

Awake to Jesus!

2016



followers of Jesus
seeking to glorify God

Take time on Christmas to gather as a family to share and read the Christmas story together. The dynamics of your family will determine how much time you invest. The goal is not to have a 'magical moment' or to have 'church at home' but rather to come together as a family (individually or with many) and focus on Jesus and why He came to the earth.

Discussion

- What is a gift? Why do we give gifts? What do you like best about getting gifts? If you buy something with your own money, is it a gift for you? Does someone have to earn gifts?
- Explain to your children that all the presents under the tree are free gifts. They don't have to earn them or be good to get them – they are free to the person they are given to.
- Now bridge the illustration to the gospel. Hold a gift in your hand that has not been opened yet. Explain that, like this gift, Jesus is a free gift sent to us from God. We could never be good enough or do enough to earn that Gift. In fact, it is *because* we do wrong things that God sent Jesus. It was a gift that we desperately needed.
- Where did all these gifts come from (if your children believe all gifts are from Santa, this illustration will break down here)? Who paid for them? They are free to you, but were the gifts actually free?
- Now bridge the illustration to the gospel again. Tell your children that even though the gifts under the tree are free for them, someone had to work hard to earn the money to buy them. Likewise, God had to “pay” for our gift when He sent Jesus to earth. It cost God a great deal. He was no longer able to enjoy the constant fellowship of His Son. In addition, God knew what He was sending His Son here to do – to suffer and to die on a cross. That little “gift” in the manger was given to us at a great cost to God.
- If you have a nativity scene, or a picture of one, place it where all can see it while you read the biblical account.
- Suggested Scripture Readings
 - Luke 2:1-21 Birth of Jesus & The Shepherds and the Angels
 - Matthew 2:1-12 Account of the Wisemen
 - John 1:1-18 *The Word Became Flesh*
- Reflect - What have we received from Jesus? This past year how have we seen Jesus at work in our family? Where do we want to see Jesus at work in our family in the New Year? How could our family take Jesus to people who do not know Him?
- Take time to pray in response to your reflection answers.

Other ideas on other side...

Other Ideas...

- During the reading of scripture have the children hold different pieces of the nativity scene or draw some pictures on the back of wrapping paper from opened presents.
- Have more than one person ask questions or read scripture.
- If you are going through this by yourself or as a couple, consider journaling your answers or playing some Christmas worship music in the background.

This page and more ideas will be available our church website @ coaldalembchurch.com