How can we be more like the shepherds who gave praise and glory to God? How can we tell others about Him? Let's choose to make this Christmas about Jesus! Start by thanking Him for who He is, what He's done, and practice glorifying Him in even the little things.

IN OUR community

Jesus is not just for us! Jesus is for everyone! Share the JOY of Jesus with everyone you meet. Start with friends and family or the neighbor across the street!

BREAK OUT THE SPRINKLES: SPEND AN AFTERNOON MAKING CHRISTMAS COOKIES TOGETHER, THEN MAKE DELIVERIES TO A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WHO NEED JOY THIS SEASON!

CANDY CANES LOOK LIKE A SHEPHERD'S STAFF! PUT SOME ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE TO REMIND YOU OF THE JOY OF THE SHEPHERDS.

HELP YOUR FAMILY PRACTICE GIVING! THINGS OFTEN NEEDED THIS TIME OF YEAR ARE COATS, CLOTHES, AND TOYS IN GOOD CONDITION!

BE A LIGHT: DRAW PICTURES OR CARDS TO TAKE TO A NURSING HOME AND BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY.

SHARE A MEAL: HAVE YOU MET YOUR NEIGHBORS? INVITE A FAMILY FOR DINNER OR HAVE A PIZZA PARTY!

PAUSE TO PRAY: ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FIND JOY IN EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS THIS CHRISTMAS. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU SHARE JOY WITH OTHERS!

FINDING THE *light*

JUST LIKE THE SHEPHERDS, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE OFTEN FORGOTTEN. BELOW ARE TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH THIS SEASON:

PHI CENTER
(PREGNANCY HELP AND INFORMATION)

ONE MORE CHILD
(FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME)

VERSE TO MEMORIZE: BUT LET ALL THOSE REJOICE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU; LET THEM EVER SHOUT FOR JOY, BECAUSE YOU DEFEND THEM; LET THOSE ALSO WHO LOVE YOUR NAME BE JOYFUL IN YOU. PSALM 5:11

CHOOSE JOY: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS TODAY AND THANK GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE!

Cut out the shepherds and add them to the nativity then place the Scripture verse on your fridge!

joy

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PSALM 5:11

light

CHRIST THE BABE IS LORD OF ALL

At just the right time, Jesus came. The people had waited, longing for the Messiah. The Jewish people believed Jesus would come as a conquering King to save them from the Roman Empire. Jesus was in fact the King of Kings, but He came to save people not from physical bondage on earth, but from spiritual bondage to sin. Jesus came to bring His light into a dark world. Yes, Jesus came as a baby, but He came not just to be born in a manger, but to grow up and die on a cross. Christmas is just the beginning of the story, and the light of Christmas is Jesus. His light still shines today, and He wants to shine His light into our darkness as well. We all struggle with sin…we all need a Savior. Have you and your family decided to give your hearts and lives to Jesus? That is the first and most important step to experiencing the light of Jesus this Christmas. If you have already decided to follow Him, is Jesus at the center of your home? Many times, we struggle to see Jesus' light because too many things have blocked Him from view and taken His place. Decide this Christmas and in the New Year that Jesus will have His rightful place in your life, your family, and in your home.

PRAY

Ask Jesus to make His light clear in your home this Christmas. Ask Him to help you seek Him and place Him first both now and in the New Year.

DOES THE WORLD'S DARKNESS OVERWHELM YOU?

HOW CAN WE SEE JESUS' LIGHT MORE THIS YEAR?

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS CAME AS A BABY? HOW CAN WE MAKE MORE TIME TO CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH THIS YEAR? SHARE IDEAS!

