

Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Songs That Celebrate Jesus

A PARENT & GRANDPARENT
GUIDE

12 JOYFUL
SONGS
THAT TEACH,
ENCOURAGE & HELP
LITTLE HEARTS
GROW IN
JESUS!

Little Hearts
for
JESUS

Sing. Learn. Grow.
All for Jesus!

A Note to Parents & Grandparents

Dear Parent,

Dear Grandparent,

Christmas has a way of capturing a little child's attention.

The lights seem brighter. The music feels exciting. There are decorations to see, special foods to eat, family gatherings to enjoy, and presents waiting to be opened. To a toddler, Christmas can feel enormous.

In the middle of all that excitement, we have a precious opportunity.

We can teach them **Who Christmas is about.**

Jesus Christ.

Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow was created for little hearts. The songs are simple, joyful, repetitive, and written so young children can sing along, clap their hands, move their feet, and begin remembering biblical truth.

But the songs were never intended to stand alone.

That is why this guide exists.

A song may introduce a truth, but you have the opportunity to take that truth into everyday life.

You can talk about Jesus while riding in the car.

You can open the Bible together before bedtime.

You can point toward a star and tell your child about the wise men who came seeking the King.

You can see a wrapped present and remind them that God gave His Son.

You can hear Christmas bells and remember the heavenly host praising God.

You can look at a manger and ask the most important question:

“Who is that baby?”

And teach that little voice to answer:

“Jesus!”

Then, as they grow, teach them more.

Jesus is God’s Son.

Jesus is the Savior.

Jesus is Christ the Lord.

Jesus is the King.

Jesus came to save sinners.

The goal of this guide is not to give your child another Christmas activity to complete.

It is to help you use ordinary Christmas moments to point a little heart toward Christ.

You do not need to be a Bible scholar.

You do not need to prepare a long lesson.

Young children often learn best through simple truths repeated faithfully.

Sing one song.

Read one Bible verse.

Ask one question.

Pray one simple prayer.

Then talk about the same truth again tomorrow.

A five-minute conversation at the kitchen table may seem small.

A short prayer beside a child's bed may seem ordinary.

Reading the same Bible verse for the tenth time may feel repetitive.

But those little moments matter.

Children remember what they hear again and again.

They notice what excites us.

They notice what we treasure.

They notice whether Jesus is simply another part of Christmas or whether He truly matters to our family.

That is why this guide continually returns to Scripture.

The songs are not the authority.

God's Word is.

Every song should lead us back to the Bible.

When the song says Jesus was born, open Luke 2.

When it speaks about Bethlehem, read what Scripture says about Bethlehem.

When it tells of the shepherds, read the biblical account.

When it speaks of the star and the wise men, turn to Matthew 2.

When it says God sent His Son, read John 3:16.

Let your children see you open the Bible.

Let them hear the words of Scripture.

Let them learn from their earliest years that truth is not determined by Christmas traditions, songs, movies, feelings, or imagination.

Truth comes from God's Word.

There is also something especially important for us to remember as parents and grandparents.

We must not allow Jesus to remain only a baby in a manger.

The child born in Bethlehem grew.

He lived without sin.

He came to save.

He went to the cross.

He died for our sins.

He was buried.

And He rose again.

The angel announced:

**“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.”**

Luke 2:11, KJV

That is the heart of Christmas.

A Savior came.

Our hope is that these songs become more than music your children
enjoy during December.

We pray they become conversation starters.

We pray they help little children recognize the name of Jesus.

We pray they encourage parents to open the Bible.

We pray they give grandparents another opportunity to speak about
Christ.

And most of all, we pray that God uses His Word to work in hearts in
ways no song or guide ever could.

One day the little hands you are holding will not be little anymore.

The toys will change.

The Christmas mornings will look different.

The decorations will come and go.

But the truth of Jesus Christ will never change.

So while these hearts are young, tell them.

Tell them often.

God sent His Son.

Jesus came to save.

Jesus is King.

Jesus is Lord.

And when your child asks what Christmas is really about, may the answer become so familiar that it comes naturally:

Christmas is about Jesus.

May God bless your home as you sing, read His Word, pray together, and faithfully point the little ones He has entrusted to you toward Jesus Christ.

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PART 1

Welcome to *Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow*

A Note to Parents and Grandparents

Christmas has a way of capturing a little child's attention.

There are lights to see, songs to hear, decorations to touch, special foods to eat, gifts to open, and excitement almost everywhere they look. For a toddler, Christmas can feel enormous.

That gives us a wonderful opportunity.

Before our children learn to associate Christmas primarily with what they receive, we can begin teaching them **Who came**.

Jesus Christ.

Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow was created to help parents and grandparents do exactly that. These songs are not meant merely to entertain children during the Christmas season. They are meant to give families simple opportunities to talk about Jesus, open the Bible together, pray together, sing together, and begin planting biblical truth in little hearts.

The previous *Shepherd's Meadow* Parent & Grandparent Guide was built around this same principle: songs can become conversation starters, but they should always lead children back to the Word of God. The music supports the teaching of Scripture. It never replaces it.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

That principle is especially important at Christmas.

Why This Christmas Guide Matters

A two-year-old does not need a complicated theological lecture about the incarnation.

But a two-year-old **can** begin learning:

Jesus is God's Son.

A three-year-old can learn:

God sent Jesus.

A four-year-old can understand:

Jesus came because God loves us.

A five-year-old can begin learning:

Jesus is the Savior and King.

Those truths may sound simple to an adult, but they are not small truths.

They are the foundation upon which a child's understanding of Christmas can be built.

The goal is not for a toddler to understand everything about Christ's birth. The goal is to faithfully place truth before that child again and again as he or she grows.

Scripture gives us a beautiful picture of this kind of teaching:

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (KJV)

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou
sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down,
and when thou risest up.”

Notice how natural that instruction is.

Talk about God when you sit.

Talk about Him when you walk.

Talk about Him when you lie down.

Talk about Him when you get up.

In other words, biblical teaching belongs in the ordinary rhythm of family life.

Christmas gives parents and grandparents countless opportunities to do that.

Christmas Is About Jesus

Your child will see many things associated with Christmas.

Some will be harmless traditions. Some will simply be decorations. Some will be fun family activities. And some will compete very strongly for your child's attention.

Our purpose in this guide is not to spend December complaining about everything the world does with Christmas.

We have something much better to give our children.

Jesus.

When your child sees Christmas lights, you can talk about Jesus.

When you hear Christmas music, you can sing about Jesus.

When gifts appear, you can talk about God giving His Son.

When you see a nativity, you can open the Bible and tell your child what actually happened.

When your child looks at a star, you can talk about the star connected with Christ's birth.

When your family settles down at night, you can thank God together for sending His Son.

Rather than allowing Christmas traditions to push Jesus toward the edge of the celebration, we can intentionally place Christ at the center.

Not merely by saying:

“Remember, Christmas is about Jesus.”

But by actually making Him the Person we talk about, sing about, read about, and thank God for throughout the season.

Begin With the Bible

The Christmas story does not begin with decorations, presents, or even a manger scene.

It begins with God.

And when we teach our children about Christ's birth, Scripture should remain our authority.

One of the clearest announcements of Christ's birth is found in Luke:

Luke 2:10–11 (KJV)

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

That is Christmas.

A Saviour was born.

His name is Jesus.

He is Christ the Lord.

The songs on this album will introduce little children to shepherds, angels, Bethlehem, the star, the manger, and the joy surrounding Christ's birth. But all of those things point toward Someone greater than themselves.

Jesus Christ.

The shepherds matter because they heard about Jesus.

The angels matter because they announced Jesus.

Bethlehem matters because Jesus was born there.

The star matters because it pointed men toward Jesus.

The manger matters because Jesus was laid there.

Christmas matters because **Christ came**.

How Toddlers Learn Biblical Truth

The original Parent & Grandparent Guide emphasized that young children learn through repetition, movement, singing, listening, playing, and conversation.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

That is why these Christmas songs intentionally repeat important phrases.

Your child may sing:

“Baby Jesus, King Jesus, Jesus is the King!”

again and again.

Good.

Let that truth become familiar.

Your child may walk around the house singing:

“Christmas is about Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!”

Wonderful.

You do not need to immediately turn every lyric into a lengthy lesson.

Sometimes simply ask:

“Who is Christmas about?”

And let your child answer:

“Jesus!”

Then smile and say:

“That's right. Christmas is about Jesus.”

Little conversations repeated over time can become powerful teaching moments.

Five Minutes at the Manger

The first *Shepherd's Meadow* guide encouraged families to use a simple five-minute worship pattern: sing one song, read one verse, ask one question, pray one prayer, and repeat it another day. [The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide](#)

For this Christmas guide, we're calling it:

Five Minutes at the Manger

You do not need an elaborate family devotional.

You do not need a theology degree.

You do not need to keep a toddler sitting still for thirty minutes.

Take five minutes.

1. Sing

Play one *Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow* song and sing along.

2. Read

Read one short passage or verse from the King James Bible.

3. Ask

Ask one simple question your child can answer.

“Who did God send?”

“Jesus!”

4. Pray

Say a short prayer together.

“Thank You, God, for sending Jesus. Amen.”

5. Repeat

Come back to the same truth later.

At breakfast.

In the car.

While decorating.

At bedtime.

Toddlers need repetition. Don't worry that you've already said it.

Say it again.

A Special Word to Grandparents

Grandparents have an extraordinary opportunity during Christmas.

Your grandchildren may remember sitting beside you.

They may remember your Christmas tree.

They may remember cookies in your kitchen, presents beneath the tree, or riding in the car to see Christmas lights.

Use those memories to point them toward Christ.

Tell them:

“Grandma loves Christmas because Jesus came.”

“Grandpa wants you to know who Jesus is.”

Open your Bible.

Read Luke 2.

Sing one of these songs together.

Ask them who God sent.

Pray with them before they leave.

You may not know which conversation a child will remember years from now.

So make Jesus part of those memories.

Don't Use the Songs to Examine Someone Else

There is another principle worth establishing at the beginning.

Parents should participate too.

When a song says:

“Thank You, God, for Jesus,”

sing it.

When the children clap, clap with them.

When they pray, pray with them.

When Scripture is read, listen to it yourself.

Children quickly recognize whether something is merely **“their Bible lesson”** or something Mom, Dad, Grandma, and Grandpa genuinely believe.

Let them see that Jesus isn't merely important to children.

Jesus is precious to you.

Our Christmas Journey

The twelve songs on this album form a simple journey.

We begin by welcoming children into *The Shepherd's Meadow*. Then we walk toward Bethlehem, meet the shepherds, hear the angels, look toward the star, and learn who that baby in the manger truly is.

But the album doesn't stop with the birth of a baby.

Gradually, the songs answer bigger questions:

Who is Jesus?

God's Son.

Why did He come?

God sent Him.

What did God give us?

His Son.

Who is the King?

Jesus.

Who is the Savior?

Jesus Christ.

And finally:

What is Christmas about?

Jesus.

That is where we want our children's hearts to land.

A Prayer Before We Begin

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us as parents and grandparents to faithfully teach these little children about Him. Give us wisdom to make Christ the center of our Christmas celebration. Help our children not merely to know Christmas songs, but to know the truth those songs are teaching. Plant Your Word deeply in their hearts. May our homes honor Jesus Christ this Christmas and throughout the year. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One Truth to Carry Into This Guide

When the lights come down, the presents are put away, and another Christmas has passed, may one truth remain firmly planted in every little heart:

Christmas is about Jesus.

Sources

PART 2

How to Use This Guide

Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow was created for little children, but this guide was written for **you**.

Parents and grandparents are a child's first and most influential teachers. A song may introduce a truth, but you have the opportunity to take that truth and bring it into everyday life.

The previous *Shepherd's Meadow Parent & Grandparent Guide* followed this same approach. It encouraged adults to listen first, sing together, ask simple questions, connect songs to everyday experiences, use repetition, and keep Christ at the center.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

We will follow that same pattern here, with one important Christmas emphasis:

Don't merely teach your child about Christmas. Teach your child about Christ.

You Don't Have to Do Everything

Each song chapter in this guide contains several tools:

- A **Main Truth**
- Full **KJV Scripture**
- **What This Song Teaches**
- **Talking With Your Child**
- **Everyday Christmas Moments**
- A simple **Family Activity**
- **Family Prayer**
- **Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents**
- A **Memory Verse**
- A final encouragement

You don't have to use all of them at once.

In fact, with a two or three-year-old, **please don't try**.

Toddlers learn differently from adults. The goal is not to complete a lesson. The goal is to faithfully place biblical truth before them in ways they can begin to understand.

One day you might sing the song.

Another day you might read the Scripture.

Later that week, something may happen that gives you an opportunity to talk about what the song taught.

That's discipleship too.

1. Listen to the Song First

Before trying to teach anything, listen to the song yourself.

Ask:

What biblical truth is this song trying to put into my child's heart?

For example:

Baby King Jesus teaches that the baby born in Bethlehem is the King.

God Sent His Son teaches that Jesus came because God loved the world.

Jesus Is God's Gift redirects a child's attention from Christmas presents toward God's gift of His Son.

Christmas Is About Jesus brings the entire album together with one unmistakable truth.

Once you understand the purpose of the song, you'll recognize natural opportunities to reinforce it.

2. Sing With Your Child

Don't just turn the music on.

Join in.

You don't need a beautiful singing voice.

Your toddler doesn't care.

Clap when the song says to clap.

Tap when the song says to tap.

Answer the questions.

When the children sing:

“Who is our King?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

When the song says:

“Christmas is about Jesus!”

Sing it with them.

The original guide emphasizes that children learn through singing, movement, repetition, listening, and interaction.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

Participation turns a song playing in the room into something the family is experiencing together.

3. Open the Bible

This is one of the most important parts of the entire guide.

Don't let the song become the authority.

The Bible is the authority.

The songs are teaching tools designed to help little children remember biblical truths. Whenever possible, let your child see you open an actual Bible.

You might say:

“Our song says Jesus was born. Let's see what God's Word says.”

Then read:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

You don't have to explain every word.

You might simply say:

“The Bible says Jesus is the Saviour.”

That's enough for today.

Tomorrow, say it again.

4. Ask Questions They Can Actually Answer

Avoid turning family worship into a test.

A toddler shouldn't feel nervous because Mom or Grandpa opened the Bible.

Ask simple questions.

For ages 2–3:

Who was born?

Jesus!

Who sent Jesus?

God!

Who is our King?

Jesus!

Who loves us?

God!

For ages 4–5:

You can begin asking slightly deeper questions:

Why did the shepherds go to Bethlehem?

What did the angels tell them?

Why did God send His Son?

What is God's greatest gift?

If they don't know the answer, simply tell them.

This isn't an examination.

You're teaching.

5. Use Christmas Things to Point to Jesus

Your house may already be filled with teaching opportunities.

When you see Christmas lights:

You might say:

“Those lights are beautiful. The Bible tells us Jesus is the Light of the world.”

Then, when appropriate, read:

John 8:12 (KJV)

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world...”

When your child sees a present:

Ask:

“What is the greatest gift God gave us?”

Jesus.

When you see a star:

Ask:

“What did the wise men follow?”

Then talk about the star connected with Christ.

When you see a nativity:

Don't merely name the figures.

Tell the story.

“There's Mary. There's Joseph. And who is the baby?”

Jesus!

At bedtime:

Talk about Bethlehem.

Talk about the shepherds.

Sing **Good Night, Baby Jesus** and thank God for sending His Son.

Ordinary Christmas moments can become biblical conversations.

6. Repetition Is Your Friend

Adults sometimes become tired of repetition long before toddlers do.

A child may want the same song fifteen times.

Use it.

The original guide intentionally embraced repetition because young children learn through hearing and doing the same things repeatedly.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

If your child spends three weeks singing:

“Baby Jesus, King Jesus, Jesus is the King!”

you haven't wasted three weeks.

You've placed an important truth into that child's vocabulary.

The next step is connecting the lyric to Scripture.

“That's right. Jesus is King. Let's see what the Bible says about our King.”

