

Hey families! Here's a look at what we're covering with your kids this month so you can continue growing at home during the week.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." – John 8:12b (NIV)

DECEMBER 7TH

This week, kids follow the story of how **John the Baptist** was born to prepare people for the savior.

- **BIG IDEA:** God gives people to guide us.
- **BIBLE:** Luke 1:5–25, 57–66
- **ASK:**
 - **What promise from God did the angel have to deliver to Zechariah?** That he and Elizabeth would have a baby boy.
 - **What did the angel say Zechariah's baby would grow up to do?** Bring people back to God and prepare them for the savior.
 - **What was Zechariah's baby's name?** John.
 - **Why do you think Zechariah was not allowed to speak until John was born?** Possible answers: It gave him time to think about God's promise; speaking again would confirm God's promise; he wouldn't spread doubt; people wouldn't understand what he was saying.
 - **What do you do when you hear something that's hard to believe?**
 - **Read Matthew 3:6. How did John guide people to Jesus?** He baptized them in the Jordan River to help them start a new life with God.
 - **Who are the people who guide you in your life?**
 - **How do you know that you can trust the people who guide you?**
 - **How do you know that you can trust God to guide you?**
- **CHALLENGE:** Do a trust fall with your kids! Remind your kids how God gives people to guide us, but we must be able to trust them! If you don't trust your guide, you probably aren't going to listen to them or follow them!

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DECEMBER 14TH

This week, kids follow the story of how **an angel visited Mary** to deliver a special message from God.

- **BIG IDEA:** God gives hope to guide us.
- **BIBLE:** Luke 1:26–38
- **ASK:**
 - **Who told Mary not to be afraid?** The angel Gabriel.
 - **Why did the angel Gabriel tell her not to be afraid?** Because God was with her and she found favor with God.
 - **What message did Gabriel deliver to Mary?** That she would give birth to God's son, Jesus.
 - **How did Mary respond to the message?** She accepted God's promise.
 - **How did Mary have hope?** She believed God would be with her.
 - **What are some things that you hope for?**
 - **How can you practice patience as you wait for these hopes?**
 - **What is one way you can let God guide you this week?**
- **CHALLENGE:** Talk with your kids about their hopes big and small. Share with them what you are hoping for. Together make a list and then pray about them. Remind your kids that in our waiting we have to trust God to guide us through it all!

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DECEMBER 21ST

This week, kids follow the story of how **Jesus was born**, and shepherds were invited to meet the newborn savior.

- **BIG IDEA:** God gives a Savior to guide us.
- **BIBLE:** Luke 2:1–20
- **ASK:**
 - **How can you describe why you celebrate Christmas to someone who asks?**
 - **Where was Jesus born?** In Bethlehem, in a manger.
 - **Who told the shepherds where to find Jesus?** Angels.
 - **Why do you think the angels appeared to the shepherds?** To show the savior is for everyone.
 - **What did the shepherds do?** They went to find Jesus. They told everyone about Jesus.
 - **What did the shepherds do after the angels appeared?** They hurried to meet Jesus, worship, and tell others about what they had seen.
 - **We say that Jesus is our Savior. What does a savior do?** Saves and rescues!
 - **What does it mean for Jesus to be our savior? How does it make you feel when you hear that?**
 - **What do you need saving from?**
- **CHALLENGE:** Throw a birthday party for Jesus – go all out or just blow candles out on a dessert! No matter what you do, during this season,

remind your kids Christmas is all about Jesus and how he came into the world to save and rescue us!

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DECEMBER 28TH

This week, kids follow the story of how a star helped **the Magi visit Jesus** and worship him.

- **BIG IDEA:** God gives direction to guide us.
- **BIBLE:** Matthew 2:1–12
- **ASK:**
 - **Why did the Magi stop in Jerusalem?** They thought the new king would be born in a palace in the main city.
 - **Who sent the Magi to find Jesus?** King Herod.
 - **What led the way for the Magi to get to Jesus?** A star.
 - **What did they do when they found Jesus?** They worshipped him and gave him gifts.
 - **If you were the Magi, what gifts would you have brought Jesus?**
 - **Read Matthew 2:13-15. What direction did God give to Joseph to keep his family safe?** To escape to Egypt until after Herod died.
 - **What would it be like if God's direction came to you as a star?**
 - **Who in your life usually gives you directions to follow? What are the directions you usually get?**
- **CHALLENGE:** Consider letting your kids give you directions in the car to a place they know (like the store, grandparents' house, or school!) See how good they are at sharing where to go, stop, and turn! Talk about how sometimes as a leader we lead people the wrong way, but God is different than us! He always guides us in the right direction, and we can trust him!