

Christmas Presents – 4 weeks of Christmas devotions

Opening Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Son Jesus. Thank you for the amazing way you sent Him to us and for the amazing way you changed the world through Him. Help us this week to discover more about Him and let us change to be more like how He wants us to be. Amen

Each week should start with pass the parcel to discover this week's gift from God.

Week 1 Theme: Hope.

Present: Small cuddly toy

Bible Focus: Matthew 1:18 – 24

Character Focus: Mary and Joseph.

Illustration – The cuddly toy represents something you might need to get ready for a baby coming. Think of other things you might need.

Read Matthew 1:18-24

Thought – People had been waiting a long time for Jesus to come but when it happened to Mary and Joseph it took them a bit by surprise! What feelings might they have had? Even though they may have been a bit scared they knew that they could trust God to fulfil everyone's hopes as He said He would through their new baby Jesus.

Activity – What things do you hope are going to happen? Write or draw them on slips of paper and link them together to make a paper prayer chain.

Prayer – Thank you God that you give us good things and that you meet our hopes. Sorry for the times when we forget to thank you for the good things you have already made happen. Please read all of our hopes on the paper prayer chain and make them happen in your special way.

Week 2 Theme: Peace.

Present: Toy instrument or party blowers

Bible Focus John 16:33

Character Focus: Jesus

Illustration – The party blowers or instruments represent the noise a baby makes. What ideas does the word peace make you imagine? Many people say that Jesus being born brought peace into the world but when a baby comes into the world it makes a lot of noise. (Encourage the prize winner to make as much noise as possible.) That seems a bit strange to me to say a noisy baby might bring peace. How do you think Jesus brought peace?

Read John 16:33

Thought – Life can be very difficult sometimes. Stuff can worry us, people can upset us and things can let us down. Jesus promises that He will never leave us to face these things alone. He will always be there holding our hands and being a friend. Even when things seem too big for us to face with Him standing by our side we can face anything because he can beat anything. Knowing that brings peace inside.

Activity – Quietly light a tea light candle. As you are doing it say or think about something that causes you not to be at peace. Ask God to help you with that.

Prayer – Thank you God that you sent Jesus to bring peace into the world. Sorry for when we forget to share with you the things that worry us. Please let us know that you with us always.

Week 3 Theme: Love

Present: A packet of Love Heart Sweets

Bible Focus: John 3:16

Character Focus: Shepherds

Illustration – The Love Hearts represent Gods love for all people. The Christmas story is full of many different characters. How many different ones can you think of? One of the characters is the shepherds. Shepherds were not thought of as very important in those days. (Go through the sayings on the love hearts while giving them out to girls) Do you think God said any of these things to the shepherds to make them feel that they were loved and important to God? What do you think He did that made them feel loved and important?

Read John 3:16

Thought – In what ways does God show that He loves everyone in the world? Does God's love miss anyone out?

Activity – Make a God Loves Me badge

Prayer – Thank you God that you sent Jesus to be a sign that you love us. Sorry when we don't show your love to others. Please be close to the people we love this Christmas time.

Week 4 Theme: Joy

Present: Balloons

Bible Focus: Luke 15:10

Character Focus: Angels

Illustration - The balloons represent the joy and the partying the Angels get up to when good things happen. Why do people have parties? What sort of things happen at parties? Parties are happy times that celebrate good things happening. The Angels were around at the very happy time of Jesus being born. They shared the good news. Sung happy songs and celebrated the birth of Jesus Angel style in fact they had the first ever Christmas party!

Read Luke 15:10

Thought – Angels are called in to celebrate the most important things. Jesus coming into the world is the most important thing that happened in history because through it we are all able to be adopted into Gods family so the angels had a lot of celebrating to do there. When a person who does things wrong (that's all of us by the way) decides to change and ask to be adopted into Gods family that is an equally important reason to celebrate so the angels get partying then to.

Activity – Blow up your balloons. Write on them Jesus is great because...

Prayer – Thank you God that we can have fun with you. Sorry for the things week we have done that we know you wouldn't like us to do. Please let us bring joy to others by the kindness we show them.

Previous Devotions

Fairytale Devotions

You are not alone

God loves me

Always near me

Easter

Other useful ideas

A New GB song