7. Don't Let the Manger Become the End of the Story

This is especially important.

Christmas pictures naturally show Jesus as a baby.

But Jesus did not remain in the manger.

The baby born in Bethlehem is the Lord Jesus Christ.

He grew.

He lived without sin.

He went to the cross.

He died.

He was buried.

He rose again.

The Christmas story belongs to the greater Gospel story.

Even toddlers can begin learning that Jesus came for a reason.

Matthew records:

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

That is why we don't want children merely thinking:

“Baby Jesus is cute.”

We want them gradually learning:

Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus is the King.

Jesus is the Savior.

Jesus came to save sinners.

8. Keep the Conversation Going After Christmas

Don't pack Jesus away with the Christmas decorations.

That may sound obvious, but it is worth saying.

The truths taught through this album are not December truths.

God still sent His Son in January.

Jesus is still King in March.

Jesus is still the Savior in July.

God's love doesn't disappear when the Christmas tree comes down.

If your child asks to hear **Baby King Jesus** in April, play it.

If they sing **Christmas Is About Jesus** in June, sing with them.

Then continue teaching them who Jesus is.

Five Minutes at the Manger

When life is busy, use this simple plan.

Minute 1: Sing

Play part or all of one song.

Minute 2: Read

Read one short KJV verse from that song's chapter.

Minute 3: Ask

Ask one question.

“Who did God send?”

Minute 4: Talk

Connect the truth to something your child understands.

“God gave us Jesus because He loves us.”

Minute 5: Pray

Keep it simple.

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Help us love Him and obey Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Five minutes.

No complicated preparation.

No pressure to manufacture a spiritual experience.

Just God's Word, a child, and someone willing to faithfully teach it.

A Word About the Activities

The activities throughout this guide are intentionally simple.

You won't need expensive supplies.

You may:

clap,

march,
color,
point,
count,
look at stars,
pretend to travel toward Bethlehem,
make sheep sounds,
or act out the shepherds hurrying to see Jesus.

The activity isn't the lesson.

The biblical truth is the lesson.

The activity simply helps little hands and little minds participate.

Always bring the conversation back to Christ.

A Word About Scripture Memory

Each chapter will include a memory verse.

Don't worry if your two-year-old cannot recite the entire verse.

Start with a phrase.

For example:

“For unto you is born... a Saviour.”

Say it together.

Repeat it tomorrow.

As your child grows, add more.

The goal isn't to collect memorized verses like trophies.

The goal is what Scripture itself describes:

Psalm 119:11 (KJV)

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

We are helping little hearts begin storing God's Word.

Parents and Grandparents, You Set the Tone

Children notice what excites us.

If presents produce enormous excitement but Jesus receives only a quick mention before dinner, they notice.

If decorating receives hours of attention but Scripture receives almost none, they notice.

That doesn't mean Christmas can't be fun.

It should be joyful.

Sing.

Laugh.

Decorate.

Make memories.

Enjoy being together.

But through it all, intentionally show your children:

Jesus is why our hearts rejoice.

The greatest thing about Christmas isn't what is beneath the tree.

It is what happened when:

Galatians 4:4 (KJV)

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

God sent His Son.

And that brings us to the first song.

NEXT: SONG 1

Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Main Truth: We joyfully enter the Christmas season celebrating Jesus Christ.

Sources

SONG 1

Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Main Truth

Christmas is a joyful time to celebrate Jesus Christ.

There are many things little children will notice when Christmas arrives. Lights appear on houses. Decorations come out of boxes. Christmas music begins playing. Families make plans. Presents may begin appearing beneath the tree.

But before all those things capture a child's heart, we want to establish something much more important:

We are celebrating Jesus.

That is the purpose of our first song.

Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow opens the gate to our Christmas journey and invites children to come in, sing, clap, and rejoice because **God sent His Son.**

Our KJV Scripture

Luke 2:10–11 (KJV)

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Notice the words:

“good tidings of great joy.”

Biblical Christmas joy is not rooted in presents, decorations, food, or traditions.

Something happened.

Someone came.

A Saviour was born.

And the angel identifies Him plainly:

“Christ the Lord.”

That's the joy we want our children to begin associating with Christmas.

What This Song Teaches

The song begins:

**“Welcome everybody,
Come and sing today.”**

There is excitement in those words.

We want children to feel that Christmas is a joyful season. But immediately, we begin directing that excitement toward Christ.

The chorus declares:

“We're celebrating Jesus!”

That's the central lesson.

A toddler doesn't need to understand every detail of Christ's incarnation before learning that truth.

Ask:

“Who are we celebrating?”

Let them answer:

“Jesus!”

Say it again later.

“Why are we singing Christmas songs?”

“Because of Jesus!”

Little by little, Christmas begins developing the right meaning in their minds.

Joy Has a Reason

Children naturally become excited at Christmas.

We don't need to remove that excitement.

We need to **direct it**.

Scripture says:

Luke 2:20 (KJV)

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

The shepherds didn't leave Bethlehem bored.

They left **glorifying and praising God**.

They had seen Christ.

So when your toddler claps during this song, don't think of the clapping merely as entertainment.

Tell them:

“We're happy because Jesus came!”

When they sing loudly:

“Christmas in the meadow!”

answer:

“Yes! And we're celebrating Jesus!”

We're connecting childhood joy with biblical truth.

Talking With Your Child

Keep these conversations very simple.

Ask:

Who are we celebrating at Christmas?

Jesus!

Who was born in Bethlehem?

Jesus!

Who is our Savior?

Jesus!

Who is the Lord?

Jesus!

Why are we happy?

Because Jesus came!

For an older preschooler, ask:

What did the angel call Jesus?

Then read Luke 2:11 again:

“a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Don't worry if your child doesn't remember immediately.

Tell them.

Then ask again another day.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When You Turn On Christmas Lights

Say:

“Christmas is coming! Who are we celebrating?”

Let them answer:

“Jesus!”

When Christmas Music Begins Playing

Ask:

“Can we sing a song about Jesus?”

Then play one of the album songs.

When You Decorate

You might say:

“We’re getting ready for Christmas. Let’s remember why Christmas is special. Jesus came!”

When Your Child Sees Presents

You don't have to immediately lecture about materialism.

Simply begin planting another thought:

“Presents are fun. But do you remember God's greatest gift?”

We'll develop that truth much more fully in Song #10.

When Someone Says “Merry Christmas”

Later, ask your child:

“Whose name do you hear in Christmas?”

Christ.

For younger toddlers, simply say:

“Christmas reminds us of Jesus Christ.”

Family Activity

Open the Meadow Gate

This is an easy activity to do while playing the song.

Stand together near a doorway.

Pretend the doorway is the entrance to **The Shepherd's Meadow**.

Before walking through, ask:

“Who are we going to celebrate?”

Children answer:

“Jesus!”

Then say:

“Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow!”

Walk through together.

Clap during:

“Clap, clap, clap!”

Tap your feet during:

“Tap, tap, tap!”

When the song says:

“We're celebrating Jesus!”

everyone points upward and says:

“Jesus!”

The activity is simple, but the repeated association matters:

Christmas → celebration → Jesus.

Family Prayer

Keep toddler prayers short enough that children can repeat them.

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You for Christmas.”

Child:

“Thank You for Christmas.”

Adult:

“Help us celebrate Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us celebrate Jesus.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

There is a difference between **including Jesus in Christmas** and making **Christ the center of Christmas**.

It is easy to include Him.

We can display a nativity.

Attend a Christmas service.

Read Luke 2 once.

Say a prayer before Christmas dinner.

Those things can be good.

But Christ-centeredness goes deeper.

It asks:

What is capturing our family's attention?

What are our children hearing us become excited about?

What are we talking about repeatedly?

What are they anticipating?

Christmas can unintentionally teach children that Jesus is one small religious component of a much larger celebration centered on receiving things.

We have an opportunity to reverse that.

We can make Christ familiar.

Speak His name.

Read His Word.

Sing about Him.

Thank God for Him.

Tell your children why He came.

And don't be afraid of repetition.

Moses instructed Israel:

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (KJV)

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou
sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down,
and when thou risest up.”

Biblical teaching was never intended to be confined to one formal lesson.

It was to become part of family life.

Christmas gives us an abundance of opportunities to do exactly that.

Something Important About the Word “Celebrate”

We frequently say we're **celebrating Jesus** throughout this album.

For little children, explain that word simply:

“To celebrate means we're happy and thankful because Jesus came.”

This helps distinguish biblical joy from excitement merely about Christmas things.

We're not simply excited because it is December.

We're rejoicing because of Christ.

The angel said:

Luke 2:10 (KJV)

“...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...”

And then immediately explained the reason:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

The joy has a reason.

Jesus came.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

For Ages 2–3

Start with:

“A Saviour... Christ the Lord.”

Say it slowly.

Repeat it together.

For Ages 4–5

Work toward the whole verse.

Try motions:

“For unto you”

Point outward.

“is born”

Rock your arms gently like holding a baby.

“a Saviour”

Place your hands over your heart.

“which is Christ the Lord”

Point upward.

Five Minutes at the Manger

For a quick family devotion using this song:

Sing:

Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Read:

Luke 2:10–11

Ask:

“Who are we celebrating?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“Jesus is the Savior, Christ the Lord.”

Pray:

“Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.”

That's enough.

Do it again another day.

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Before your children learn all the things our culture associates with Christmas, give them something better.

Give them the name:

Jesus.

Before they learn to anticipate what might be underneath a Christmas tree, teach them to rejoice that **God sent His Son**.

Before they can explain Christmas theology, let them sing biblical truth.

One day, these little children won't be little anymore.

The ornaments will change.

The toys will disappear.

Christmas mornings will look different.

But truths planted in a child's heart can remain.

So open the gate.

Turn on the music.

Clap your hands.

Call the children.

And tell them why we're celebrating:

Jesus came!

NEXT: SONG 2

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Main Truth: At Christmas we remember and rejoice that Jesus Christ was born.

SONG 2

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Main Truth

Jesus Christ was truly born, and His birth is a reason for great joy.

Toddlers understand birthdays.

They understand singing, smiling, gathering together, and celebrating because someone was born. That makes the idea of a birthday a simple doorway through which we can begin teaching them about the birth of Christ.

When we sing “**Happy Birthday, Jesus,**” however, we want to go beyond the birthday language.

We are not merely teaching children that a baby named Jesus was born long ago.

We are teaching them **who that baby is.**

The child born in Bethlehem is:

God's Son.

The Savior.

Christ the Lord.

That is what makes His birth unlike any other birth in history.

Our KJV Scripture

Luke 2:6–7 (KJV)

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Then, only a few verses later, God tells us exactly who this child is:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Two truths belong together:

Jesus was born.

And:

Jesus is the Savior, Christ the Lord.

What This Song Teaches

Children already associate birthdays with celebration.

So we use something familiar to introduce something far greater.

When the song celebrates the birth of Jesus, tell your child:

“Jesus really was born.”

Mary really carried Him.

Bethlehem was a real place.

Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

He was laid in a manger.

But unlike our birthdays, Christ's birth had been promised by God.

Long before Bethlehem, Scripture said:

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

The baby in the manger was no ordinary child.

The Son had been given.

Talking With Your Child

Start with what they know.

Ask:

Do you have a birthday?

Yes!

Was Jesus born too?

Yes!

Where was Jesus laid?

In a manger.

Who is Jesus?

God's Son.

Who is our Savior?

Jesus!

For an older preschooler:

Why was Jesus' birth so special?

Help them answer:

“Because Jesus is God's Son and our Savior.”

That's much more important than simply remembering the details of a manger scene.

Is Christmas Really Jesus' Birthday?

Parents and grandparents may wonder how to handle this because Scripture does **not give us the calendar date of Jesus' birth.**

We should be accurate with our children.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born. It tells us where He was born and gives us important details surrounding His birth. But Scripture does not tell us that His birth occurred on December 25.

So when we use the phrase **“Happy Birthday, Jesus,”** we are not claiming that December 25 has been established in Scripture as Christ's literal birth date.

We're using birthday language that little children understand to **celebrate and remember the fact that Jesus Christ was born.**

That distinction is easy to maintain.

You can simply tell an older child:

“Christmas is when our family remembers and celebrates that Jesus was born. The Bible doesn't tell us His exact birthday.”

That keeps our celebration joyful without teaching something Scripture does not say.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When Someone Has a Birthday

This is one of the best opportunities to reinforce the song.

Ask:

“What happened on your birthday?”

“You were born!”

Then say:

“At Christmas we remember something wonderful. Jesus was born!”

When Your Child Sees a Nativity

Point to the manger.

Ask:

“Who is that baby?”

Jesus.

Then ask:

“Who is Jesus?”

God's Son!

Don't let the nativity become merely another Christmas decoration.

Use it.

When You See a Baby

Toddlers are naturally interested in babies.

You might say:

“Jesus came into this world as a baby too.”

Then add:

“But Jesus is God's Son.”

When Opening Presents

Before everything becomes noisy and exciting, take a moment and say:

“We’re celebrating because Jesus was born.”

Short.

Simple.

Repeated.

Family Activity

A Birthday Celebration for Jesus

You don't need to pretend you're recreating Jesus' literal birthday.

Instead, make this a simple **celebration of Christ's birth**.

You might make cupcakes or a small cake together.

Before eating it, ask:

“Why did we make something special today?”

Let the children answer:

“Because Jesus was born!”

Then sing the song.

Afterward, open the Bible and read Luke 2:11.

Ask:

“Who was born?”

Jesus!

“What does the Bible call Him?”

A Savior!

Then pray together.

The cake is not the lesson.

Jesus is.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You that Jesus was born.”

Child:

“Thank You that Jesus was born.”

Adult:

“Help us love Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us love Jesus.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

There is a danger in becoming so familiar with the Christmas story that we stop being amazed by it.

We see the manger every December.

We hear about Bethlehem.

We sing about the shepherds.

We recognize the scene immediately.

But consider what Scripture is telling us.

John writes:

John 1:1 (KJV)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Then:

John 1:14 (KJV)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”

Christmas isn't remarkable merely because **a baby was born**.

Babies are born every day.

The wonder is **who came**.

The Word was made flesh.

The promised Christ entered this world.

The Savior came.

When parents grasp that wonder, Christmas teaching changes.

Instead of merely telling children:

“Look at baby Jesus.”

We begin telling them:

“Look who God sent.”

Why the Manger Matters

Luke tells us:

Luke 2:7 (KJV)

“...and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Toddlers may think of the manger almost like a special little Christmas bed.

Explain it simply:

“A manger was a place where animals were fed. Jesus was laid there after He was born.”

Then allow the simplicity of Scripture to speak for itself.

We don't need to embellish the scene with invented details.

God chose to tell us that His Son was laid in a manger.

That's enough.

From His Birth to His Purpose

Even in a Christmas chapter, we should eventually answer:

Why did Jesus come?

The angel told Joseph:

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

That verse keeps our Christmas teaching from stopping at the manger.

Jesus came with a purpose.

His very name was connected with salvation.

A toddler can begin with:

“Jesus came to save.”

As that child grows, you can explain more.

But plant the truth now.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

For Ages 2–3

Begin with:

“Unto you is born... a Saviour.”

Then ask:

“Who is the Savior?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Begin memorizing the complete verse.

Use simple motions:

“born”

Rock your arms like holding a baby.

“Saviour”

Place your hands over your heart.

“Christ the Lord”

Point upward.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Read:

Luke 2:6–7 and Luke 2:11

Ask:

“Who was born?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Who is Jesus?”

Answer:

“Christ the Lord!”

Truth:

“We celebrate because Jesus Christ was born.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for sending Your Son.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Your child may eventually forget which toy they received for Christmas when they were three.

They may forget which decorations were hanging in the house.

They may even forget the Christmas cake you made together.

That's all right.

Those things were never the treasure we were trying to preserve.

We want something deeper to remain.

When your little one hears the word **Christmas**, we want the name **Jesus** to come naturally to mind.

When they see the manger, we want them to know who was laid there.

When they hear about His birth, we want them to know:

He is God's Son.

He is the Savior.

He is Christ the Lord.

So sing the birthday song.

Clap.

