

Welcome!



Happy Times

These are *Happy Times*!



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***Happy Times* is dedicated to young children and their parents and other caregivers. Our goals:**

Share the Good News of Jesus, our Savior, through stories, activities, poems, and projects.

Provide practical, useful “Parent Talk” and other resources to help parents nurture faith and growth.

Encourage children and parents in worship and Bible learning.

This time of year, we often take the time to visit with family and friends. Sometimes, this can mean a big trip! When Jesus was about to be born, Mary and Joseph had to take a big trip too. Traveling can be exciting, but it can be scary too. What if we get lost? What if we forget a special toy?

If you plan to take a trip soon, encourage your child that God is with you wherever you go. Even if you plan to stay home this season, it's fun to think about how Jesus came down from heaven to live with us on earth in order to save us from sin. Someday, He will come again to make all things right!

Lisa M. Clark, Editor

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Taking a Trip

How Will We Get There?

Many people take trips to visit family at Christmastime. Will you travel to visit your grandparents or other relatives? Where will you go? How will you get there? Circle all the things you could ride in or on when you take a trip.



Mary and Joseph took a trip for the very first Christmas. They went to the town their family was from—the town of David, Bethlehem. They did not ride in a car or airplane because those hadn't been invented. Mary may have walked or ridden on a donkey. It took a long time to get there!



Parent Talk

- God goes with us on our trips! No matter what we ride in or on, He is with us. We can talk to Him, sing for Him, and read stories about Him to help pass the time. What do you think Mary and Joseph did to pass the time on their trip?
- Talk about types of transportation. Which are fast? slow? How many wheels does each have? Check out books from the library to learn about the history and invention of whichever vehicle captures the interest of your child. Remind her that creativity and great ideas for new inventions are gifts from God!

Are We There Yet?

Sophia was excited! Today, Mommy and Daddy were taking her to visit Grammy and Grandpa for Christmas. Sophia knew she would get lots of hugs and lots of presents. She waited patiently while Mommy buckled her into the car seat. Then, they started driving.

Sophia chatted happily and looked out the window. She saw cars and trees and houses.

Soon, Sophia was tired of looking out the window. She was excited to see Grammy and Grandpa! "Are we there yet?" she asked Mommy.

"Not yet. We have a ways to go. Why don't you color a picture?" said Mommy.



Connecting with the story:

Encourage your child to chime in each time Sophia asks, "Are we there yet?" and Mommy responds, "Not yet. We have a ways to go." What would you tell Sophia to do to help pass the time? Seeing family and opening presents aren't the only good things about Christmas. What's the best thing of all?

Sophia chose a coloring page with a picture of a Christmas tree. She colored the star and some ornaments.

Soon, Sophia was tired of coloring. She was excited to see Grammy and Grandpa! "Are we there yet?" she asked Mommy.

"Not yet. We have a ways to go. Why don't you sing some songs?" said Mommy.

Sophia and Mommy and Daddy sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "The B-I-B-L-E."

Soon, Sophia was tired of singing songs. She was excited to see Grammy and Grandpa! "Are we there yet?" she asked Mommy.

"Not yet. We have a ways to go. Why don't you look at some books?" said Mommy.

Sophia looked at her book about the first Christmas. She saw baby Jesus and lots of animals.

*Connecting with the story:
Sing the songs Sophia and her family sang during their car ride.
What animals do you see in this picture? What sounds do they make?*



Soon, Sophia was tired of looking at books. She was tired of riding in the car. Her eyes closed. She fell asleep. Mommy and Daddy looked at each other and smiled. They drove for a long time.



Connecting with the story:
 Are you taking a road trip this Christmas? Do you, like Sophia, need lots of activities to keep you busy on your trip? Play this "I Spy" game. Check off each item when you see it.

I SPY



stop sign



bridge



airplane



cow



dog



gas station



truck



river

