

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalm 19:1

Celebrating Jesus

Once the calendar turns to December, it seems that the very atmosphere in the world changes. For some, the change is one of frantically searching for just the right gift on their Christmas list or preparing for a family trip. For another, decorating with lights, greenery and tinsel is paramount. For others the mood is not one of excitement at all, but rather depression, due to feelings of loneliness or frustration.

All these activities and feelings have become symbolic of the Christmas season. Unfortunately, it seems that Jesus gets lost somewhere in the frenzy. The very reason for the season becomes a sidebar instead of the main focus. What should be a celebration of the King of kings becomes a self-centered celebration of gifts, special foods and fun times.

How far we have come from a lonely hillside outside Bethlehem where shepherds watched their flocks by night. Suddenly the sky was filled with angels proclaiming the arrival of the newborn King. Leaving that heavenly concert, the shepherds made their way into town and found the baby Jesus lying in a manger. Imagine the Messiah being born in a humble stable and not in the royal palace in Jerusalem. They could hardly wait to share the good news! ***"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them," (Luke 2:20).***

This Christmas season make a point of looking for Jesus in humble places, not in the glitter of lights and ornaments or the festivities of Christmas parties. Look for him as you serve others or as you touch the life of someone in need. Just like the shepherds, your testimony of what you have seen and heard about Jesus might make all the difference in the world!

Family Prayer: *Jesus, help me not to be distracted by all the festivities of this season but to keep my focus on You and the real reason that You came to earth. Thank you for bringing salvation and eternal life to those who know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



Includes
Family
Activities



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Gather the family around and make a calendar leading up to Christmas. Brainstorm ways that you can keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas activities by doing something special for others, setting aside time to study the Christmas story from the Book of Luke, baking treats to give away, etc. After collecting ideas, write them in on the calendar so you will be sure and follow through. Make Jesus the reason you celebrate!

Let's talk

Even as a Christian sometimes it is easy to lose focus of the true meaning of Christmas. Do you find yourself getting caught up in the activities with little thought of the deeper significance of Jesus' birth? Take a moment and discuss what Jesus' coming meant for the world. One important aspect is that it proved Old Testament prophecy to be true. That is extremely important!

Be especially sensitive to those who may struggle emotionally at this time of the year. Ask God to give you wisdom to minister to those in need of an encouraging word or a compassionate friend.

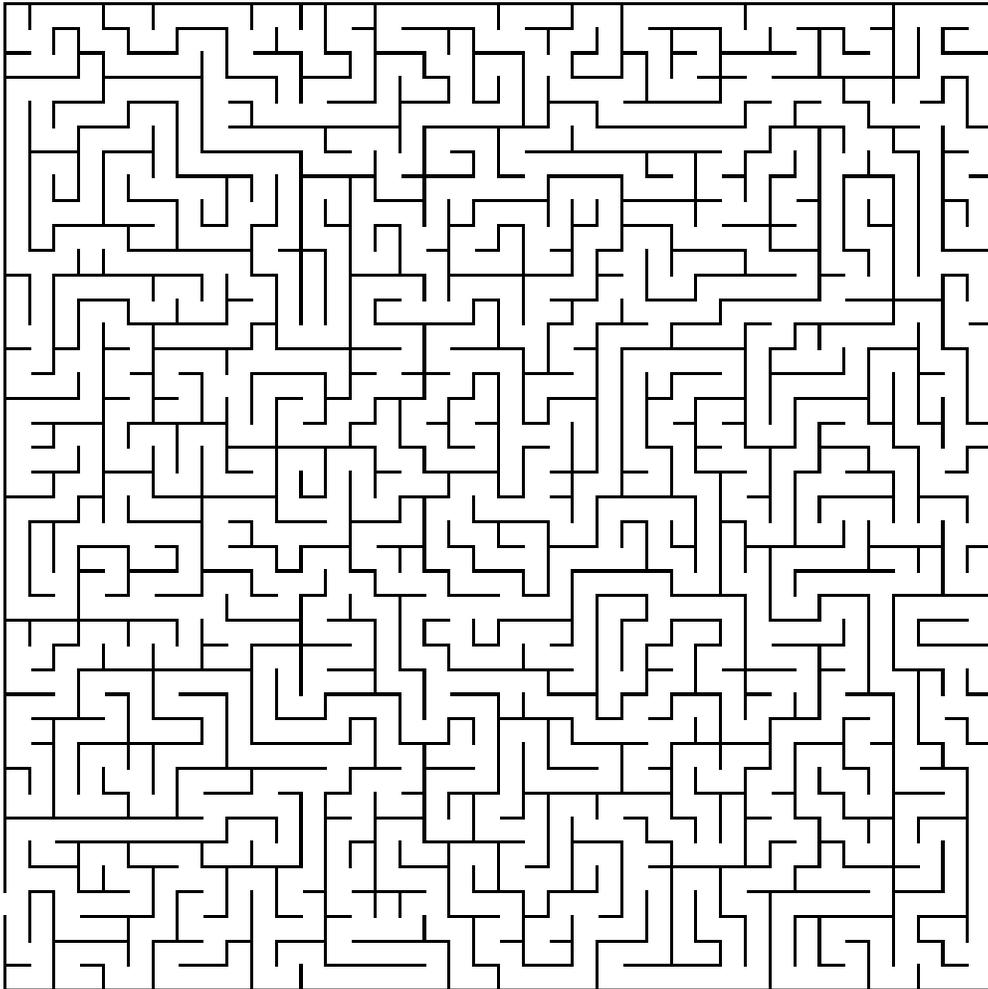


Additional Challenges

Let's take a look at Luke, chapter 2.

- Who decreed that everyone had to pay taxes?
 - _____
- What city did Mary and Joseph travel from to get to Bethlehem?
 - _____
- What lineage did Joseph belong to?
 - _____
- Why did Joseph and Mary end up staying in a manger?
 - _____
- How did the shepherds feel when the angels suddenly appeared?
 - _____
- What sign did the angels give the shepherds so they would know the Savior?
 - _____
- How old was Jesus when he was taken to the temple to be dedicated?
 - _____
- What 2 people were thrilled to see Jesus brought into the temple?
 - _____ and _____

Puzzle Page



JESUS IS THE REASON >>

>> FOR THE SEASON!



Jesus is the
Greatest Gift!