Smile.

Celebrate.

But make sure your child understands **why we're rejoicing**:

Jesus Christ was born.

NEXT: SONG 3

Baby Jesus Came

Main Truth: Jesus did not simply come to give us a Christmas story. He came as the promised Savior.

SONG 3

Baby Jesus Came

Main Truth

Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

The words “**Baby Jesus came**” are simple enough for a toddler to sing, but they lead us to one of the greatest questions we can teach a child to ask:

Why did Jesus come?

He did not come merely so we could have a beautiful Christmas story.

He did not come so we could have manger scenes, Christmas songs, decorations, or family traditions.

Jesus came with a purpose.

The angel told Joseph exactly what that purpose was:

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

That is the truth at the heart of this song.

Baby Jesus came.

And He came to save.

Our KJV Scripture

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Jesus Himself later said:

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

And Paul writes:

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

Notice the repeated word:

came.

Christ Jesus **came into the world.**

And Scripture tells us why.

To save sinners.

What This Song Teaches

Toddlers naturally focus on what they can see.

When they see a nativity, they see a baby.

When they hear the Christmas story, they hear about a manger.

When they look at Christmas pictures, they may see Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, sheep, and a star.

All of those things can help us tell the story.

But we want to begin moving the child's attention beyond the scene toward its meaning.

Ask:

“Who came?”

Jesus!

Then:

“Why did Jesus come?”

For the youngest child, begin with:

“Jesus came to save.”

That sentence is short enough to remember.

As the child grows, expand it:

“Jesus came to save sinners.”

We are beginning to connect Bethlehem with the Gospel.

Jesus Came From Heaven

Jesus did not begin to exist in Bethlehem.

That is an important truth for parents and grandparents to understand clearly.

Jesus said:

John 6:38 (KJV)

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

The baby born in Bethlehem is the eternal Son of God.

For a toddler, we don't need to attempt a lengthy explanation of Christ's eternal nature.

Simply begin with:

“Jesus is God's Son.”

“Jesus came from Heaven.”

“God sent Jesus.”

Those truths prepare the foundation for deeper understanding later.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Who came?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Where was Baby Jesus laid?

In a manger!

Why did Jesus come?

To save!

Keep repeating those answers.

For Ages 4–5

Begin adding:

Who sent Jesus?

God.

Why did God send Jesus?

Because God loved the world.

What did Jesus come to save us from?

Our sins.

If your child asks:

“What is sin?”

That's an important teaching opportunity.

You might answer:

“Sin is when we disobey God and do what is wrong.”

Then show them Scripture:

1 John 3:4 (KJV)

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Keep the explanation simple, but don't remove the biblical meaning.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When Your Child Sees Baby Jesus in a Nativity

Ask:

“Why did Baby Jesus come?”

Then answer together:

“Jesus came to save!”

When You Hear Someone Say “Jesus Came”

Ask:

“Where did Jesus come from?”

“Heaven!”

Then say:

“God sent His Son.”

When Your Child Does Something Wrong

Christmas teaching can become practical discipleship.

If your child disobeys, don't merely say:

“Remember, Jesus loves you.”

There is a deeper truth available.

Explain lovingly:

“What you did was wrong. The Bible calls disobeying God sin. That's why we need Jesus.”

Then help the child tell the truth, seek forgiveness, and understand that sin is serious.

Christmas begins making sense when we understand why we need a Savior.

Family Activity

“Jesus Came!”

Have everyone stand on the other side of a doorway.

One at a time, let each child walk through.

As they enter, everyone says:

“Here comes _____!”

After everyone has had a turn, sit together and say:

“At Christmas we remember Someone much more important who came.”

Ask:

“Who came?”

Children answer:

“Jesus!”

Then say together:

“Jesus came to save!”

Open your Bible and read Matthew 1:21.

The activity takes only a few minutes, but it helps connect the word **came** with the biblical truth of Christ coming into the world.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, Father...”

Child:

“Thank You, Father...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You that Jesus came.”

Child:

“Thank You that Jesus came.”

Adult:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Child:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

Christmas becomes much more meaningful when we stop asking only:

“What happened?”

and begin asking:

“Why did it happen?”

What happened?

Jesus was born.

Why?

Scripture answers:

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

This is where Christian Christmas teaching must eventually lead.

If our children grow up knowing every detail about shepherds, angels, wise men, Bethlehem, and the manger but never understand **why Christ came**, we have taught them the scenery without teaching them the Gospel.

The manger points forward.

Christ came to save sinners.

Don't Remove Sin From the Christmas Story

It may be tempting to think that sin is too negative a subject for little children at Christmas.

But if we remove sin, we also remove the child's understanding of why a Savior is necessary.

The angel did not say:

“Call His name Jesus because He will make everyone feel happy.”

Scripture says:

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

We should teach that truth carefully, lovingly, and at an age-appropriate level.

A toddler already understands disobedience.

They understand being told not to hit and then hitting.

They understand being told to come and refusing.

They understand taking something that belongs to someone else.

Those everyday moments give us simple opportunities to begin teaching:

God tells us what is right.

We disobey God.

That is sin.

We need a Savior.

Jesus came to save.

That's not frightening a child.

That's beginning to give the child the biblical reason for Christ's coming.

The Manger Points Toward the Cross

We don't need to make every toddler Christmas lesson into a detailed crucifixion lesson.

But parents and grandparents should always remember where the story is going.

The baby in Bethlehem would grow.

Jesus would live without sin.

He would give His life.

He would be buried.

And He would rise again.

Paul summarizes the Gospel:

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (KJV)

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

Christmas is beautiful because of **who came and why He came**.

The manger cannot save us.

Jesus saves.

A Note About Salvation and Little Children

Parents and grandparents should be careful not to pressure toddlers into repeating words they do not understand merely so we can say they “got saved.”

Our responsibility is to faithfully teach God's Word.

Tell them who Jesus is.

Teach them what sin is.

Teach them that Jesus died and rose again.

Answer their questions.

Pray with them.

Live the truth before them.

As understanding develops, continue pointing them toward Christ.

The objective isn't to manufacture a spiritual moment.

It is to faithfully sow the Word of God into a child's heart.

The original Parent & Grandparent Guide emphasized that parents are responsible to teach while God works in the heart.

The-Shepherds-Meadow-Guide

That remains especially

important when we're talking with very young children about salvation.

Memory Verse

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

For Ages 2–3

Start with:

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS.”

Then ask:

“What is His name?”

Jesus!

When that becomes familiar, add:

“He shall save.”

For Ages 4–5

Work toward:

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Emphasize:

JESUS

SAVE

SINS

Those three words help children remember the heart of the verse.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Baby Jesus Came

Read:

Matthew 1:21

Ask:

“Who came?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Why did Jesus come?”

Answer:

“To save!”

Truth:

“Jesus came to save sinners.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

One day your child will outgrow the toddler melody.

They may stop doing the hand motions.

They may no longer ask you to play the song again.

But the truth contained in those simple words is something they will need for the rest of their lives:

Jesus came.

And He did not come without purpose.

He came because humanity needed something no Christmas present, tradition, good deed, religion, or human effort could ever provide.

We needed a Savior.

So when your little one sings:

“Baby Jesus came,”

don't stop at the manger.

Ask the next question:

“Why did Jesus come?”

And begin teaching the answer God Himself gave:

Jesus came to save.

NEXT: SONG 4

The Christmas Star

Main Truth: The star was not the object of worship. God used it to lead the wise men to Jesus.

Sources

SONG 4

The Christmas Star

Main Truth

God used the star to lead the wise men to Jesus. Jesus, not the star, was the One they came to worship.

Children love stars.

They draw them. They point at them in the night sky. At Christmas, stars appear on decorations, cards, trees, and nativity scenes.

That gives parents and grandparents a wonderful opportunity.

Whenever your child sees a Christmas star, don't let the conversation stop with:

“Look at the pretty star!”

Ask:

“Who did the star lead the wise men to?”

The answer is:

Jesus.

The star was remarkable.

But **Jesus was the destination.**

Our KJV Scripture

Matthew records:

Matthew 2:1–2 (KJV)

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Later we read:

Matthew 2:9–11 (KJV)

“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the

east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

Notice where the story ends.

Not with the star.

With Jesus.

They saw the young child.

They fell down.

They worshipped **Him**.

What This Song Teaches

The Christmas Star gives toddlers something visible to associate with the biblical account.

They can look upward.

They can point.

They can pretend to follow a star.

But while the star makes the song fun and memorable, we want to make one distinction very clear:

The wise men did not come to worship the star.

They came to worship Jesus.

Matthew 2:2 records their purpose plainly:

“...and are come to worship him.”

That gives us a simple toddler-sized lesson:

The star pointed to Jesus.

Ask:

“Who did they come to see?”

Jesus!

“Who did they worship?”

Jesus!

That's the truth we want the child to remember.

Be Careful With the Traditional Christmas Picture

This chapter gives us a good opportunity to help parents and grandparents distinguish between **Scripture and Christmas tradition**.

Many nativity scenes place the wise men beside the shepherds at the manger on the night Jesus was born.

But Matthew does not describe that scene.

Luke tells us that after Jesus was born, He was:

Luke 2:7 (KJV)

“...laid him in a manger...”

The shepherds then came and found:

Luke 2:16 (KJV)

“...Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.”

Matthew's account of the wise men uses different language:

Matthew 2:11 (KJV)

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother...”

Notice:

“the house”

and

“the young child.”

So we should be careful not to teach our children that Scripture says the wise men were standing beside the shepherds at the manger that first night.

The Bible doesn't say that.

This doesn't mean you have to throw away a nativity set that includes wise men.

It simply means that when teaching Scripture, **Scripture gets the final word.**

What About “Three Wise Men”?

Here is another familiar Christmas tradition.

Ask many adults how many wise men visited Jesus and they will immediately answer:

Three.

But Scripture never gives us their number.

Matthew tells us they brought three kinds of gifts:

gold,

frankincense,

and

myrrh.

That does not necessarily mean there were three men.

So with our children, we simply call them what the Bible calls them:

wise men.

This is an important habit for parents and grandparents.

We don't need to embellish God's Word to make it interesting.

The biblical account is enough.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

What shines in the sky?

A star!

Who followed the star?

The wise men!

Who did they find?

Jesus!

Who did they worship?

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Ask:

Why were the wise men looking for Jesus?

Because He was born King.

What did they do when they found Him?

They worshipped Him.

What gifts did they bring?

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then ask the most important question:

“Who is more important, the star or Jesus?”

Jesus!

Everyday Christmas Moments

When Your Child Sees a Star Decoration

Ask:

“Who does that Christmas star remind us of?”

If they say:

“Jesus!”

Wonderful.

You can add:

“God used a star to lead the wise men to Jesus.”

When You See Stars Outside

Take your child outside on a clear evening.

Look upward together.

Say:

“God made the stars.”

Then read:

Genesis 1:16 (KJV)

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”

Then tell them:

“And when Jesus was born, God used a special star in the story of the wise men.”

When You See Wise Men in a Nativity

Ask:

“Who were the wise men looking for?”

Jesus.

Then tell your child:

“They wanted to worship Him.”

When Someone Gives a Gift

The wise men brought gifts to Jesus.

That creates a natural question:

“What did the wise men do when they found Jesus?”

They worshipped Him and gave Him gifts.

Then remind your child:

“Jesus was more important than the gifts.”

That's a particularly useful Christmas lesson.

Family Activity

Follow the Star

Cut a simple star from paper or use a star decoration you already have.

One parent or grandparent holds the star.

Let the children follow it through the room.

Move slowly.

Around a chair.

Down a hallway.

Into another room.

At the end, place a Bible beside a simple picture or nativity representation of Jesus.

When the children arrive, ask:

“Where did the star lead us?”

“To Jesus!”

Then say:

“The wise men followed the star, but Jesus was the One they came to worship.”

Read Matthew 2:10–11.

Finish by saying together:

“The star pointed to Jesus!”

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Help us follow Your Word.”

Child:

“Help us follow Your Word.”

Adult:

“Help us worship Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us worship Jesus.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

The star is one of the most recognizable symbols associated with Christmas.

But biblically, the star was never the point of the story.

Matthew records:

Matthew 2:10 (KJV)

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

But their journey did not end with admiration of the star.

The next verse says:

Matthew 2:11 (KJV)

“...they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him...”

That distinction is worth thinking about.

It is possible to become fascinated with everything surrounding Christ while missing Christ Himself.

People can love:

Christmas music,

Christmas decorations,

Christmas traditions,

nativity scenes,

church programs,

family gatherings,

and even Bible stories about Christmas,

while giving little thought to **worshipping Jesus Christ**.

We don't want to raise children who merely recognize Christian Christmas symbols.

We want to point them toward **the Christ those symbols are supposed to remind them of**.

The Wise Men Were Looking for a King

Their question is striking:

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews?”

They weren't merely searching for:

“the Christmas baby.”

They were searching for a **King**.

This prepares our children beautifully for Song #8:

Baby King Jesus.

The child in Matthew 2 was worthy of worship.

The wise men:

“fell down, and worshipped him.”

That is not the response given to an ordinary child.

As your children grow, help them understand that Jesus is not merely one character in the Christmas story.

He is Lord.

He is King.

He is worthy of worship.

Worship Is More Than Bringing a Gift

Toddlers may naturally focus on the gifts the wise men carried.

Gold sounds interesting.

Frankincense and myrrh sound strange.

But don't let the gifts overshadow what happened before the treasures were opened.

Matthew says:

“...fell down, and worshipped him...”

Then:

“...they presented unto him gifts...”

The worship comes first in the verse.

That's a valuable Christmas lesson for adults too.

Christmas easily becomes a season dominated by giving and receiving things.

But the greatest response to Jesus isn't putting another gift under a tree.

It is giving **ourselves** to Him in worship and obedience.

A Word About Following Signs

Because this song involves a star, parents should also be careful not to turn the story into the idea that Christians should look to stars or unusual signs for personal guidance.

The Bible tells us what happened to the wise men.

It does not instruct Christians to seek guidance through stars.

God has given us His Word.

The Psalmist says:

Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

So our lesson is not:

“Look for your star and follow it.”

Our lesson is:

“God used the star in the biblical account to lead the wise men to Jesus.”

And today, we teach our children to listen to and obey **God's Word**.

Memory Verse

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

For Ages 2–3

Begin with:

“We have seen his star.”

Then ask:

“Whose star?”

Jesus' star!

And:

“Who did they worship?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Work toward:

“We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Use simple motions:

“seen”

Point toward your eyes.

“star”

Point upward.

“come”

Motion toward yourself.

“worship him”

Fold your hands or bow your head.

Then remind them:

We worship Jesus, not the star.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

The Christmas Star

Read:

Matthew 2:9–11

Ask:

“Who followed the star?”

Answer:

“The wise men!”

Ask:

“Who did they worship?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“The star pointed to Jesus.”

Pray:

“Father, help us keep our eyes on Jesus and obey Your Word.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Children will see stars everywhere during Christmas.

On trees.

On cards.

In windows.

On decorations.

Maybe even above your family's nativity.

Every one of those stars can become a little reminder.

Not of magic.

Not of wishes.

Not of Christmas fantasy.

But of a real biblical account that ultimately points toward a real Person.

So when your little one points upward and says:

“Star!”

You have an opportunity.

Ask:

“And who did the wise men come to see?”

When they answer:

“Jesus!”

you've brought the Christmas star exactly where it belongs.

The star points us toward Jesus.

NEXT: SONG 5

Away to Bethlehem

Main Truth: God faithfully brought about His Word concerning the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

SONG 5

Away to Bethlehem

Main Truth

God kept His Word. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem exactly as God had foretold.

To a toddler, *Away to Bethlehem* can feel like a journey song.

We can walk.

March.

Pretend we're traveling.

Say the name **Bethlehem** together.

But underneath that simple journey is an important truth parents and grandparents can begin planting very early:

God always keeps His Word.

Jesus wasn't born in Bethlehem by accident.

Long before His birth, God had spoken through the prophet Micah about the place from which the Ruler would come.

Then, when the time came, circumstances unfolded exactly according to God's purpose.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.

