

CAROLS  
&  
LESSONS  
*for kids!*

A 5-DAY ADVENT ACTIVITY DEVOTIONAL

WORDS  
OF HOPE

# A NOTE to Caregivers

The familiar songs of Christmas are one way to share the real Christmas story with children. Many carols take their words directly from the Bible, and share deep truths in an accessible, memorable way.

Over five lessons, you and your child(ren) will follow the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of Jesus using Christmas carols as your guide. Each lesson includes a few ways to learn.

- ① **SING** or listen to the song together.
- ② **READ** the Bible passage.
- ③ **PLACE** the figure in the nativity scene—either your own nativity set, or color and cut out from the printable nativity scene at [woh.org/CALdownload](http://woh.org/CALdownload).
- ④ **READ** our simple devotional.
- ⑤ **REFLECT** with activities, including thinking questions and prompts to act out the story.

You can do a lesson in one day, or spread it out over a few days. Depending on the age of your child(ren), pick and choose the activities that work best for you. We have found that children learn best by hearing a lesson repeated in different ways. For example, you could read the Bible passages more than once, and do different activities, depending on age or attention span.

There are also memory verse suggestions at the end of each lesson.

Lesson

1

# THE STAR

Christmas is about Jesus. He came to save this world,  
and all creation rejoices and worships him.

## SING: JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## NATIVITY SCENE

As you listen to the Bible passages and the devotional, color, cut out and place the star in your nativity scene.

## BIBLE READINGS

### Galatians 4:4

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son.

## Psalm 98:4-9

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ...  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!  
Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together  
before the Lord, for he comes  
to judge the earth.

## DEVOTIONAL

### PREPARATION QUESTIONS:

Are you excited for Christmas? What are you most excited about?

**H**ave you heard nature make a joyful noise? Dogs bark and cats meow. Birds and whales sing. Even trees rustle in the wind, and rivers and oceans make a lot of noise. The Bible tells us that all of these noises are a song of praise to God!

Joy to the World reminds us all creation worships God together and celebrates. At Christmas, we aren't just worshiping God. We are also celebrating that Jesus was born. When all creation was ready, at just the right time, Jesus was born.

Jesus IS God. He came to earth as a little baby, as part of creation, just like all of us. But he came for a big purpose, to save us and all creation from sin—all the wrong, bad things that we do, or have ever happened.

When we celebrate Christmas we are worshiping God our King. We are shouting for joy, along with the mountains and rivers, the oceans and the animals. We are worshiping Jesus, our Savior.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for coming to us as our savior. Thank you for making this big beautiful world. We worship you!

## ACTIVITIES

- Sing or listen to Joy to the World.
- Place your star in the nativity scene.
- Act it out. Be a star. How would a star praise God? Be an animal—a sheep, a donkey, a bird, or something else. How would that animal praise God? Be a tree. How would a tree praise God? Be a river or mountain. How would they praise God?
- Listen to some sounds of nature while you play quietly or color. What do you hear? What kinds of sounds do you like best?



Desert Sounds:



Ocean Sounds:



Mountain Sounds:



## MEMORY VERSE:

*Galatians 4:4*

YOUNGER CHILDREN

God sent his Son.

OLDER CHILDREN

When the set time had fully  
come, God sent his Son.

Lesson

2

# THE STABLE, MARY, JOSEPH, & JESUS

Jesus was born in humble circumstances.  
God chooses to work through the weak and powerless.

## SING: AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

## NATIVITY SCENE

As you listen to the Bible passages and the devotional, color, cut out and place the stable, with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in your nativity scene.

## BIBLE READING

### Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also

went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## DEVOTIONAL

### PREPARATION QUESTION:

Where were you born? What do you know about the story of your birth?

Jesus was not born in a clean hospital, or in a comfortable home. When the time came for him to be born, his parents, Mary and Joseph, were traveling. The place they went, the little town of Bethlehem, was full of people. There was no place for Mary and Joseph to stay. Instead, they had to stay outside, with the animals. That's where Jesus, God himself, was born!

There wasn't even a crib or a cradle for Jesus, just a manger where the animals ate their food.

Why would God, who is so powerful, come to earth as a tiny, weak baby? Why was he born in such a humble place?

God chose to be born as a tiny, weak baby—Jesus. Jesus experienced life just like every person—like you and me. Jesus understands what it is like to be a baby, and a kid. Jesus had parents who loved him. That's one of the most important things God wants us to know about Christmas—Jesus came to earth to be like you and me because he loves us.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you chose to come to earth as a baby.

## ACTIVITIES

- Sing or listen to *Away in a Manger*.
- Place the stable and the family in your nativity scene.
- Act it out. Be Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay. How would they feel?
- Pull out your baby pictures and tell the story of your birth. Would you want to be a baby again? Why or why not? The song says that Jesus didn't cry when he was a baby. Do you think that's true?

## MEMORY VERSE:

*Luke 2:7*

### YOUNGER CHILDREN

She gave birth to her firstborn son.

### OLDER CHILDREN

She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn.

Lesson

3

# ANGELS & SHEPHERDS

The first ones who came to worship Jesus show us his priorities—the angels shared the good news with ordinary people, shepherds working out in the fields.

## SING: THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

## NATIVITY SCENE

As you listen to the Bible passages and the devotional, color, cut out and place the shepherd and the angel in your nativity scene.

