

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

December 2016

MORNING TIME

Practice starting your day by thinking of 31 reasons that bring you joy. Have each person in the family write their own 31 reasons on separate, small scraps of paper, and put them in a container. Each morning, on your way out the door, have everyone grab a piece of joy from their container and carry it with them the whole day to remind them joy is theirs even when things don't go their way. (Kids 8 & Under: Write a total of 31 reasons for the whole family.)

GOING FURTHER MORNING TIME

Preparation: When the activity begins, place all phones in a basket and have the TV turned off. At most, have music playing in the background. Take this moment to unplug and connect with the gifts we have here, our loved ones.

Love Connect Game: Your family will stand near each other as parents shout these phrases.

- Hug the person closest to the Christmas tree!
- High five the person wearing the most red/green/white!
- Hug the person to your right/left!
- High five the hand of the oldest person in your circle!
- Lay your head on the person shorter than you!
- Hold hands and stretch out as far as you can in a line
- Hold hands and stretch out as far as you can in a circle

Wrap Up: Parents, have them sit and get comfy together.

Parent Ask: If we were all dots, what did we just do?
Hug, High Five, Shake Hand (Connect)

Parent Ask: Why do we feel the need to connect with family like that? *Love*



Parent Ask: You know we have a great love for each other, but who has the BIGGEST love of all for us? God

Parent Say: Let's read the story of how God took initiative and connected with us at Bed Time!

MEAL TIME

- *Discuss how the birth of Jesus would bring "great joy for all the people."*
- *How did Jesus' birth bring glory to God? Peace to those on earth?*

Retell the birth story for each of your children.

- *Where did it happen?*
- *When did it happen?*
- *Who was there?*
- *How did you announce it?*
- *How was it celebrated?*
- *How did you, as a parent, feel?*

BED TIME: Read Luke 2:1-20 as a family.

Read Luke 2:1-5

God took initiative! On Christmas Day He wanted to connect with us so much.

- *Do you know why? His awesome love for us & we needed to be saved from ourselves.*
- *What Gift did He send to Earth that night? Jesus*

Read Luke 2:6-7

• *When Jesus came to Earth, did Mary & Joseph have reservations in a fancy hospital or beautiful hotel? No. Outside in a stable with the animals.*

Read Luke 2:8-10

• *Did kings and the most important people in the world show up for the birth of Jesus? No, in fact some of the lowest of the low, shepherds*

- **How were the shepherds able to connect with Jesus on that night?** *They were told by an angel to go see Jesus.*
- **Why is the story of Jesus' birth so important?** *From birth we see that we are all important to God, no matter who we are, where we have been or where we might go.*

Read: Luke 2:17-20

- What did the shepherds do after they met Jesus? *They connected with others to share the good news about Jesus with as many people as they could.*

Pray together and ask God to remind you of the joy and peace the promise of Jesus brings to all of us, even when things aren't going our way.

DRIVE TIME

Whether you're traveling over the holidays or just commuting, don't miss our special holiday video cast for families at Pathway.Church. Play Christmas music and connect through the entire journey of the holiday!

PARENT TIME

Isn't it crazy that sometimes the season of peace and joy is the least peaceful and joyful for all the grown ups? This month, set the tone of joy in your home by playing joyful music, lighting mood-lifting candles, taking an extra minute to pray quietly, and take deep breaths throughout the day, or whatever helps you remember the joy of the season. Participating in this month's MorningTime with your kids is also a great way to model joy for your family. Because we all know, when the grown ups aren't happy, ain't nobody happy!

Family Ministry Team

#ChristmasAtPathway16

Josh Fortney | Pastor of Marriage, Family, and Students | josh@pathway.church
Cheyanne Davis | Parent Advocate | cheyanne@pathway.church
Becky Prince | Director of Children's Ministry | becky@pathway.church
Megan Robinson | Early Childhood Director | megan@pathway.church
Lisa Stokes | Assistant to Family Ministries | lisa@pathway.church