Jesus was born.

God's Word stood true.

Our KJV Scripture

Luke tells us why Joseph and Mary traveled:

Luke 2:1–5 (KJV)

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.”

Then:

Luke 2:6–7 (KJV)

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Jesus was born in:

Bethlehem.

God Had Already Said Bethlehem

Hundreds of years before Christ's birth, Micah wrote:

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Bethlehem may have been little.

But God had chosen it as the place connected with the coming of Christ.

Later, when Herod asked where Christ should be born, the chief priests and scribes answered:

Matthew 2:5–6 (KJV)

“And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”

God had spoken.

Then God brought His Word to pass.

What This Song Teaches

For little children, start with the simple facts.

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Then add the larger truth:

God said it would happen.

And it did.

That's an early lesson in the faithfulness of God.

Your toddler may not understand prophecy yet, but they can begin understanding promises.

If Dad says:

“I'll read you a story after your bath,”

and then Dad does it, he kept his word.

If Grandma says:

“I'll come see you tomorrow,”

and she comes, Grandma kept her word.

Then explain:

“God always tells the truth. What God says is true.”

That simple foundation matters.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Where did Mary and Joseph go?

Bethlehem!

Who was born in Bethlehem?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Does God tell the truth?

Yes!

For Ages 4–5

Add:

Did God know where Jesus would be born?

Yes.

Had God already told people about Bethlehem?

Yes.

Did God's Word come true?

Yes!

Then say together:

“God keeps His Word!”

Bethlehem Was a Real Place

Toddlers can sometimes experience Bible stories in the same category as picture books and imaginary stories.

We should gently help them understand that Scripture records real people, real places, and real events.

Bethlehem wasn't a pretend Christmas village.

It was a real place.

Mary was real.

Joseph was real.

Jesus Christ truly entered this world.

As your child grows, continue distinguishing biblical history from Christmas fantasy.

You might say:

“The Bible tells us what really happened.”

That's a powerful sentence for a young child to learn.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When You're Going Somewhere in the Car

Say:

“We're going to Grandma's house.”

Then ask:

“Where did Mary and Joseph go?”

Bethlehem!

You can sing part of *Away to Bethlehem* while driving.

When Walking Together

Take a few steps and say:

“Let's pretend we're traveling toward Bethlehem.”

Then ask:

“Who was born there?”

Jesus!

When You See a Nativity

Ask:

“What town was Jesus born in?”

Bethlehem.

If your toddler cannot pronounce it clearly yet, that's fine.

Let them try.

Beth-le-hem.

When Someone Makes a Promise

Use the moment carefully.

Say:

“When we promise something, we should keep our word. God always keeps His Word.”

Then connect it to Christmas:

“God said the Ruler would come from Bethlehem, and Jesus was born there.”

Family Activity

Journey to Bethlehem

Choose one room in your home to represent **Bethlehem**.

Place a simple nativity picture or children's Bible there.

Begin in another room.

Tell your children:

“We’re going on a journey to Bethlehem!”

Walk slowly together.

You might say:

Step, step, step.

Away to Bethlehem!

Along the way, ask:

“Where are we going?”

Children:

“Bethlehem!”

When you arrive, ask:

“Who was born here?”

Children:

“Jesus!”

Then open the Bible and read Luke 2:4–7.

Finish by saying:

“God kept His Word. Jesus was born in Bethlehem!”

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For Your Word.”

Child:

“For Your Word.”

Adult:

“Thank You for sending Jesus.”

Child:

“Thank You for sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You that You always tell the truth.”

Child:

“Thank You that You always tell the truth.”

Adult:

“Help us trust You.”

Child:

“Help us trust You.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

Luke 2 gives us a remarkable picture of God's sovereignty.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree.

From the human perspective, it was a governmental action.

People traveled because Rome required it.

Joseph went to Bethlehem because:

Luke 2:4 (KJV)

“...he was of the house and lineage of David.”

Yet long before Caesar issued his decree, God had already spoken concerning Bethlehem.

Micah had written:

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

“...out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel...”

Caesar may have thought he was moving people around an empire.

But Caesar wasn't writing the Christmas story.

God was accomplishing His Word.

That is a truth parents and grandparents need just as much as children do.

God Is Never Scrambling to Fix His Plan

Sometimes our lives feel chaotic.

Plans change.

Schedules fall apart.

Unexpected circumstances arise.

People make decisions that affect us.

Christmas itself can become stressful.

But nothing surrounding the birth of Christ caught God by surprise.

God didn't discover at the last moment that Mary and Joseph were in Nazareth and then hurriedly devise a way to get them to Bethlehem.

God had already spoken.

His Word would be fulfilled.

That should strengthen our confidence in Scripture.

Isaiah says:

Isaiah 46:9–10 (KJV)

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,
Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...”

Our children need to see parents and grandparents who trust the God they are teaching them about.

A Small Town in God's Great Plan

Micah described Bethlehem as:

“little among the thousands of Judah.”

That is beautiful.

The world often associates importance with size, wealth, popularity, and power.

God chose little Bethlehem.

That doesn't mean Bethlehem itself deserves worship.

It means God's purposes are not limited by what human beings consider impressive.

You can begin teaching an older preschooler:

“Something doesn't have to be big to be important in God's plan.”

And eventually:

“We don't have to be famous for God to use our lives.”

The glory belongs to God, not Bethlehem.

Don't Add Details the Bible Doesn't Give Us

The journey to Bethlehem has been dramatized countless times.

Christmas stories often add conversations, emotions, weather conditions, personalities, and events that Scripture never records.

Parents should develop the habit of distinguishing:

What does the Bible actually say?

Luke tells us Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.

He tells us why Joseph went.

He tells us Mary was:

“great with child.”

He tells us Jesus was born while they were there.

That's what we know.

We don't need to invent additional drama to make God's Word compelling.

When your child asks a question Scripture doesn't answer, it is perfectly acceptable to say:

“The Bible doesn't tell us.”

That teaches children something important too:

We don't make up answers when God hasn't given them.

Jesus and the Line of David

Luke specifically connects Joseph with David:

Luke 2:4 (KJV)

“...because he was of the house and lineage of David.”

That detail may be beyond a toddler's understanding, but parents and grandparents should notice it.

God's promises concerning Christ stretch through Scripture.

The Christmas story isn't an isolated event that suddenly appears in Matthew and Luke.

God had been revealing His redemptive purpose long before Bethlehem.

That's why studying the Old Testament matters.

The more Scripture we understand, the more we recognize that the coming of Christ was not an afterthought.

God was keeping His Word.

Memory Verse

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

For this chapter, the entire verse may be too long for most toddlers, so we'll focus on the key phrase while parents read the complete verse aloud:

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel...”

For Ages 2–3

Practice:

“Bethlehem.”

Then:

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem.”

The goal at this age is familiarity with the biblical place and event.

For Ages 4–5

Try:

“Out of thee shall he come forth... to be ruler in Israel.”

Then ask:

“Who is the Ruler?”

Jesus!

An Additional Verse to Remember

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

This verse will naturally appear several times throughout the Christmas guide.

That's intentional.

Toddlers learn through repetition, and there are few better Christmas verses for them to know.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Away to Bethlehem

Read:

Luke 2:4–7

Ask:

“Where did Mary and Joseph go?”

Answer:

“Bethlehem!”

Ask:

“Who was born there?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“God said it would happen, and God kept His Word.”

Say together:

“God keeps His Word!”

Pray:

“Father, thank You that Your Word is true. Help us trust You.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Your toddler may hear *Away to Bethlehem* and simply enjoy marching around the living room.

That's okay.

March with them.

Let them pretend they're traveling.

Say:

“Bethlehem!”

again and again.

But somewhere in the middle of the fun, plant the truth.

Tell them:

“God said Jesus would come.”

“God said where the Ruler would come from.”

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem.”

“God kept His Word.”

Years from now, the child may no longer remember marching through your hallway pretending to travel toward Bethlehem.

But our prayer is that another truth remains:

God's Word is true.

And the little town of Bethlehem stands forever in Scripture as another testimony that when God speaks,

God keeps His Word.

NEXT: SONG 6

The Shepherds Ran

Main Truth: When the shepherds heard the good news about Christ, they went with haste to see what God had revealed and then made it known abroad.

SONG 6

The Shepherds Ran

Main Truth

The shepherds heard God's message about Jesus, believed what they had been told, and went with haste to see Him. Afterward, they told others what they had heard and seen.

This may be one of the most active songs on the album.

Toddlers can march.

They can move their arms.

They can pretend to hurry.

They can call out:

“The shepherds ran!”

But underneath all that movement is a wonderful biblical lesson.

God announced that the Savior had been born.

The shepherds didn't shrug their shoulders and go back to their sheep.

They said:

“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem.”

Then Scripture tells us:

“they came with haste.”

They responded to what God had revealed.

And once they had seen Jesus, they couldn't keep the news to themselves.

Our KJV Scripture

The angel had just announced the birth of Christ:

Luke 2:10–12 (KJV)

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger.”

After the heavenly host departed, the shepherds responded:

Luke 2:15–16 (KJV)

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the
shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing
which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a
manger.”

There is our song.

They came with haste.

Did the Shepherds Actually Run?

Our song is called **The Shepherds Ran**, and this is a good opportunity to practice the
same biblical care we've used throughout this guide.

The KJV does not specifically say:

“the shepherds ran.”

It says:

“they came with haste.”

So the title uses the idea of hurrying quickly in language a toddler immediately
understands.

When teaching the biblical account itself, however, use the words Scripture gives us:

“They came with haste.”

You might explain:

“That means they hurried.”

This is a good habit.

Songs can help children remember Scripture, but **Scripture remains our authority**.

What This Song Teaches

The shepherds received extraordinary news:

“For unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Then they had a choice.

Would they respond?

They did.

They said:

“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem.”

For a toddler, simplify that truth:

God told the shepherds about Jesus.

The shepherds listened.

The shepherds hurried to see Jesus.

That gives us an early opportunity to introduce something children will need throughout life:

When God speaks, we should listen.

Today, we aren't waiting for angels to appear in a field and give us instructions.

God has given us His written Word.

We teach our children to hear what the Bible says and obey it.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Who was watching the sheep?

The shepherds!

Who told them Jesus was born?

An angel!

Where did they go?

Bethlehem!

Who did they find?

Jesus!

Then say:

“They hurried to see Jesus!”

For Ages 4–5

Ask:

What did the angel call Jesus?

A Savior, Christ the Lord.

What did the shepherds do after the angels left?

They went to Bethlehem.

Did they go slowly?

No. They came with haste!

What did they do after they saw Jesus?

They told others what had happened.

That last question leads to the second half of the shepherds' story.

They Didn't Keep the News to Themselves

Luke continues:

Luke 2:17–18 (KJV)

“And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

First:

They heard.

Then:

They went.

Then:

They saw.

Then:

They told.

That's a wonderful progression for children to learn.

HEARD → WENT → SAW → TOLD

You can even use four hand motions:

HEARD

Cup your hand behind your ear.

WENT

March your feet.

SAW

Point toward your eyes.

TOLD

Cup your hands around your mouth.

Repeat:

“They heard! They went! They saw! They told!”

Toddlers will probably love this.

And they are learning the biblical account while moving.

Everyday Moments

When Your Child Is Asked to Come

If you say:

“Come here, please,”

and your child responds promptly, encourage them:

“Thank you for listening and coming.”

Later you can connect that idea to the shepherds:

“When the shepherds heard what God had revealed, they went to Bethlehem.”

When Your Child Hears Good News

Maybe Grandma is coming.

Maybe someone had a baby.

Maybe Dad is home.

Ask:

“What do we do when we have good news?”

Often, we want to tell somebody.

Then say:

“The shepherds had wonderful news about Jesus, and they told people too.”

When You See Sheep

Christmas decorations frequently include sheep.

Instead of merely saying:

“Look, a sheep!”

ask:

“Who was watching sheep when the angel came?”

The shepherds!

Then:

“What did the angel tell them?”

Jesus was born!

Family Activity

Hurry to Bethlehem

Choose one side of the room as the shepherds' field.

Choose another as Bethlehem.

Have the children pretend to watch sheep.

They can even say:

“Baa! Baa!”

Then read or say:

“For unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Ask:

“What should the shepherds do?”

Then everyone says:

“Let's go to Bethlehem!”

Have the children hurry safely across the room.

No pushing.

No wild running into furniture.

When they arrive, ask:

“Who did the shepherds find?”

Jesus!

Then practice:

HEARD!

WENT!

SAW!

TOLD!

Finish by reading Luke 2:15–17.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For Your Word.”

Child:

“For Your Word.”

Adult:

“Help us listen.”

Child:

“Help us listen.”

Adult:

“Help us obey.”

Child:

“Help us obey.”

Adult:

“Help us tell others about Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us tell others about Jesus.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

The shepherds' response is worth slowing down and examining.

They didn't say:

“That was an interesting religious experience.”

They didn't remain in the field discussing whether they should do anything about what they had heard.

They said:

“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem...”

Why?

Because they understood:

“...which the Lord hath made known unto us.”

They recognized that what had been revealed to them came from **the Lord**.

Their response followed.

This is a valuable question for parents and grandparents:

How do we respond when God's Word speaks clearly?

It is possible to know Bible verses, attend church, listen to preaching, sing Christian songs, and discuss biblical truth while repeatedly refusing to obey what God has said.

Our children should see something different in us.

When God's Word corrects us, we submit.

When God's Word commands us, we obey.

When God's Word exposes sin, we repent.

When God's Word gives truth, we believe it.

We're not merely teaching our children to **know Bible stories**.

We're teaching them that God's Word deserves a response.

The Shepherds Were Ordinary People

There is something beautiful about whom God chose to receive this announcement.

Shepherds were out:

Luke 2:8 (KJV)

“...abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”

They weren't kings sitting in a palace.

They weren't surrounded by wealth and prestige.

They were working.

Watching sheep.

And suddenly:

Luke 2:9 (KJV)

“...the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them...”

God announced the birth of Christ to ordinary shepherds.

That reminds us that the Gospel isn't reserved for impressive people.

The angel said:

Luke 2:10 (KJV)

“...I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Our children don't need to become famous or important in the eyes of the world to matter to God.

Notice What the Shepherds Told People

Luke says:

Luke 2:17 (KJV)

“And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.”

They told what had been told to them **concerning Christ**.

That's an important pattern.

When we talk to others about Jesus, our message shouldn't become primarily about ourselves.

We aren't the good news.

Jesus is.

The shepherds had something to tell because God had revealed something **about Christ**.

As children grow, we can begin teaching them:

“Tell people what the Bible says about Jesus.”

They Returned Praising God

The story doesn't end when the shepherds leave Bethlehem.

Luke tells us:

Luke 2:20 (KJV)

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

Notice again:

God receives the glory.

The shepherds don't become the heroes of the Christmas story.

The angels don't become the heroes.

The sheep certainly aren't the heroes.

Everything keeps bringing us back to God and His Son.

That's exactly where our Christmas teaching should lead.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:16 (KJV)

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.”

For Ages 2–3

Practice:

“They came with haste.”

Explain:

“They hurried!”

Then:

“They found... the babe.”

Ask:

“Who was the baby?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Work toward the complete verse.

Use motions:

“came with haste”

March quickly in place.

“found”

Put your hand above your eyes as if searching.

“Mary, and Joseph”

Count two fingers.

“the babe”

Rock your arms gently.

“lying in a manger”

Lower your arms gently.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

The Shepherds Ran

Read:

Luke 2:15–17

Ask:

“What did the shepherds do?”

Answer:

“They hurried to Bethlehem!”

Ask:

“Who did they find?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“What did they do afterward?”

Answer:

“They told others!”

Truth:

“When God speaks, we should listen and obey.”

Pray:

“Father, help us listen to Your Word, obey You, and tell others about Jesus.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Your toddler may remember this as:

the running song.

That's fine.

Let them move.

Let them laugh.

Let them pretend to be shepherds hurrying toward Bethlehem.

But while their little feet are moving, put the truth into their hearts.

The shepherds heard what God had revealed.