READ JOHN 1:1-5; 10-14

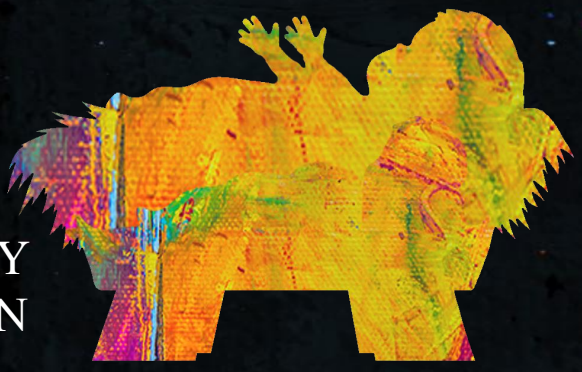
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

WORSHIP

Listen to these Christmas carols and worship songs and celebrate the light of Jesus' birth…the Messiah has come!

CAROLS:
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

WORSHIP SONGS:
"Great Are You Lord" by All Sons & Daughters
"King of Kings" by Hillsong Worship
"Christmas Day" by Chris Tomlin



NATIVITY CONNECTION

On Christmas we celebrate the empty manger being filled with the Light of the World…Jesus. Jesus didn't come just to fill the manger, He came to fill our hearts, our home, and our world with His light. Find time today to thank Jesus for coming to earth to save us from sin! Jesus filled the manger, but He left the tomb empty! Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection are reasons to celebrate!

THE gospel

GOD RULES

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. **(Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)**

WE SINNED

Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. **(Romans 6:23)**

GOD PROVIDED

God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. **(John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)**

JESUS GAVE

JESUS GIVES. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! **(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)**

WE RESPOND

We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.

A Admit to God that you are a sinner. Ever since the beginning, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (Romans 3:23) Tell God that you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing, and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin and even your own good works and turn to Jesus alone to save you! (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9)

B Believe that Jesus is God's Son and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin. We CAN'T DO IT—not even by praying, going to church, or reading our Bible. Believe that ONLY Jesus can save us and fix our sin problem. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

C Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You have a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)

AROUND THE world

Jesus' LIGHT is not just for us, it's for everyone! Think this week about how you can shine Jesus' light wherever you go and get involved with what God is doing around the world!

CHRISTMAS EVE: JOIN US FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24, AT 6PM! BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH YOU!

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD: PEOPLE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN MANY WAYS! SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE MAP TO LEARN ABOUT CHRISTMAS IN 25 COUNTRIES!

FILL THE MANGER: ON CHRISTMAS EVE, PLACE JESUS IN YOUR NATIVITY SCENE OR USE THE TEMPLATE ON THE NEXT PAGE! PRACTICE TELLING THE STORY!

TALK ABOUT IT: THINK ABOUT JESUS' LIGHT AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE HIS LIGHT SEEN IN YOUR HOME AND WHEREVER YOU GO NEXT YEAR. ARE THERE CHANGES YOU CAN MAKE NOW?

TURN OFF ALL THE LIGHTS EXCEPT THE TREE; THINK ABOUT JESUS' LIGHT!

PAUSE TO PRAY: PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD AND THOSE THAT NEED JESUS! (SPECIFIC REQUESTS ON THE IMB PRAY APP)

imb PRAY

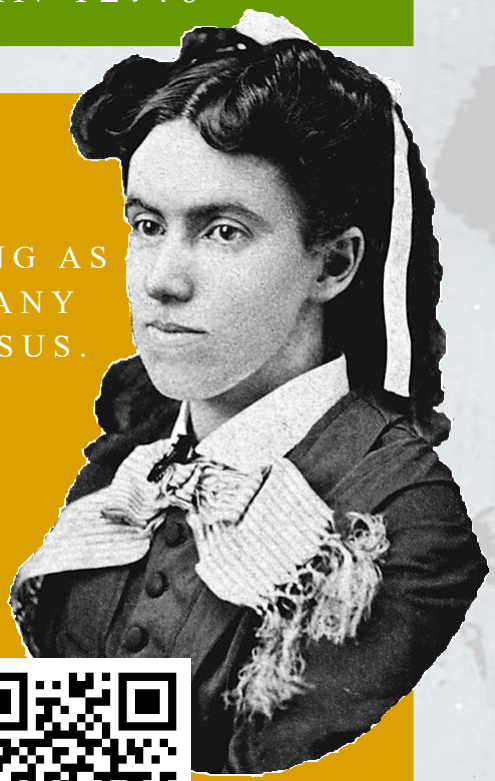
FINDING THE light

CHRISTMAS IS COMING: IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING, FIND A BIBLE AND DECIDE WHEN TO READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LUKE 2. MAKE THIS A FUN ANNUAL TRADITION!