## BIBLE READING

### Luke 2:8-20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good

news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## DEVOTIONAL

### PREPARATION QUESTION:

When something good happens to you, who do you tell?  
When you were born, who were the first people your parents told?

**A**fter Jesus was born, God sent angels to share the good news of his birth. The angels appeared in the fields outside Bethlehem, bright and beautiful, praising God. Did they tell the king, or the mayor of the town? Did they share the news with Jesus’s grandparents?

No! The angels appeared to a group of shepherds. The shepherds were in the fields to protect sheep at night. It was a dirty, uncomfortable job, and the shepherds were not important people—they were ordinary people.

But here's the best part of the story—the shepherds listened to the angels! They went to find Jesus, and they praised God for what they saw. Maybe that's one reason God chose to share the news with them. God doesn't care how important you are in the world, but God does care how you respond to his good news.

**Prayer:** God, thank you for sending the gift of Jesus.  
Help me to follow you, just like the shepherds.

## ACTIVITIES

- Sing or listen to The First Noel.
- Place the shepherds and angels in the nativity scene.
- Act it out. Take turns being the shepherds and the angels. The angels were messengers of God. How would they behave? The shepherds were surprised in the dark, taking care of the sheep. How would they react to the angels?
- You can share the good news of Jesus's birth too! Make a Christmas card and send it to someone you love to share the good news with them.

## MEMORY VERSE:

*Luke 2:20*

YOUNGER CHILDREN

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God.

OLDER CHILDREN

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lesson

4

# THE WISE MEN

Jesus came for all people, including people from all over the world.

## SING: WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

REFRAIN:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

## NATIVITY SCENE

As you listen to the Bible passages and the devotional, color, cut out and place the wise men in your nativity scene.

## BIBLE READING

### Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

## DEVOTIONAL

### PREPARATION QUESTION:

Do you know anyone who lives far away from you?  
How far away do they live?

**T**he wise men lived a long, long way away from Jesus. We know that because the Bible says that Jesus was a child, not a baby, when they arrived.

When Jesus was born, God placed a new star in the sky. The wise men saw it, and they knew that something important was happening. They believed that a new king had been born—a king so important that the stars changed. They lived in a different country, but they wanted to honor this new king. They even brought fancy and expensive gifts for him.

We don't know very much about the wise men, but there is one really important thing that they tell us. Jesus was born for all people.

Today, Christians live in every country of the world. They speak so many different languages. But we all serve the same God, and Jesus came for all of us.

**Prayer:** God, thank you for sending Jesus to all the people of this world, even people who live a long way away from me.

## ACTIVITIES

- Sing or listen to We Three Kings.
- Place the wise men in the nativity scene.
- Act it out. Be the wise men. “Find” the star in the sky and study it, then act out traveling a long distance to find Jesus. How would the wise men react to the star? How would they react to Jesus?
- Have a star scavenger hunt. Place a star ornament or decorate a paper star and place it somewhere in the room (ideally up high). Challenge your child(ren) to find it.
- Go outside and look at the stars after dark. You can learn about the stars where you live at [stellarium-web.org](http://stellarium-web.org).
- Words of Hope works around the world to share the good news of Jesus. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to hear some of our partners sharing John 3:16 in their own languages. To learn more visit [woh.org/where-we-work](http://woh.org/where-we-work).



## MEMORY VERSE:

*Matthew 2:9-10*

YOUNGER CHILDREN

When they saw the star,  
they rejoiced.

OLDER CHILDREN

And behold, the star that they had seen  
when it rose went before them until it  
came to rest over the place where the  
child was. When they saw the star, they  
rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

# YOU!

When you hear this story, you get the chance to share it with other people too!

## SING: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

REFRAIN:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [REFRAIN]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [REFRAIN]

3 Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [REFRAIN]

## NATIVITY SCENE

As you listen to the Bible passages and the devotional, color, cut out and place the figure that represents you in your nativity scene.

## BIBLE READINGS

### Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

## DEVOTIONAL

### PREPARATION QUESTION:

How do you celebrate your birthday?  
What do your parents do to celebrate your birthday?

So far, we've heard the big parts of the Christmas story. When we placed the star, we learned about how all creation celebrated when Jesus was born. When we placed Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, we learned about how Jesus was born in the stable. When we placed the shepherds, and angels, we learned about the first people to come and worship Jesus. When we placed the wise men, we learned about how Jesus came for people from all places in the world.

Did you know that you get to be part of the Christmas story too? Jesus came to earth for you. God sent Jesus so that whoever believes in him will have eternal life in heaven.

Just like all creation celebrated Jesus's birthday, you get to celebrate Jesus's birthday too! You can celebrate with a cake, and I bet you are going to give

and get some presents. But there's another way to celebrate, and it's in our song today. We celebrate Jesus's birthday by telling other people about it!

**Prayer:** God, thank you for sending Jesus. Help me to celebrate Jesus's birth today!

## ACTIVITIES

- Sing or listen to Go Tell it on the Mountain!
- Place the figure that represents you in the nativity scene.
- Act it out. How would you react to the news that Jesus was born?
- Have a birthday party for Jesus. Bake a birthday cake or make a birthday card, invite someone to share it, and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!
- [Watch this video](#) telling the story of Jesus's birth.



## MEMORY VERSE:

*John 3:16*

YOUNGER CHILDREN

God so loved the world.

OLDER CHILDREN

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son, that  
whoever believes in him should  
not perish but have eternal life.