They responded.

They found exactly what had been told to them.

Then they went out telling others about Christ and:

“glorifying and praising God.”

So after the running is finished, ask one more time:

“Who were the shepherds hurrying to see?”

And when those little voices answer:

“Jesus!”

we have brought the activity exactly where it belongs.

NEXT: SONG 7

Angels Filled the Sky

Main Truth: The heavenly host praised God at the announcement of Christ's birth, declaring glory to God and peace according to His good pleasure.

SONG 7

Angels Filled the Sky

Main Truth

The angels announced the birth of Jesus, but the glory belonged to God.

This song gives us one of the biggest, most joyful moments in the Christmas account.

A shepherd's field that had been quiet suddenly became the setting for an extraordinary announcement. First, an angel told the shepherds that the Savior had been born. Then Scripture says there appeared:

“a multitude of the heavenly host praising God”

For toddlers, this song can be filled with wonder.

They can lift their arms.

Look toward the sky.

Sing:

“Glory to God!”

But there is an important truth underneath all that excitement.

The angels weren't asking anyone to admire or worship **them**.

They were praising **God** and announcing **Christ**.

That gives us the central lesson:

Jesus was born. Glory belongs to God!

Our KJV Scripture

Luke 2:8–12 (KJV)

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger.”

Then something remarkable happened:

Luke 2:13–14 (KJV)

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God,
and saying,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

There is the heart of our song:

“Glory to God in the highest.”

What This Song Teaches

Children may naturally become fascinated by angels.

That’s understandable.

The biblical scene is extraordinary.

But we don’t want the angels to become the center of the story.

Ask:

“What did the angel tell the shepherds?”

Jesus was born!

Then:

“Who were all the angels praising?”

God!

This teaches children how to read the Christmas story correctly.

The angel points toward Christ.

The heavenly host praises God.

The shepherds go looking for Christ.

Then the shepherds return:

“glorifying and praising God.”

God remains at the center.

Were They Actually Singing?

This is another place where familiar Christmas tradition can quietly become confused with Scripture.

We often say:

“The angels sang.”

Christmas songs frequently describe angels singing.

But notice the exact wording of the KJV:

Luke 2:13 (KJV)

“...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,”

Then verse 14 records what they **said**.

Scripture does not specifically tell us here that they sang.

So when we're teaching the biblical account itself, we should use biblical language:

The heavenly host praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest.”

Our songs can certainly use music to help children celebrate the account, but we don't want children eventually believing something is in Scripture simply because they heard it repeatedly in Christmas music.

This guide will keep returning to the same principle:

The Bible gets the final word.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Who was watching the sheep?

The shepherds!

Who appeared to them?

An angel!

Who was born?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

The Savior!

Who gets the glory?

God!

Then lift your hands and say together:

“Glory to God!”

For Ages 4–5

Ask:

What did the angel call Jesus?

“A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

What appeared with the angel?

A multitude of the heavenly host.

What were they doing?

Praising God.

What did they say?

“Glory to God in the highest.”

Then ask:

“Who should receive glory at Christmas?”

God.

What Does “Glory to God” Mean?

The word **glory** may be difficult for a toddler.

Don't overcomplicate it.

You can begin by saying:

“Giving glory to God means recognizing how great and wonderful He is.”

For the youngest children:

“God is great!”

“God is wonderful!”

“We praise God!”

As they grow, their understanding can deepen.

The important thing is that they begin learning that Christmas isn't about bringing attention to ourselves.

It points upward.

Glory to God.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When You Hear Christmas Bells

Ask:

“Do you remember what the heavenly host said?”

Then say together:

“Glory to God in the highest!”

When You See an Angel Decoration

Instead of stopping at:

“That's an angel,”

ask:

“What did the angel tell the shepherds?”

Jesus was born!

Then:

“Who did the heavenly host praise?”

God!

When You Look at the Night Sky

Say:

“The shepherds were outside at night when the angel came.”

Then read Luke 2:8–11.

Let the real night sky help your child imagine the setting.

When Your Child Becomes Excited About Christmas

Join their joy.

Then direct it.

Say:

“Christmas is exciting because Jesus came. Glory to God!”

Family Activity

Glory to God!

Have everyone crouch down and pretend to be shepherds watching sheep at night.

You can even let the children whisper:

“Baa... baa...”

Then say:

“The shepherds were watching their sheep when suddenly...”

Everyone stands.

Raise your hands.

Say together:

“GLORY TO GOD!”

Then lower your voices.

Ask:

“Why were they praising God?”

Because Jesus was born!

Repeat it:

“Who was born?”

Jesus!

“Who gets the glory?”

God!

For toddlers, the contrast between crouching quietly and standing joyfully will make the activity memorable.

Just make sure the excitement doesn't become screaming or chaos.

The purpose is joyful worship, not simply noise.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Glory to You, God.”

Child:

“Glory to You, God.”

Adult:

“Thank You for Jesus.”

Child:

“Thank You for Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Child:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Adult:

“Help us praise You.”

Child:

“Help us praise You.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

Luke 2:14 is quoted constantly during Christmas:

“**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**”

But the verse should not be reduced to a vague Christmas message about everyone simply getting along.

The announcement is connected directly to the birth of:

“**a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**”

Biblical peace cannot be separated from Christ.

The world often wants the language of:

peace,

love,

goodwill,

and joy

without the Lord Jesus Christ.

But the heavenly announcement did not offer a Christless Christmas sentiment.

The Savior had been born.

Christ the Lord had come.

And heaven's response was:

“Glory to God in the highest.”

The Angels Are Not the Stars of the Story

Our culture has a fascination with angels.

Sometimes angels are portrayed almost like cute magical creatures.

Other times people speak about deceased loved ones “becoming angels.”

That isn't what Scripture teaches.

Human beings do not become angels when they die.

And biblical angels are not fantasy characters.

They are created beings who serve God's purposes.

Hebrews says:

Hebrews 1:14 (KJV)

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

The Christmas account gives us a wonderful opportunity to establish biblical categories early.

If your child asks:

“What is an angel?”

you might simply say:

“Angels are beings God created who serve Him.”

Then immediately return to Luke 2:

“And these angels were praising God because Jesus had been born.”

“Fear Not”

There's another wonderful toddler lesson hidden in this account.

When the angel appeared:

Luke 2:9 (KJV)

“...they were sore afraid.”

Then the angel said:

Luke 2:10 (KJV)

“Fear not...”

Why?

Because he brought:

“good tidings of great joy.”

And what was the good news?

“For unto you is born... a Saviour.”

Even the words **“Fear not”** lead back to Christ.

If your child is frightened by something, don't turn this verse into a promise that nothing scary will ever happen.

Instead, teach the account accurately:

“The shepherds were afraid when the angel appeared. The angel told them not to fear because he was bringing wonderful news. Jesus had been born.”

The First Response Was Praise

Before the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem, before the wise men arrived later, before generations of Christians celebrated Christ's birth, heaven's announcement pointed immediately toward God's glory.

That gives us a beautiful question to ask ourselves:

What does our Christmas celebration say deserves glory?

Our home?

Our decorations?

Our gifts?

Our traditions?

Our cooking?

Our perfect family pictures?

Or God?

Parents and grandparents set the atmosphere.

Children notice what matters to us.

Let them hear you say:

“Thank You, God, for Jesus.”

Let them hear you pray.

Let them hear you praise God.

Let them see that Christ isn't a decoration in your Christmas.

He is the reason for your joy.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:14 (KJV)

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

For Ages 2–3

Begin with:

“Glory to God!”

That's enough.

Say it together several times.

Ask:

“Who gets the glory?”

God!

For Ages 4–5

Begin memorizing:

“Glory to God in the highest.”

Then gradually add:

“and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Use motions:

“Glory”

Lift your hands.

“to God”

Point upward.

“in the highest”

Reach high.

“on earth”

Point toward the ground.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Angels Filled the Sky

Read:

Luke 2:10–14

Ask:

“Who was born?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Who were the heavenly host praising?”

Answer:

“God!”

Say together:

“Glory to God in the highest!”

Truth:

“Jesus was born, and God deserves the glory.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus. May our Christmas bring glory to You.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Your child may love this song because of the big chorus.

They may stretch their little arms toward the ceiling.

They may shout:

“Glory to God!”

Let them.

Then teach them what they're saying.

The Christmas story is not ultimately about spectacular angels filling the sky.

The angels themselves directed attention away from themselves.

They announced:

the Savior.

Christ the Lord.

And then the heavenly host praised:

God.

That is where we want the hearts of our children to go too.

Not merely toward the wonder of angels.

Not merely toward the beauty of Christmas.

But upward, toward the One who sent His Son.

And may our homes join that ancient declaration:

“Glory to God in the highest.”

NEXT: SONG 8

Baby King Jesus

Main Truth: The child born at Bethlehem is not merely “Baby Jesus.” He is the promised King and is worthy of worship.

SONG 8

Baby King Jesus

Main Truth

The baby born in Bethlehem is Jesus Christ the King.

Little children naturally focus on the baby in the Christmas story.

They see a manger.

They see Mary and Joseph.

They see a tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.

And we want them to know His name:

Jesus.

But we don't want their understanding to stop with **"Baby Jesus."**

The baby in the manger is the promised Christ.

He is God's Son.

He is the Savior.

And He is **King**.

That is why the simple hook in this song carries such an important truth:

"Baby Jesus, King Jesus, Jesus is the King!"

Our KJV Scripture

When the wise men came looking for Christ, they asked:

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Notice their words.

They did not ask:

"Where is the child who will someday become king?"

They asked:

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews?”

Jesus was born King.

The angel Gabriel had already told Mary:

Luke 1:31–33 (KJV)

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

What a statement.

His kingdom shall have no end.

What This Song Teaches

The words “**Baby King Jesus**” put two ideas together that may seem very different to a toddler.

A **baby** seems small.

A **king** sounds great and powerful.

Jesus truly entered this world as a baby.

Luke tells us:

Luke 2:7 (KJV)

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger...”

But His small physical size did not change who He was.

The baby lying in the manger was:

Jesus.

God's Son.

Christ the Lord.

The King.

This gives us a wonderful opportunity to move children beyond merely thinking the manger scene is cute.

Ask:

“Who is that baby?”

Jesus!

Then:

“Who is Jesus?”

The King!

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Keep it very simple.

What is the baby's name?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Who is our King?

Jesus!

Then sing:

“Baby Jesus, King Jesus, Jesus is the King!”

For Ages 4–5

Add slightly deeper questions.

What did the wise men call Jesus?

King of the Jews.

What did they come to do?

Worship Him.

Will Jesus' kingdom end?

No!

Then read Luke 1:33:

“...and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

What Is a King?

Toddlers may know kings primarily from cartoons, costumes, castles, or storybooks.

That gives us an opportunity to correct their category.

You might explain:

“A king is a ruler. Jesus is the greatest King.”

Then as they grow, teach them that Jesus isn't an imaginary storybook king.

He is real.

He has authority.

He deserves obedience.

He deserves worship.

Revelation calls Him:

Revelation 19:16 (KJV)

“...KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

For a toddler, simply say:

“Jesus is King over everyone.”

Jesus Is Not a Pretend Christmas King

This distinction matters.

Christmas contains many imaginary characters and stories in popular culture.

We don't want children placing Jesus in the same mental category.

Jesus is not a Christmas character.

He is not part of a fairy tale.

He is not imaginary.

Jesus Christ is real.

His birth happened in history.

He truly lived.

He truly died.

He truly rose again.

And He truly is Lord.

When reading the Bible with your child, occasionally say:

“This really happened.”

That simple statement helps establish an important distinction in a young mind.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When Your Child Sees a Crown

Ask:

“Who is our King?”

Jesus!

If you see a crown in a book or decoration, use it as a reminder:

“Kings wear crowns. But Jesus is the King of kings.”

When You See the Manger

Ask two questions instead of one.

“Who is the baby?”

Jesus.

Then:

“Who is Jesus?”

The King!

This keeps the manger connected with Christ's identity.

When Your Child Wants to Be in Charge

Toddlers frequently want their own way.

That can become a surprisingly useful discipleship moment.

You might say:

“We don't get to be king. Jesus is King. We obey what God says.”

Obviously, this should not become a catchphrase used harshly every time a toddler struggles.

But children do need to learn that the Christian life is not about **being our own ruler**.

Jesus is Lord.

When You Pray

Occasionally use Christ's title in prayer:

“Thank You, Jesus, that You are our King.”

Children learn theology by listening to adults pray too.

Family Activity

Who Is the King?

Make a simple paper crown.

You don't need anything elaborate.

Let each child look at it or hold it.

Ask:

“Who wears a crown?”

A king!

Then ask:

“Who is the greatest King?”

Jesus!

Now play **Baby King Jesus**.

Every time the song says:

“Jesus is the King!”

everyone points upward.

Afterward, open the Bible and read Matthew 2:2.

Then say together:

“Jesus is the King!”

The paper crown is only an object lesson.

Do not make the activity primarily about children pretending to be kings and queens.

Keep bringing the crown back to **Christ**.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Jesus is our King.”

Child:

“Jesus is our King.”

Adult:

“Help us obey You.”

Child:

“Help us obey You.”

Adult:

“Help us worship Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us worship Jesus.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

There is a danger in sentimentalizing Jesus at Christmas.

We can become comfortable with Jesus as a baby because a baby appears non-threatening.

A baby in a manger doesn't confront our sin.

A baby doesn't appear to command our obedience.

A baby doesn't seem to challenge our authority over our own lives.

But Scripture does not allow us to leave Christ in the manger.

The child who was born is:

“Christ the Lord.”

The wise men sought:

“he that is born King of the Jews.”

Gabriel said:

“of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Christmas introduces us not merely to a baby.

It announces a **King**.

And kings possess authority.

If Jesus Is King, We Are Not

That truth reaches directly into Christian parenting.

Our culture encourages children from a very young age to think primarily in terms of:

What do I want?

What makes me happy?

What do I feel?

What do I prefer?

Those questions can quietly train a child to see himself as the center of his world.

Scripture presents something radically different.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is King.

Therefore, the fundamental question isn't:

“What do I want?”

It is:

“What does God say?”

Parents and grandparents can begin laying that foundation early.

When Scripture gives an instruction, say:

“We obey because God is God.”

When talking about Jesus, say:

“Jesus is our King.”

The words are simple.

The worldview behind them is enormous.

A King Worthy of Worship

The wise men said:

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

“...and are come to worship him.”

And when they found Christ:

Matthew 2:11 (KJV)

“...they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him...”

Notice again that the attention belongs to Jesus.

They didn't worship Mary.

They didn't worship the star.

They didn't worship the house.

They worshipped **Him**.

This is an important distinction to preserve when teaching the Christmas account.

Christ alone is worthy.

Jesus Is Still King

We should also avoid speaking as though Jesus were King only in the Christmas story.

He is King now.

The manger is empty.

Jesus is no longer a baby.

He died.

He was buried.

He rose again.

Scripture says:

Philippians 2:9–11 (KJV)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

That is where **Baby King Jesus** ultimately points.

The toddler begins with:

“Jesus is the King!”

As the child grows, we teach what that confession means.

Memory Verse

Luke 1:33 (KJV)

“And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

For Ages 2–3

Begin simply:

“Jesus is King.”

Then:

“His kingdom shall have no end.”

Ask:

“Will Jesus stop being King?”

No!

For Ages 4–5

Practice:

“...of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Use simple motions:

“**kingdom**”

Pretend to place a crown above your head.

“**no end**”

Stretch your arms wide.

Then ask:

“**Whose kingdom has no end?**”

Jesus'!

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Baby King Jesus

Read:

Matthew 2:1–2

Ask:

“Who were the wise men looking for?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“What did they call Him?”

Answer:

“King!”

Ask:

“Who is our King?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“**Baby Jesus is King Jesus.**”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for Jesus our King. Help us worship and obey Him.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

One of the most familiar images in all of Christmas is a baby lying in a manger.

Let your children see it.

Tell them His name.

Tell them what happened.

But don't leave Him there.