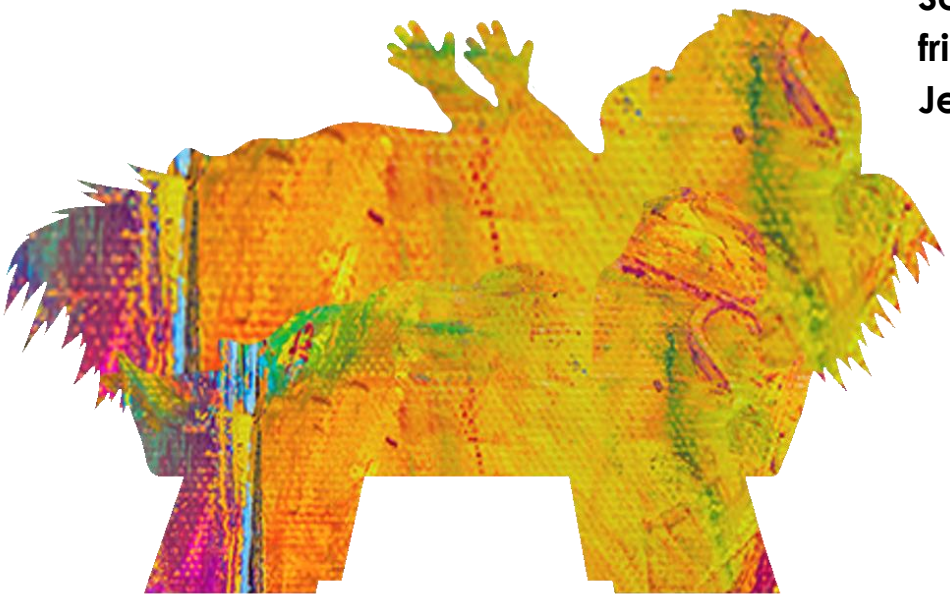
VERSE TO MEMORIZE: I HAVE COME AS A LIGHT INTO THE WORLD, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD NOT ABIDE IN DARKNESS. JOHN 12:46

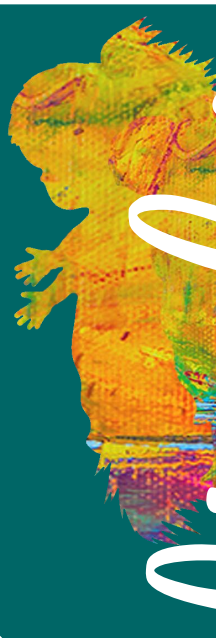
WHO IS LOTTIE MOON?

LOTTIE MOON TRAVELED TO CHINA IN 1873 WHERE SHE SPENT ALMOST 40 YEARS SERVING AS A MISSIONARY. SHE WAS AMAZED AT HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD NEVER HEARD THE NAME OF JESUS. DARKNESS WAS EVERYWHERE. LOTTIE SENT LETTERS TO CHURCHES IN AMERICA TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUPPORT MORE MISSIONARIES IN ORDER TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS ALL OVER THE WORLD. EACH YEAR, THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MISSIONARIES AND SPREAD GOD'S WORD! FIND OUT MORE AT IMB.ORG. SCAN HERE TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT "LOSTNESS" AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



If you have been using the nativity cutouts, replace the empty manger with the one filled with Jesus. If you have a nativity at home, Christmas Eve is a great time to place baby Jesus in the manger! Don't forget to place the Scripture verse on your fridge to remind you of Jesus' LIGHT!





light

I HAVE COME AS A LIGHT INTO THE WORLD, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD NOT ABIDE IN DARKNESS. JOHN 12:46

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

DEC 7:
10:45 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC 24:
6:00 PM