



**NATIVITY
DEVOTIONAL
GUIDE**



READ



TALK



MAKE & DO



DIG DEEPER

NATIVITY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Produced by Willingdon Church Children's Ministry

Adapted from Marilee Woodfield's "12 Day Nativity"

Check out the original at

12daynativity.com

The Stable



READ:

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. Luke 2:1-7

For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy. Psalm 61:3



TALK: God provided a quiet refuge for Mary, Joseph and the newborn Jesus, but technically the Bible doesn't mention a stable. We don't know exactly what it was like, but we read that that there was "no place for them in the inn" in Bethlehem. It might have been a busy, crowded night, with many people registering for the Roman census we read about.

A refuge, or shelter is something that protects and shields someone from something harmful or dangerous. In the middle of the busyness of that Bethlehem night, God was at work, providing shelter to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus when He came into the world.

How much of God's work is going on right under our noses unnoticed because we're too busy, preoccupied, or uninterested? Do you have room for Jesus in your life?

Pray together as a family, and ask God to help you find shelter and protection that only comes from having Jesus in your life.



MAKE & DO:

Create the setting for your Nativity scene! Put together your box and lid to make your stable. Try using different materials like sticks, twigs, coloured paper, and maybe even some hay to add some details. Think about how God chose such a humble place for His own Son to be born.

At home, you can create a 'stable' out of blankets and pillows, or arranging chairs and other furniture to make a roof and sides. Have everyone in your family climb or crawl inside and re-read today's passage from Luke 2, or another one of your favourite Nativity storybooks. Try using a battery-powered candle, Christmas lights, or a small flashlight for extra-cozy fun!



DIG DEEPER:

Just as the stable offered warmth and shelter, we can show our love to the Saviour by offering the same to others. Giving someone a warm hug, a kind word or deed, or a listening ear are all simple ways we can give others "shelter". Maybe there's someone lonely at school who seems lonely and needs a friend!

And just like Mary and Joseph found shelter in the stable, many people today seek shelter in our city as well. Connect with us at Willingdon Church for some ministry partners in Burnaby that provide shelter for people in need; as a family, find out what their needs are and what you could do as a family to donate or serve together.

Mary



READ:

...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38



TALK: We found out that Mary was “blessed in a special way”, and that God chose her to be the mother of Jesus. We see that nothing is impossible for God: “what He says will always come true.”

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what we think is impossible, we forget what can happen when we allow God to direct our lives. Mary might have thought about how this baby could make her life complicated or ruin her relationship with Joseph. There must have been many questions and concerns. But Mary was humble, and submitted to God’s will.

We see Jesus our Saviour also submitting to God, His Father’s will by giving up His own life on the cross. These examples honoured and brought glory to God. Pray and ask God to help you be humble and offer yourselves to His service in obeying Him for His glory and our own good.



MAKE & DO:

Colour the figure and add Mary to your Nativity scene! You might want to use some fabric scraps or yarn for some extra details.

Take time to honour your mother or a motherly figure in your life. Maybe you could make her favourite meal or snack. Talk together and ask her questions about her childhood, or her favourite things. Make her feel special by spending time together and telling her how much you love and appreciate her.



DIG DEEPER:

In November/December of 2018, we held a coin drive to help support the Crisis Care Centre in Burnaby. They provide care for moms and young families in need. As a family, you could brainstorm ways in which you could help provide care and support for moms in need: maybe it’s donating old baby clothes, warm blankets and jackets, or other useful items like bottles, diapers and baby food.

Joseph



READ:

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20-25



TALK: We found out that Joseph showed compassion and mercy when he decided to end his engagement to Mary in private.

We read that when he heard about the truth in a dream, Joseph put aside all concerns for himself and his reputation by taking Mary as his wife. God knew that Joseph was a trustworthy man to raise Jesus as an earthly father.

Joseph took care of Mary and the baby Jesus. Joseph, just like our Saviour Jesus is an example of forgiveness and mercy. We can take courage in Joseph's example when we need to do the right thing, even when it might cause others to make fun of us. When we listen and obey God with a willing and loving heart, He can heal us and help us do His will.



MAKE & DO:

Colour the figure and add Joseph to your Nativity scene! You might want to use some fabric scraps or yarn for some extra details.

Share what you love about your father or fatherly figure in your family. List all the things that he does, and have them draw a special picture or tell a story about a special time they spent with him. Try making a little book or poster of all these things and give it to him as a special gift.



DIG DEEPER:

Maybe you know of someone living in your neighbourhood that could use some help around their house. Or maybe there's a park or a sidewalk that could use some cleaning up. Find ways to use your hands to work and serve others as a family. If you have a dad who is quite handy, maybe you could work together and help fix or build something for someone elderly, or a family without a dad/fatherly figure.

Donkey



READ:

Carry one another's heavy loads. If you do, you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

City of Zion, be full of joy!

People of Jerusalem, shout!

See, your king comes to you.

He always does what is right.

He has won the victory.