When your little one points toward the manger and says:

“**Baby Jesus!**”

answer warmly:

“**Yes. That's Jesus.**”

Then ask:

“**And who is Jesus?**”

Teach that little voice to answer:

“**Jesus is the King!**”

One day your child will understand far more than he or she understands today.

But the foundation can begin now.

The baby born in Bethlehem is not merely part of a sweet Christmas scene.

He is the Savior.

He is Lord.

He is God's Son.

And:

Jesus Christ is King.

NEXT: SONG 9

God Sent His Son

Main Truth: The birth of Jesus reveals the love of God. God loved the world and gave His only begotten Son.

SONG 9

God Sent His Son

Main Truth

God loved the world and sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

This song answers one of the most important questions we can ask about Christmas:

Why did God send Jesus?

The answer is not hidden.

Scripture tells us:

John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

For toddlers, we begin with a very simple truth:

God loved us so. He sent His Son.

Those words are easy enough for a little child to sing, but they introduce a truth that will take a lifetime to fully appreciate.

Christmas reveals God's love not merely through a warm feeling, but through what God **did**.

God sent His Son.

Our KJV Scripture

John 3:16–17 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Paul writes:

Galatians 4:4–5 (KJV)

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

And John says:

1 John 4:9 (KJV)

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”

Notice what Scripture repeatedly emphasizes:

God sent His Son.

What This Song Teaches

The chorus repeats:

**“God loved us so,
God loved us so,
He sent His Son
For me and you.”**

Toddlers may not understand all the theology behind those words yet.

That's okay.

Begin with three truths:

God loves.

God sent Jesus.

Jesus is God's Son.

Ask those questions repeatedly throughout the Christmas season.

“Who sent Jesus?”

God!

“Who is Jesus?”

God's Son!

“Why did God send His Son?”

Because God loved the world.

As your child grows, those simple answers can develop into a fuller understanding of the Gospel.

God's Love Is More Than a Feeling

Children hear the word **love** frequently.

“I love Mommy.”

“I love Grandpa.”

“I love my puppy.”

“I love Christmas cookies.”

“I love that toy.”

The same word gets used for many very different things.

This song gives us an opportunity to begin showing children that God's love is not merely an emotion.

God's love was demonstrated through action.

Scripture says:

1 John 4:10 (KJV)

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

God did not merely **say** He loved.

He sent His Son.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Who loves us?

God!

Who did God send?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Then say together:

“God loved us so!”

For Ages 4–5

Add:

Why did God send Jesus?

Because He loved the world.

Did we love God first?

No.

Who loved first?

God.

What did God give?

His only begotten Son.

Then read John 3:16 slowly.

Don't worry if every word isn't understood immediately.

Let your child begin hearing the actual language of Scripture.

“Only Begotten Son”

John 3:16 does not merely say God gave **a son**.

The KJV says:

“his only begotten Son.”

That wording matters.

Jesus is unique.

He is not merely one of many sons of God in the same sense.

He is the **only begotten Son**.

With toddlers, keep it simple:

“Jesus is God's only begotten Son.”

You don't need to launch into a complicated theological explanation.

But don't remove biblical language merely because it takes time to understand.

Children learn many words before they fully understand them.

Scripture can become part of their vocabulary too.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When You Tell Your Child “I Love You”

Add:

“And God showed His love by sending Jesus.”

Then ask:

“Who did God send?”

Jesus!

When Your Child Gives Someone Something

Say:

“You gave something because you love them.”

Then connect it:

“God gave His Son.”

This prepares naturally for our next song:

Jesus Is God's Gift.

When You See the Manger

Ask:

“Why is Jesus here?”

Then answer:

“God sent His Son.”

For an older child:

“God sent Jesus because He loved the world.”

When Your Child Asks Whether God Loves Them

Don't ground the answer merely in their circumstances or feelings.

Take them to Scripture.

Read:

1 John 4:9 (KJV)

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world...”

Then say:

“God showed His love by sending Jesus.”

Family Activity

God Sent His Son

You will need:

- A Bible
- A small globe, map, or simple drawing of the world

Hold up the world.

Ask:

“What is this?”

The world!

Then read the beginning of John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world...”

Ask:

“Who did God give?”

Jesus!

Now have the children gently hold the globe or point toward the picture while everyone says:

“God loved the world and sent His Son!”

Then open the Bible.

Tell them:

“We know this because God’s Word tells us.”

Finish by singing the chorus of *God Sent His Son*.

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For loving us.”

Child:

“For loving us.”

Adult:

“Thank You for sending Your Son.”

Child:

“Thank You for sending Your Son.”

Adult:

“Thank You for Jesus.”

Child:

“Thank You for Jesus.”

Adult:

“Help us love and obey You.”

Child:

“Help us love and obey You.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

John 3:16 is one of the most familiar verses in Scripture.

That familiarity can sometimes cause us to move over the words too quickly.

Look carefully:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave...”

God's love produced action.

What did He give?

“his only begotten Son”

Why?

“that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

This is far deeper than the modern idea that God's love means He simply affirms everything we want to be or do.

The same Bible that declares God's love also declares our need for salvation.

Why does **“perish”** appear in John 3:16?

Because sinful man has a real problem before a holy God.

Why do we need everlasting life?

Because we do not possess it naturally.

Why did God send His Son?

Because we needed salvation.

Christmas isn't God telling humanity:

“You're doing fine.”

Christmas is part of God's answer to humanity's desperate need.

He sent His Son.

Love Does Not Mean God Ignores Sin

This is an important truth for parents.

Sometimes Christian teaching about God's love becomes so sentimental that children receive the impression:

“God loves me, therefore whatever I do is okay.”

That isn't biblical love.

Romans tells us:

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Notice both truths:

God loved us.

And:

we were sinners.

God's love doesn't pretend sin isn't real.

God's love provided the Savior sinners need.

That is far greater.

“God Sent” Means Jesus Came With a Purpose

Galatians says:

Galatians 4:4–5 (KJV)

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son...
To redeem them that were under the law...”

Jesus wasn't sent merely to make Bethlehem famous.

He wasn't sent merely to give us a beautiful holiday.

He came to **redeem**.

That's why Song #9 belongs where it does in this album.

We've already sung about:

the birth,

Bethlehem,

the shepherds,

the angels,

the star,

and the King.

Now we're beginning to answer:

Why did God do all of this?

Because God was carrying out His plan of redemption.

Love Begins With God, Not Us

John writes:

1 John 4:10 (KJV)

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us...”

That corrects another common message children hear:

“Just be loving.”

Biblical love begins somewhere deeper.

It begins with God.

We don't define love according to our feelings.

God reveals what love is.

And one of the greatest demonstrations of that love is:

“he loved us, and sent his Son...”

So when your child sings:

“God loved us so,”

teach them where we know that love most clearly.

Look at Jesus.

Don't Promise Children That God's Love Means an Easy Life

When teaching toddlers that God loves them, avoid unintentionally saying things such as:

“God loves you, so nothing bad will happen.”

Scripture never promises that.

Christians experience pain.

Families experience loss.

Children become sick.

Difficult things happen.

God's love is not proven by our lives always feeling pleasant.

God has demonstrated His love decisively in Christ.

That foundation will become increasingly important as your child grows.

Memory Verse

John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

For Ages 2–3

Start with:

“God so loved the world.”

Then:

“He gave his... Son.”

Ask:

“Who is God's Son?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Break the verse into small pieces:

“For God so loved the world...”

“that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Then gradually add the remainder.

Use motions if helpful:

“God”

Point upward.

“loved”

Place hands over heart.

“world”

Make a circle with your arms.

“gave”

Extend both hands.

“Son”

Point upward again.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

God Sent His Son

Read:

John 3:16

Ask:

“Who loved the world?”

Answer:

“God!”

Ask:

“Who did God give?”

Answer:

“His Son!”

Ask:

“Who is God's Son?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“God loved us so. He sent His Son.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for loving us and sending Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Children hear the words **“I love you”** constantly.

We should say them.

Hold your children.

Hug your grandchildren.

Tell them you love them.

But teach them something greater than human love.

Teach them about the love of God.

And don't define God's love merely as a warm feeling.

Take them to the Bible.

Show them what God did.

When your little one sings:

“God loved us so,”

ask:

“How did God show His love?”

Then help that little voice answer:

“He sent Jesus!”

One day, by God's grace, that child may understand the depth behind those simple words.

For now, plant them faithfully:

God loved.

God gave.

God sent His Son.

And His name is:

Jesus.

NEXT: SONG 10

Jesus Is God's Gift

Main Truth: The greatest gift associated with Christmas is not something we give to God. It is the gift God gave to us, His Son, Jesus Christ.

SONG 10

Jesus Is God's Gift

Main Truth

God gave His Son, Jesus Christ. He is greater than anything we could ever find beneath a Christmas tree.

Toddlers understand presents.

They recognize brightly wrapped boxes. They know what ribbons and bows mean. As Christmas approaches, even very young children quickly discover that something exciting may be hiding inside those packages.

We don't need to pretend presents aren't exciting.

Instead, we can take something children already understand and use it to introduce a much greater truth:

God gave.

And what God gave was not a toy.

Not money.

Not something wrapped in paper.

God gave:

His only begotten Son.

That is the heart of *Jesus Is God's Gift*.

Our KJV Scripture

John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Paul writes:

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

And Scripture declares:

2 Corinthians 9:15 (KJV)

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

Christmas gives us a natural opportunity to teach children the language of **giving**.

But Scripture directs our attention toward the greatest Giver:

God.

And toward His Son:

Jesus Christ.

What This Song Teaches

One of the most memorable lines in this song says:

“You can't put Him in a box.

You can't tie a bow.”

A toddler immediately understands that picture.

Christmas gifts come in boxes.

Jesus doesn't.

Christmas gifts may have ribbons.

Jesus isn't another present beneath the tree.

The lyric is intentionally contrasting the temporary things children receive at Christmas with the immeasurable value of God's Son.

When your child sings:

“Jesus is God's gift,

God's gift, God's gift!”

use that moment.

Ask:

“Who did God give?”

Jesus!

Then:

“Who is Jesus?”

God's Son!

Be Careful How We Explain “Gift”

There is an important distinction parents and grandparents should understand.

We are not saying that Jesus is a “Christmas present” in the same way someone gives a child a bicycle or doll.

Scripture uses the language of God **giving His Son**, and it describes eternal life through Christ as:

“the gift of God.”

So when we say **“Jesus is God's gift,”** we are using that biblical truth to help children understand God's giving.

We should always let Scripture define what we mean.

God gave His Son so that sinners could be saved through Him.

That is far greater than merely saying:

“Jesus is the best Christmas present.”

The Gospel is deeper than a Christmas slogan.

Talking With Your Child

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Do you like presents?

Yes!

Who gives us the greatest gift?

God!

Who did God give?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Then sing:

“Jesus is God's gift!”

For Ages 4–5

Go a little deeper.

Can you buy Jesus in a store?

No.

Can you wrap Jesus in Christmas paper?

No.

Who gave His Son?

God.

Why did God give His Son?

Because He loved the world.

What does God give through Jesus Christ?

Eternal life.

Then read Romans 6:23.

Presents Are Not the Enemy

Parents sometimes react to Christmas materialism by making children feel guilty for enjoying presents.

That isn't necessary.

A child can enjoy opening a gift.

A family can enjoy giving.

The problem begins when **getting things becomes the heart of Christmas.**

Instead of constantly telling children:

“Christmas isn't about presents!”

give them something positive and greater:

“Presents can be fun. But do you know what we're most thankful for?”

Jesus.

This keeps the conversation centered on Christ rather than creating a battle over every Christmas tradition.

Everyday Christmas Moments

When You Wrap a Present

Let your toddler help.

As you put on the paper, ask:

“Can we wrap Jesus in this paper?”

They may laugh.

“No!”

Then ask:

“Who gave us Jesus?”

God!

When You Tie a Bow

Use the lyric.

Say:

“You can't put Jesus in a box, and you can't tie Him with a bow.”

Then:

“God gave His Son because He loved us.”

When Your Child Opens a Present

After the excitement settles, ask:

“Who gave you that present?”

Maybe Grandma.

Maybe Mom and Dad.

Then say:

“People give us gifts because they love us. And God showed His love by giving His Son.”

When Your Child Wants More

Christmas can expose discontent very quickly.

One present is opened.

Then another.

Soon the question becomes:

“Is there another one?”

That is a discipleship opportunity.

Don't shame the child.

Teach gratitude.

Say:

“Let's stop and thank God for what we've received.”

Then remind them:

“And most of all, we thank God for Jesus.”

Family Activity

The Empty Gift Box

Take an empty gift box.

Wrap it if you like.

Put a bow on top.

Let the child open it.

When they discover that it's empty, ask:

“Where is Jesus?”

Don't trick them or make the activity confusing.

Explain:

“Jesus isn't a toy that fits inside a Christmas box.”

Then open the Bible to John 3:16.

Read:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Ask:

“Who did God give?”

Children answer:

“Jesus!”

Then place the Bible inside or beside the open box, not to suggest that the Bible itself is the gift being described in John 3:16, but to remind the children:

“This is where God tells us about His Son.”

Finish by singing:

“Jesus is God's gift, God's gift, God's gift!”

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Thank You, God...”

Child:

“Thank You, God...”

Adult:

“For everything You give us.”

Child:

“For everything You give us.”

Adult:

“Most of all, thank You for Jesus.”

Child:

“Thank You for Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You for Your Son.”

Child:

“Thank You for Your Son.”

Adult:

“Help us be thankful.”

Child:

“Help us be thankful.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

Christmas can reveal something about our hearts.

We say we're celebrating Christ, yet enormous amounts of time, money, conversation, and anticipation can become centered around **things**.

Children learn from that.

They notice when adults become more excited about shopping than Scripture.

They notice when the biggest emotional moment of Christmas is opening presents.

They notice what receives our attention.

This doesn't mean every gift is sinful.

It means parents and grandparents should ask:

What are we teaching our children to treasure?

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:21 (KJV)

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

That verse isn't specifically about Christmas.

But Christmas provides an excellent opportunity to examine what our family treasures.

God's Gift Addresses Our Greatest Need

A child naturally thinks the greatest gift is the thing they most want.

A bicycle.

A doll.

A game.

A puppy.

Adults aren't much different.

We tend to define “good” according to what makes life more comfortable or enjoyable.

But God looked at humanity's greatest problem.

Our greatest need was not entertainment.

It was not more possessions.

It was not higher self-esteem.

Our problem was **sin**.

Romans says:

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Look at the contrast:

Sin earns wages.

Those wages are death.

But eternal life is:

“the gift of God.”

And it comes:

“through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

That is why God's giving is so extraordinary.

He addressed the need we could never solve ourselves.

A Gift Cannot Be Earned

This truth will become more important as children grow.

If something is earned as wages, it isn't a gift.

If Grandma gives a child a present and then says:

“You owe me \$20 for that,”

it wasn't really a gift.

Scripture deliberately contrasts:

wages

with

gift.

We earn the wages of sin.

But eternal life cannot be earned by good behavior.

It is God's gift through Jesus Christ.

Later, your child will need to understand:

Being good cannot save me.

Going to church cannot save me.

Being baptized cannot save me.

Having Christian parents cannot save me.

Jesus saves.

That foundation can begin with one simple toddler song:

“Jesus is God's gift.”

Don't Turn God's Gift Into “You Deserve It”

There is another important distinction.

Modern advertising often tells people:

“You deserve something special.”

That is not the message of the Gospel.

God did not give His Son because humanity deserved Him.

Scripture says:

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Grace is amazing precisely because it is **undeserved**.

As children grow, help them understand the difference between:

“God gave because I deserved it”

and

“God gave because He is gracious and loving.”

The second is biblical.

Gratitude Changes Christmas

One of the healthiest things we can cultivate in children is thanksgiving.

Instead of constantly asking:

“What do you want for Christmas?”

also ask:

“What can we thank God for?”

Let them answer.

Mommy.

Daddy.

Grandma.

Food.

Our home.

A favorite toy.

Those are fine.

Then always bring them back:

“And who are we especially thankful for?”

Jesus.

