

# Family Devotional

From December 25, 2016

**Supplies:** Bible, a Light Source: this could be your Christmas tree, a candle, or flashlight.

**Before you start:** Turn on all the lights in the room, including your light source.

**Read:** "The Light of the Whole World" on page 184 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, or Luke 2:1-20.

**Reflect:** Ask one person to turn off one of the lights in the room.

Why do you think God put a star in the sky when Jesus was born?

The Jesus Storybook Bible says: "God put it there when his baby Son was born—to be like a spotlight. Shinning on him. Lighting up the darkness. Showing people the way to him."

Ask another person to turn off a light. Following this pattern, continue to have people turn off lights as you ask the following questions about the story, until all the lights are off except your source light.

Who were the first people to come visit Jesus? Why do you think the Angels appeared to them first?

The shepherds were out watching their flocks in the fields, outside of the city. Have you ever been out in the country at night? What did you notice about the stars? Do you think the stars actually get brighter or can we just see them better without other lights competing for our attention? (\*Make sure all the light are off at this point except for your chosen light source.) It's kind of like this \_\_\_\_\_ (name your light source). Did you really even notice it at the start, but know we can see everything by this one light.

Jesus is the Light of the World! We should see every situation and person in the light of his love and grace. However, sometimes other things try to distract us from seeing by God's pure light. That is why we take time during advent to remember and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ that we celebrate now at Christmas.

What was the first thing the shepherds did after visiting Jesus? Have someone read Luke 2:17-20.

We should have the same kind of response when we encounter Jesus. When we invite Jesus into our hearts he puts his light in us so that we can shine for him. We should be so filled with excitement that we want to go tell and show others about our wonderful friend and king that loves them too!

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate Matthew 5:16 this week.

“... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your  
good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** Sing together the song "This Little Light of Mine."

"Dear God, thank you sending your son into our dark world to bring the light of hope, joy peace and love into our lives. Please fill us anew with wonder and excitement to share this great news with other .....Amen!"