He is humble and riding on a donkey.

He is sitting on a donkey's colt. Zechariah 9:9



TALK: Even though the Bible doesn't specifically mention a donkey in the Nativity story, their use was quite common during this time in history. Many people read Zechariah 9:9 as reminder that the Messiah would come riding on a donkey. This verse was a prophecy of the grown Jesus arriving in Jerusalem during what we call Palm Sunday, but it still is a meaningful symbol.

Even though the donkey might not have a beautiful voice, or majestic features as an animal, they are strong, humble, and useful. In Isaiah 53:2, the prophet says that Jesus "didn't have any beauty or majesty that made us notice him. There wasn't anything special about the way he looked that drew us to him." So it's a good reminder that Jesus affected others not with anything flashy or attractive, but rather by his acts of service, carrying and lifting the burdens of those who were worn and weary.

Pray together as a family, that our Lord would strengthen us to help carry the burdens of others. Ask God to help us be strong, humble, and useful as we serve and share God's love with others.



MAKE & DO:

Colour the figure and add the donkey to your Nativity scene! Try using some fake fur, yarn, or fabric scraps to make a furry donkey.

You're never too old for a donkey ride! Moms and dads could go on their hands and knees while the little ones take turns riding on their back, enjoying a trip around your home.

If your back isn't up for multiple donkey rides, try using a blanket or a laundry basket to give your kids a bit of a ride without too much strain.



DIG DEEPER:

This Christmas season, look for opportunities to help carry one another's burdens. Maybe you'll see people struggling to carry their groceries in the grocery store parking lot. Perhaps you could help others carry their burdens emotionally or spiritually by noticing when they need a kind word or by giving a listening ear.

As a family, decide the best way to make someone's burden lighter. Maybe it's as simple as reaching out to someone with a kind hello. Maybe you could help someone clean their home as a family. You might want to write a letter or send a care package to a missionary. If there's an individual or family going through a hard time, be in prayer for them and with them. Commit to walk together with them, sharing God's love.

Shepherds



READ: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!”

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:8-18



TALK: Shepherds are in charge of guiding and protecting flocks of sheep. Because shepherds spend so much time with their sheep, they “know” their sheep, and sheep “know” their shepherd.

When we read about the shepherds, we found out that they were frightened, but found comfort in the words of the angel announcing the birth of Jesus. They dropped everything and went to search for the baby.

Jesus is called the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15) because he watches over us and protects us. He pulls us in close when we start to wander, and seeks us out when we go astray. He knows us, His sheep, and He simply asks us to know Him by following His voice.

Pray and ask God that we would be like the shepherds, quick to go and seek out the Good News that He has revealed to us.



MAKE & DO:

Colour the figure and add the shepherds to your Nativity scene! Go ahead and get creative with wool, yarn, string, and other materials.

Try having a “shepherd’s picnic” in a park, or your backyard. You could also lay a blanket indoors if it’s too chilly outside, and have a meal on the ground as a reminder of how the shepherds would watch their flocks by night. Turn out the lights and eat by candlelight to remind you of that Christmas night. Luke 2 tells us that the shepherds, after their visit with the baby Jesus in the manger, returned home and told everyone what they saw. Take some time to share some of your favourite memories of Christmas while you eat together.



DIG DEEPER:

Just like the shepherds spent their days taking care of animals, find out how you can help take care of God’s creatures. Maybe you might want to visit an animal shelter and help out with caring for God’s creation there.

If you have a pet, be reminded of how God takes care of your needs, just as you take care of the needs of your pet. If you don’t have a pet, research some animal facts that show how wonderful and creative God is at providing for the wildlife He’s created. Let Matthew 6:26 remind you how even the birds are cared for. If God cares about them, He certainly cares about us!

Sheep



READ:

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27

All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God.
All of us have turned to our own way.
And the Lord has placed on his servant
the sins of all of us.

Isaiah 53:6

Lord, I long for you to save me.
Your law gives me delight.
Let me live so that I can praise you.
May your laws keep me going.
Like a lost sheep, I've gone down the wrong path.
Come and look for me,
because I haven't forgotten to obey your commands.

Psalms 119:174-176



TALK: Sheep have good hearing and are known to have good peripheral vision; they can see behind their ears without turning around! They have a natural tendency to follow their shepherd and are known to be able to recognize their master by his voice. Although they are smarter than people think, sheep have a reputation of being simple-minded, following blindly or being easily fooled.

Pray together as a family, that we would be able to hear and recognize God's voice in our lives, just like sheep follow the Good Shepherd. Ask for God's help so we can come quickly when He calls, and not be tricked, fooled, or lose our way.



MAKE & DO:

Add the sheep to the Nativity! If you have wool or cotton balls, add some fuzzy, warm details to your cute little sheep.

As a family, play a game of “Hide-and-Go-Sheep” and remind yourselves of the Lost Sheep Parable found in Matthew 18:12–14 and Luke 15:3–7. Start with a toy sheep or other stuffed animal and choose someone to hide it somewhere in your home. The first person to find the “lost sheep” gets to hide it for the next round!