Scripture says:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Christmas can become a training ground for gratitude instead of greed.

Memory Verse

John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

We used John 3:16 in the previous chapter, and we're intentionally using it again.

Toddlers learn through repetition.

For Ages 2–3

Practice:

“God... gave his... Son.”

Then ask:

“Who is God's Son?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Work toward:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Use motions:

“God”

Point upward.

“loved”

Hands over heart.

“world”

Make a circle with your arms.

“gave”

Extend your hands outward.

“Son”

Point upward.

Bonus Memory Verse

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

For older preschoolers, begin learning:

“...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Parents can read the entire verse aloud:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Then ask:

“Through whom does God give eternal life?”

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Jesus Is God's Gift

Read:

John 3:16

Ask:

“Who gave?”

Answer:

“God!”

Ask:

“What did God give?”

Answer:

“His Son!”

Ask:

“Who is God's Son?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Truth:

“God gave His Son.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for giving Your only begotten Son. Help us treasure Jesus more than the

things we receive.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Your toddler may tear through Christmas wrapping paper in seconds.

They may become more interested in the box than the gift.

They may hug a new toy and carry it everywhere.

Enjoy those moments.

Childhood passes quickly.

But while you're making those memories, keep planting something deeper.

Someday the toys will break.

The batteries will die.

The clothes will be outgrown.

The wrapping paper will be thrown away.

Many Christmas gifts that once seemed incredibly important will eventually be forgotten.

But God's Son is not temporary.

And the life God gives through Him is:

everlasting.

So when your little one holds up a present and smiles, smile with them.

Then sometime during the day ask:

“Do you remember God's greatest giving?”

And teach that little heart to answer:

“God gave Jesus.”

NEXT: SONG 11

Christmas Is About Jesus

Main Truth: Everything we have learned throughout this album comes together in one simple confession: Christmas is about Jesus Christ.

SONG 11

Christmas Is About Jesus

Main Truth

Christmas is about Jesus Christ.

We've traveled a long way through *The Shepherd's Meadow*.

We've welcomed the children into Christmas.

We've celebrated the birth of Jesus.

We've traveled toward Bethlehem.

We've watched the shepherds hurry to see what the Lord had made known.

We've heard the heavenly host give glory to God.

We've followed the biblical account of the star and the wise men.

We've learned that the baby born in Bethlehem is **King Jesus**.

We've learned why God sent His Son.

And we've learned about the greatest giving of all:

God gave His only begotten Son.

Now we bring those truths together in one sentence simple enough for even the youngest child to remember:

Christmas is about Jesus!

Not merely baby Jesus in a manger.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus Christ, the Savior.

Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Jesus Christ, the King.

Our KJV Scripture

The angel's announcement gives us the heart of the Christmas message:

Luke 2:10–11 (KJV)

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Matthew tells us why He came:

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

And John tells us why God gave Him:

John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Put those truths together:

Jesus was born.

Jesus is the Savior.

Jesus is Christ the Lord.

Jesus came to save His people from their sins.

God gave His only begotten Son.

That's why our answer is so simple:

Christmas is about Jesus.

What This Song Teaches

The song intentionally mentions familiar Christmas things:

Christmas lights are shining.

Christmas bells may ring.

We can see the presents.

We can see the tree.

None of those things is allowed to become the point.

The lyric immediately redirects the child:

**“But Christmas is about Jesus,
Our Savior and our King.”**

That's the purpose of the song.

We don't need to pretend children aren't going to notice presents.

They will.

We don't need to pretend they won't become excited about decorations.

They probably will.

Instead, we repeatedly bring their attention back to Christ.

“Those lights are beautiful. Who is Christmas about?”

Jesus!

“Look at all those presents. Who did God give?”

Jesus!

“We're decorating our tree. Who are we celebrating?”

Jesus!

Eventually the response becomes almost automatic:

“Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!”

And that's exactly what we want the hook to accomplish.

Talking With Your Child

This chapter allows us to review the entire album.

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Who is Christmas about?

Jesus!

Who was born?

Jesus!

Who is God's Son?

Jesus!

Who is our King?

Jesus!

Who is our Savior?

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Ask:

Where was Jesus born?

Bethlehem.

Who heard the angel's announcement?

The shepherds.

What did the heavenly host say?

“Glory to God in the highest.”

Who came looking for the King?

The wise men.

Why did Jesus come?

To save His people from their sins.

Why did God send His Son?

Because God loved the world.

Then finish with:

“So what is Christmas about?”

“Jesus!”

Don't Stop With “Jesus Is the Reason for the Season”

Christians sometimes use the phrase:

“Jesus is the reason for the season.”

The thought can be helpful.

But we want our children to know more than a slogan.

Ask:

“Who is Jesus?”

That's where the real teaching begins.

If all a child learns is:

“Christmas is about Jesus,”

but never learns who Jesus is, we haven't gone far enough.

So connect the statement with biblical truth.

Christmas is about Jesus.

Who is He?

“a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Why did He come?

“he shall save his people from their sins.”

Who sent Him?

God.

Why?

“For God so loved the world...”

Now **“Christmas is about Jesus”** has biblical substance behind it.

Everyday Christmas Moments

This song can become the family's recurring Christmas question.

When You Turn On the Christmas Tree

Ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

Jesus!

When Presents Appear

Ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

Jesus!

Then:

“Who did God give?”

His Son!

When You Drive Past Christmas Lights

Ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

Jesus!

When You Hear Christmas Music in a Store

Ask quietly:

“Who are we celebrating?”

Jesus!

When You See a Nativity

Ask:

“Who is the baby?”

Jesus!

“Who is Jesus?”

God's Son!

On Christmas Morning

Before the presents are opened, gather everyone together.

Open the Bible.

Read Luke 2:10–11.

Then ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

Let the children answer before anything else begins.

“Jesus!”

That may become one of the most valuable traditions your family establishes.

Family Activity

Point to Jesus

Gather several familiar Christmas objects or pictures.

For example:

- A Christmas light
- A wrapped present
- A star
- A bell
- A sheep
- A small tree
- A Bible
- A nativity picture

Hold up each object.

Ask:

“Is this what Christmas is ultimately about?”

The children answer:

“No!”

Then ask:

“Who is Christmas about?”

“Jesus!”

Now use the objects to point back to Him.

Hold up the star:

“Who did the wise men come to see?”

Jesus!

Hold up the sheep:

“Who was watching sheep?”

The shepherds!

“Who did they hurry to see?”

Jesus!

Hold up the present:

“Who did God give?”

Jesus!

Hold up the Bible:

“Where do we learn the truth about Jesus?”

God's Word!

Finish together:

“Christmas is about Jesus!”

Family Prayer

Parent or Grandparent:

“Father, thank You...”

Child:

“Thank You...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Jesus is our Savior.”

Child:

“Jesus is our Savior.”

Adult:

“Jesus is our King.”

Child:

“Jesus is our King.”

Adult:

“Help us remember Jesus.”

Child:

“Help us remember Jesus.”

Adult:

“Help our Christmas honor You.”

Child:

“Help our Christmas honor You.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

This song may be written for toddlers, but its message challenges adults too.

It is easy to say:

“Christmas is about Jesus.”

It is harder to examine our lives and ask:

Does the way we celebrate demonstrate that?

Consider the amount of attention we give to:

shopping,

decorating,

cooking,

traveling,

parties,

photographs,

gifts,

traditions,

and entertainment.

Then consider the attention given to:

Scripture,

prayer,

worship,

teaching our children,

talking about Christ,

and thanking God for His Son.

This isn't about creating a legalistic Christmas checklist.

It's about examining what has captured our hearts.

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:21 (KJV)

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Our children are watching what we treasure.

Don't Give Jesus a Small Corner of Christmas

It is possible to have a Christmas celebration filled with Christian decorations and still give very little attention to Christ.

A nativity can sit quietly on a shelf while almost every conversation centers on presents.

Christian Christmas music can play in the background while no one talks about the words.

A Bible can remain unopened while the family spends hours celebrating.

Jesus doesn't need a ceremonial mention so we can say we kept Him in Christmas.

We want something much more genuine.

We want Christ woven naturally throughout our family life.

Read about Him.

Sing about Him.

Talk about Him.

Thank God for Him.

Tell the children why He came.

Let them hear adults speak the name of Jesus with reverence and love.

Christmas Does Not Make Jesus Important

This is another distinction worth teaching as children grow.

Jesus isn't important **because Christmas celebrates Him.**

Christmas matters because **Jesus is important.**

Christ doesn't receive significance from a holiday.

He is Lord whether anyone celebrates Christmas or not.

Paul writes:

Colossians 1:16–17 (KJV)

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

The baby in Bethlehem is the Creator.

That truth should humble us.

Christmas isn't humanity giving Jesus a special day.

It is humanity remembering the extraordinary truth that **the Son of God came into this world.**

Don't Pack Jesus Away in January

This may be the most important lesson of the chapter.

Eventually the Christmas tree comes down.

The lights are removed.

The decorations return to boxes.

The Christmas music stops playing.

The presents find their places.

Life returns to normal.

But:

Jesus is still Lord.

If Jesus becomes the center of our family only during December, we've missed the purpose.

The truths on this album belong to every month.

In January:

Jesus is God's Son.

In March:

Jesus is King.

In June:

Jesus is the Savior.

In September:

God still loved the world and gave His only begotten Son.

And every day:

Jesus Christ is Lord.

From the Manger to the Cross

If Christmas is truly about Jesus, then eventually we must follow Jesus beyond Bethlehem.

The Christmas story does not end in Luke 2.

Jesus grew.

He lived without sin.

He taught.

He healed.

He fulfilled the Father's will.

He went to the cross.

He died for our sins.

He was buried.

And He rose again.

Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (KJV)

“...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

The child in the manger is the Savior who went to the cross.

That is why we celebrate His coming.

The Question We Want Them to Remember

If your child remembers only one question from this entire Christmas album, let it be:

“What is Christmas about?”

And let the answer come quickly:

“Jesus!”

But as they grow, keep adding to that answer.

Jesus, God's Son.

Jesus, the Savior.

Jesus, Christ the Lord.

Jesus, the King.

Jesus, who died for our sins.

Jesus, who rose again.

The toddler answer grows into the Gospel.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

We've returned to this verse intentionally.

It has become one of the anchors of our Christmas journey.

For Ages 2–3

Practice:

“A Saviour... Christ the Lord.”

Ask:

“Who is the Savior?”

Jesus!

For Ages 4–5

Work toward the entire verse.

Then ask three questions:

Who was born?

Jesus.

Who is He?

The Savior.

Who is He?

Christ the Lord.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Christmas Is About Jesus

Read:

Luke 2:10–11

Ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Who is Jesus?”

Answer:

“Our Savior and King!”

Truth:

Christmas is about Jesus Christ.

Pray:

“Father, thank You for Your Son. Help our family keep Jesus at the center of Christmas and at the center of our lives.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

Someday your little one will be grown.

Christmas will look different.

They may have children of their own.

They may decorate their own home.

Buy their own presents.

Prepare their own Christmas dinner.

And perhaps, one December, they will hear a child ask:

“What is Christmas about?”

What a gift it would be if the answer had been planted so deeply that it comes without hesitation.

Not:

the presents.

Not:

the tree.

Not:

the lights.

Not:

the decorations.

Not even:

the family traditions.

But:

Jesus.

And not merely the baby of a Christmas story.

Jesus Christ.

God's only begotten Son.

The Savior.

The Lord.

The King.

That's the truth we've been building toward through every song.

Christmas is about Jesus.

NEXT: SONG 12

Good Night, Baby Jesus

Main Truth: We close our Christmas journey quietly thanking God for sending His Son, while remembering that Jesus did not remain a baby. He is our Savior and Lord.

SONG 12

Good Night, Baby Jesus

Main Truth

We end our Christmas journey thanking God for sending Jesus Christ, His Son and our Savior.

The album began with excitement.

We welcomed the children into *Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow*. We clapped, sang, traveled to Bethlehem, hurried with the shepherds, looked toward the star, heard the heavenly host praise God, and learned that the baby born in Bethlehem is **King Jesus**.

Now everything becomes quiet.

The stars are shining.

Bethlehem settles into the night.

The shepherds have returned, glorifying and praising God.

And our little children are getting sleepy.

Good Night, Baby Jesus gives us a gentle way to close the album, but there is something important we must make clear:

Jesus did not remain a baby.

We may end our Christmas story at the manger tonight, but the story of Jesus continues.

The baby born in Bethlehem is **Jesus Christ the Lord**.

Our KJV Scripture

Luke tells us:

Luke 2:6–7 (KJV)

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

After the shepherds had seen Him:

Luke 2:20 (KJV)

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

And years later, Scripture tells us:

Luke 2:52 (KJV)

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Jesus grew.

The manger was the beginning of His earthly life, not the end of His story.

What This Song Teaches

The chorus says:

**“Good night, Baby Jesus.
Good night, God's Son.”**

Those two phrases belong together.

Baby Jesus.

God's Son.

We don't want a toddler's understanding of Jesus to stop with the image of a helpless infant.

Even while singing a lullaby-style song, we keep identifying Him.

He is:

God's Son.

Our Savior.

Heaven's precious Light.

The quietness of the song gives parents and grandparents an opportunity to slow everything down and simply thank God.

No presents.

No excitement.

No rushing.

Just:

“Thank You, God, for Jesus.”

Talking With Your Child

Bedtime conversations should be simple.

This isn't the moment for a twenty-minute lesson.

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

Who was the baby in the manger?

Jesus!

Who is Jesus?

God's Son!

Who sent Jesus?

God!

Then say:

“Thank You, God, for Jesus.”

For Ages 4–5

Ask:

Did Jesus stay a baby?

No.

What happened?

Jesus grew.

Why did Jesus come?

To save.

Who is Jesus now?

Our Savior and King.

Then remind them:

“Jesus is alive.”

That last truth is especially important.

Did Baby Jesus “Sleep Through the Night”?

Because this is a lullaby, it is worth distinguishing the poetic language of the song from what Scripture actually tells us.

The Bible tells us Jesus was laid in a manger.

It does **not** tell us exactly how He slept that night.

So when the song uses bedtime language such as:

“Sleep through the night,”

we should understand it as the affectionate language of a children's lullaby, not a biblical statement about Christ's sleeping pattern.

This is another opportunity to teach parents the principle we've followed throughout the guide:

Songs help us teach. Scripture tells us what happened.

Where Scripture speaks, we speak confidently.

Where Scripture is silent, we don't pretend to know.

A Quiet Christmas Bedtime

Christmas can be overstimulating for toddlers.

Lights.

Music.

Visitors.

Travel.

Food.

Presents.

Noise.

Excitement.

By bedtime, little children may be exhausted.

That makes the final moments of the day especially valuable.

Turn down the noise.

Sit together.

Play *Good Night, Baby Jesus* quietly.

Then open the Bible.

Read just one verse:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Then say:

“That's why we're thankful tonight.”

No complicated lesson is necessary.

Let the last name your child hears connected with Christmas be:

Jesus.

Everyday Christmas Moments

At Bedtime

Ask:

“What was your favorite thing today?”

Let your child answer.

Then ask:

“And who are we thankful God sent?”

Jesus.

Finish:

“Good night. God gave us a wonderful Christmas truth to remember. Jesus came.”

When Turning Off the Christmas Lights

As the room becomes dark, say:

“The Christmas lights are going off, but Jesus doesn't disappear when Christmas is over.”

For a toddler:

“Jesus is still our King.”

When Putting Away Decorations

This becomes especially helpful after Christmas.

As ornaments and decorations go back into boxes, say:

“We're putting our Christmas things away, but are we putting Jesus away?”

No!

Then say:

“That's right. We love and follow Jesus every day.”

When Your Child Is Afraid at Night

Don't tell them nothing bad can ever happen.

Instead, teach them to pray and trust God.

You might say:

“Let's talk to God.”

Then pray simply:

“Father, help us trust You. Thank You for Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Teach them that prayer is not a magical formula. We pray because God is God and we depend upon Him.

Family Activity

Christmas Night Thank-You

Before bed, dim the lights and sit together.

If you have a nativity nearby, you may place it where the children can see it.

Ask each child:

“What can we thank God for?”

Let them answer freely.

Maybe:

Mommy.

Daddy.

Grandma.

Food.

A toy.

Scout.

Their bed.

Those answers are fine.

Then say:

“Those are good things to thank God for. Now what are we especially thankful God gave?”

Jesus!

Everyone says together:

“Thank You, God, for Jesus.”

Then read Luke 2:11 and sing the final chorus of *Good Night, Baby Jesus* quietly.

Family Prayer

This prayer can become a simple Christmas bedtime prayer.

Parent or Grandparent:

“Father, thank You...”

Child:

“Thank You...”

Adult:

“For sending Jesus.”

Child:

“For sending Jesus.”

Adult:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Child:

“Thank You for our Savior.”

Adult:

“Thank You for our King.”

Child:

“Thank You for our King.”

Adult:

“Help us love You.”

Child:

“Help us love You.”

Adult:

“Help us obey Your Word.”

Child:

“Help us obey Your Word.”

Together:

“In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Digging Deeper for Parents and Grandparents

There is something beautiful about ending the album quietly.

But Christian parents must guard against allowing Jesus to remain forever frozen in the imagery of Bethlehem.

The world is often comfortable with **baby Jesus**.

A baby seems harmless.

A manger scene can become sentimental.

It can be displayed without anyone confronting the claims of Christ.

But the Bible moves forward.

Jesus grew.

He taught.

He called people to repentance.

He declared truth.

He exposed sin.

He went to the cross.

He died.

He was buried.

He rose again.

And He is Lord.

The angel's announcement was never merely:

“A baby has been born.”

It was:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Never let the tenderness of the manger obscure the identity of the One lying there.

The Shepherds Went Home Changed

Luke gives us a wonderful detail at the end of their visit:

Luke 2:20 (KJV)

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen...”

They returned.

Back to ordinary life.

Back to the sheep.

Back to work.

Back to whatever responsibilities awaited them.

But they returned **glorifying and praising God**.

That's a wonderful picture for the end of our Christmas album.

Eventually we return too.

Christmas ends.

Schedules resume.

Children return to ordinary routines.

Adults return to work.

The decorations come down.

But we should not return unchanged.

We have been reminded again:

God sent His Son.

Christmas Should Lead to Worship

At the beginning of the album, we invited children to celebrate.

At the end, we want celebration to settle into something deeper:

Worship.

The shepherds glorified God.

The heavenly host praised God.

The wise men worshipped Christ.

And our response should not merely be:

“That was a nice Christmas story.”

We should worship.

For toddlers, worship begins very simply.

“Thank You, God.”

“I love You, Jesus.”

“Jesus is King.”

As children grow, teach them that worship is more than singing.

We worship God by believing Him, obeying Him, honoring Him, and giving Him the glory He deserves.

Don't Let Christmas End at Bethlehem

Parents and grandparents have an important responsibility after finishing this guide.

Keep going.

Read about Jesus growing.

Read His words.

Read His miracles.

Read about the cross.

Read about the empty tomb.

Let children discover that the Jesus they met in the Christmas story is the same Jesus they encounter throughout Scripture.

Eventually, take them to:

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (KJV)

“...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

Christmas says:

He came.

The Gospel tells us why.

Jesus Is Alive

This may be the most important truth to add to a Christmas bedtime song.

Jesus isn't still lying in Bethlehem.

He isn't still on the cross.

He isn't in the tomb.

After His resurrection, the angel declared:

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.”

As your children grow, connect Christmas and Resurrection Sunday.

The baby who came:

grew.

The Savior:

died for our sins.

The Lord:

rose again.

Jesus Christ is alive.

Memory Verse

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

It is fitting that we finish our final song chapter with the verse that has anchored so much of this guide.

For Ages 2–3

Ask:

“Who was born?”

Jesus!

Then say:

“Jesus is the Savior.”

Have them repeat:

“Jesus is the Savior.”

For Ages 4–5

Work toward reciting the entire verse.

Then ask:

“What three things does this verse tell us?”

He was **born**.

He is the **Savior**.

He is **Christ the Lord**.

One More Verse to Carry Beyond Christmas

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.”

Parents can explain:

“Jesus didn't stay a baby, and He didn't stay in the grave. Jesus rose again.”

That takes the child beyond Christmas and toward the complete Gospel.

Five Minutes at the Manger

Sing:

Good Night, Baby Jesus

Read:

Luke 2:11

Ask:

“Who did God send?”

Answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Who is Jesus?”

Answer:

“Our Savior and Lord!”

Ask:

“Did Jesus stay a baby?”

Answer:

“No!”

Truth:

“Jesus came, Jesus grew, Jesus died for our sins, and Jesus rose again.”

Pray:

“Father, thank You for sending Your Son. Thank You for our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help our family love You, obey Your Word, and follow Jesus every day.”

A Final Word to Parents and Grandparents

The child beside you will not remain little.

There will come a Christmas when those tiny hands no longer clap to these songs.

There will come a night when you no longer carry that sleepy child to bed.

There will come a year when they no longer need help saying:

“Bethlehem.”

Childhood moves quickly.

But that is exactly why these years matter.

While their hearts are young, tell them the truth.

Tell them:

God sent His Son.

Tell them:

Jesus came to save.

Tell them:

Jesus is King.

Tell them:

God’s Word is true.

Tell them:

Jesus died for our sins.

Tell them:

Jesus rose again.

And when another Christmas day finally grows quiet, hold that little child close and remind them one more time:

“Christmas is about Jesus.”

Then pray.

Turn out the light.

And let the final words of our journey be words of thanksgiving:

Thank You, God, for sending Your Son.

Thank You for Jesus.

END OF THE 12-SONG GUIDE

NEXT SECTION

Bringing Christmas Home

A closing section for parents and grandparents with practical ideas for carrying these truths through Christmas morning, family gatherings, gift-giving, bedtime, and beyond December.

BRINGING CHRISTMAS HOME

Helping Little Hearts Carry Jesus Beyond the Songs

The final song has ended.

The children may be getting sleepy.

The Christmas lights are still glowing.

But our work as parents and grandparents isn't finished when the music stops.

In many ways, this is where the most important part begins.

The twelve songs in *Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow* were never meant simply to entertain toddlers for a few minutes.

Each song planted a truth:

Jesus was born.

God keeps His Word.

Jesus came to save.

Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus is King.

God gave His Son because He loved the world.

Christmas is about Jesus.

Now we want those truths to move from the songs into everyday family life.

You Are Your Child's Teacher

God never intended the spiritual instruction of children to belong only to churches, Sunday schools, Christian schools, or children's programs.

Scripture places that responsibility directly into the home.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (KJV)

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou

sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Notice how ordinary that sounds.

Sitting.

Walking.

Lying down.

Getting up.

God's truth belongs in everyday life.

You don't need a classroom.

You don't need a theology degree.

You don't need an elaborate lesson plan.

You need an open Bible, a willing heart, and the determination to faithfully teach what God has said.

Keep It Simple for Little Hearts

With toddlers, longer isn't necessarily better.

A two-minute conversation repeated throughout the week may accomplish far more than a thirty-minute lesson a child cannot follow.

Ask one question.

Teach one truth.

Read one verse.

Sing one chorus.

Pray one simple prayer.

Then do it again another day.

Repetition isn't failure.

For little children, repetition is often how learning happens.

Your child may want to hear the same song twenty times.

Use that.

Every repetition gives you another opportunity to reinforce the truth inside the song.

Our 12 Christmas Truths

Here is a simple way to review the entire album with your child.

1. Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Truth:

We are celebrating Jesus.

2. Happy Birthday, Jesus

Truth:

Jesus Christ was truly born.

3. Baby Jesus Came

Truth:

Jesus came to save.

4. The Christmas Star

Truth:

The star led the wise men toward Jesus.

5. Away to Bethlehem

Truth:

God kept His Word. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

6. The Shepherds Ran

Truth:

The shepherds heard God's message, hurried to see Jesus, and told others.

7. Angels Filled the Sky

Truth:

The heavenly host praised God.

8. Baby King Jesus

Truth:

Jesus is King.

9. God Sent His Son

Truth:

God loved the world and sent His Son.

10. Jesus Is God's Gift

Truth:

God gave His only begotten Son.

11. Christmas Is About Jesus

Truth:

Jesus Christ belongs at the center of our Christmas.

12. Good Night, Baby Jesus

Truth:

Jesus didn't remain a baby. He grew, fulfilled the Father's will, died for our sins, and rose again.

Those twelve truths are far more valuable than twelve songs.

The songs simply help little hearts remember them.

Christmas Morning

Christmas morning may be the hardest time to keep children's attention centered on Christ.

They know presents are waiting.

Trying to give a lengthy Bible lesson while toddlers stare at wrapped packages probably won't produce the family worship experience you imagined.

So keep it short and meaningful.

Before opening presents, gather everyone together.

Open the Bible.

Read:

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Then ask:

“Who is Christmas about?”

Let the children answer:

“Jesus!”

Ask:

“Who did God give?”

“Jesus!”

Then pray:

“Father, thank You for giving Your Son. Help us remember Jesus while we enjoy this day together. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Then enjoy Christmas morning.

While Opening Presents

You don't need to preach between every package.

Let children enjoy themselves.

But use natural moments.

When Grandma gives a present:

“What do you say?”

“Thank you!”

Then later:

“Who should we thank for Jesus?”

God!

If your child becomes dissatisfied because someone else received something they wanted, don't simply dismiss it as:

“They're only little.”

Little hearts are already learning what to treasure.

Use the moment to teach gratitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Christmas gives us many opportunities to practice saying:

“Thank you.”

At the Christmas Table

Before eating, slow down.

Children need to see adults thanking God.

You might pray:

“Father, thank You for this food. Thank You for our family. Most of all, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us honor You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Then during the meal, ask one easy question:

“Can anyone tell me where Jesus was born?”

Bethlehem!

Or:

“Who heard the angel's message?”

The shepherds!

Keep it natural.

Family discipleship doesn't have to feel like a quiz show.

When Family Members Visit

Grandparents have an especially wonderful opportunity.

Children often remember things grandparents repeat.

Instead of asking only:

“What did you get for Christmas?”

ask:

“What Christmas song have you been singing?”

Then:

“What did that song teach you about Jesus?”

If they can't answer, help them.

The goal isn't to test them.

The goal is to talk about Christ.

Make Scripture More Important Than the Songs

We hope children love these songs.

We hope they ask for them again and again.

But there is something far more important than this album.

The Bible.

The songs should lead children toward Scripture, never replace it.

Don't say:

“The song says...”

when you can eventually show them:

“The Bible says...”

Let them see you open the Bible.

Let them watch your finger move across the page.

Tell them:

“This is God's Word.”

Read it aloud.

Even when they cannot understand every word yet, you are establishing something important:

Truth comes from God's Word.

Don't Be Afraid of KJV Words

Some parents worry that children cannot understand the language of the King James Bible.

Toddlers certainly won't understand every word.

Neither will they understand every word adults use around them.

That's how vocabulary develops.

When Scripture says:

Saviour,

teach them **Saviour**.

When Scripture says:

swaddling clothes,

explain what that means.

When Scripture says:

manger,

show them.

When Scripture says:

only begotten Son,

let them hear those words.

Understanding grows over time.

We don't need to rewrite Scripture into toddler language.

We can read God's Word accurately and then **explain it simply**.

Don't Manufacture a Salvation Experience

Parents and grandparents naturally desire to see their children come to Christ.

That desire is good.

But be careful.

A toddler can learn to give adults the answer they know the adult wants.

“Who loves you?”

God!

“Who died for you?”

Jesus!

“Do you want Jesus?”

Yes!

That does not necessarily mean the child understands sin, repentance, faith, the cross, or salvation.

Don't pressure children into repeating a prayer simply so you can mark a spiritual milestone.

Instead:

Teach faithfully.

Answer questions honestly.

Explain sin biblically.

Teach the cross.

Teach the resurrection.

Pray for them.

Live Christ before them.

And trust God to work through His Word.

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Our responsibility is not to manufacture conversion.

Our responsibility is to faithfully give them God's truth.

Let Them See Your Christianity

Children will eventually notice whether Christianity exists only in your words.

They hear:

“Jesus is King.”

But do they see Mom and Dad obey Him?

They hear:

“The Bible is God's Word.”

But do they see anyone reading it?

They hear:

“We should pray.”

But do they hear you pray?

They hear:

“Christmas is about Jesus.”

But does your Christmas actually demonstrate that?

Your example will never be perfect.

When you sin, don't pretend otherwise.

Let your children hear you say:

“Daddy was wrong.”

“Mommy shouldn't have spoken that way.”

“Please forgive me.”

That teaches something too.

Christian parenting isn't showing children perfect parents.

It is showing children parents who genuinely live under the authority of Christ and His Word.

A Simple 12-Day Christmas Countdown

You can use the album as a twelve-day family Christmas journey.

Each day:

Play one song.

Read one verse.

Ask one question.

Pray one prayer.

That's it.

For example:

Day 1: Welcome to Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow

Read Luke 2:11.

Day 2: Happy Birthday, Jesus

Read Luke 2:6–7.

Day 3: Baby Jesus Came

Read Matthew 1:21.

Day 4: The Christmas Star

Read Matthew 2:2.

Day 5: Away to Bethlehem

Read Luke 2:4–7.

Day 6: The Shepherds Ran

Read Luke 2:15–17.

Day 7: Angels Filled the Sky

Read Luke 2:13–14.

Day 8: Baby King Jesus

Read Matthew 2:2.

Day 9: God Sent His Son

Read John 3:16.

Day 10: Jesus Is God's Gift

Read Romans 6:23.

Day 11: Christmas Is About Jesus

Read Luke 2:11.

Day 12: Good Night, Baby Jesus

Read Luke 2:20, then remind them that Jesus grew, died for our sins, and rose again.

You now have a simple Christmas devotional built directly around the album.

After Christmas

This may be the most important section in the entire guide.

When December 26 arrives, don't stop teaching Jesus.

The songs may be Christmas songs.

Jesus is not seasonal.

Continue reading Scripture.

Continue praying.

Continue teaching obedience.

Continue talking about sin and forgiveness.

Continue telling your children about Christ.

Move from Bethlehem into the rest of the Gospel accounts.

Show them Jesus growing.

Show them Jesus teaching.

Show them Jesus healing.

Show them Jesus calling sinners to repentance.

Show them the cross.

Show them the empty tomb.

Teach them:

Matthew 28:6 (KJV)

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.”

The greatest outcome of *Christmas in The Shepherd's Meadow* would not be a child who loves Christmas music.

It would be a child whose little heart is continually being directed toward **Jesus Christ through the Word of God.**

A Christmas Blessing for Your Family

Parents and grandparents, these years are precious.

Little voices don't stay little.

Tiny hands grow.

Toddlers become children.

Children become teenagers.

Teenagers become adults.

You cannot stop that clock.

But today, you have an opportunity.

Sing with them.

Open the Bible with them.

Answer their questions.

Pray beside their beds.

Teach them truth.

Correct them when they sin.

Ask forgiveness when you sin.

Point them toward Christ again and again.

You may not see immediately what God is doing through those small moments.

Keep sowing.

Psalm 78:5–7 (KJV)

“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

That is bigger than Christmas.

That is one generation teaching another to:

Set their hope in God.

From The Shepherd's Meadow to Your Home

Scout, the sheep, the meadow, the music, and the colorful Christmas scenes are tools.

They're meant to capture a little child's attention.

But none of them is the destination.

The destination is always:

Jesus Christ.

So when the album ends, keep going.

When Christmas ends, keep going.

When your toddler becomes a five-year-old, keep going.

When that five-year-old becomes ten, keep going.

When questions become harder, keep going.

Keep opening God's Word.

Keep pointing toward Christ.

And perhaps years from now, another generation will hear the same truth from the lips of the child you're teaching today:

Christmas is about Jesus.

Jesus came.

Jesus saves.

Jesus is King.

Jesus is Lord.

And long after the Christmas lights have gone dark:

His truth remains.