DIG DEEPER:

Sheep have cozy wool that is used to make yarn for clothing and other useful items. Give a gift of comfort by making or donating some toques, scarves, gloves, and blankets to people in need. Try looking up some videos or tutorials online and learn how to finger knit: even young little hands can pick up the skill and make something with love.

You might want to try contacting homeless shelters, assisted living centres for the elderly, or hospitals for receiving donations. Maybe there’s someone you know in your neighbourhood or at church who would appreciate a warm woolen hug this Christmas season.

Angel



READ:

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:10-14



TALK: The Christmas story features more than one appearance of an angel, even though we've only focussed on one in our Bible passage today. The first angel story occurs when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary. Next, the angel of the Lord visits Joseph in a dream. Third, we have the story we read today, and finally, an angel appears to Joseph again after the Wise Men return to their own country. This angel warns Joseph to escape out of Bethlehem with Mary and Jesus.

When we see angels in Nativity scenes or illustrations, they often have wings, halos and are dressed in white. While we might not know exactly what an angel looks like, the Bible describes them as having the glory of the Lord shining all around them. Whenever God has an important message to the people in the Bible, He often sends an angel to be the messenger. After the angel announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds, the Bible mentions a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and singing His glory.

Pray together as a family, that God would enable us to be filled with worship and praise, and that we would confidently proclaim His good news.



MAKE & DO:

Add the angel to the Nativity! Gold wrapping paper, tinfoil, and glitter are some things you can use to make your angel shine brightly!

Make a joyful noise together as a family and sing your favourite Christmas carols and worship songs. If anyone plays an instrument, use that as a special way to worship God too! You can even make some instruments using found objects around your house. Pots and pans can be a drumkit, containers of rice or beans can be shakers/maracas, and even recyclables like empty milk jugs and tin cans can make jubilant music!



DIG DEEPER:

Another way to be an angelic messenger of God's love is to participate in random acts of kindness and service. You can pay for the car behind you the next time you're at a drive-through. Or maybe you can make encouragement cards together as a family, with inspiring messages of love and hope. Be sure to add scriptures about our Saviour Jesus!

Then take the cards and place them randomly around your community. Maybe you'll leave it with a tip for your server after your meal at a restaurant. Maybe you'll secretly drop some off to your neighbours on their doorstep or in their mailbox. Others could be left on windshields in a mall parking lot, or on bus/skytrain seats.

Think of creative places to leave these little messages of hope and joy to an unsuspecting stranger. Let them be miniature reminders of proclaiming God's love that is for all people.

Star



READ:

I see him, but not here and now.

I perceive him, but far in the distant future.

A star will rise from Jacob;

a scepter will emerge from Israel... Numbers 24:17a

Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

John 8:12

The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light.

John 1:5



TALK: The star is a very important part of the Nativity story because it marked the spot for the Wise Men to find Jesus. The Wise Men knew to expect a sign from God, and when they saw the star appear, they followed it to the land of Judea.

We don't have all the details about the star and if other people noticed it too, but it's a good reminder to ask ourselves, "Am I looking for signs that God is in my life?" In the process of doing that, are we following in obedience to Him and drawing closer to Jesus?

Our scripture today talks about following Jesus. When we do that, we won't walk in darkness, because Jesus is the light. Just like darkness can't overpower a candle in the nighttime, Jesus has, and always will defeat the dark. Pray and thank God for Jesus, the light of the world.



MAKE & DO:

Add the star to your nativity scene! If you have miniature battery-powered lights or a battery-powered candle, consider using that to add an element of light to your scene.

This is a perfect opportunity to go for an excursion to see some Christmas light displays! You could go to a free event, hosted in some community parks, and there are a number of commercially produced light mazes and garden displays in the Metro Vancouver as well. Of course, going for a nighttime walk or drive around your community is perhaps the simplest way to see some lights.

Let the lights remind you of Jesus, the light of the world, and the power He has over darkness.



DIG DEEPER:

Read Matthew 5: 14-16:

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

When Jesus is living in us, we also are called 'light', and are able to shine brightly for others to see. As a family, talk together and ask yourselves, "Do my actions and behaviour bring glory to God our Father?" Prayerfully be open and honest with each other, asking God to shine His light and expose the darkness of sin in our lives. Be encouraged to repent and ask forgiveness, knowing that our God is gracious and forgiving. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit that helps us walk in His light.

Wise Men



READ:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said,

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah.

A ruler will come out of you.

He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.'" (Micah 5:2)

Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house.

There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.



TALK: The Wise Men saw the new star in the sky and set off on a journey to find the newborn King. Known also as ‘Magi’, their wisdom was evident because they noticed the new star and recalled the prophecies about it. Their wisdom followed up with action: they made the trek from the east, bringing precious gifts for the Saviour Jesus.

It’s important to notice that the Wise Men would have come later than the shepherds, (our passage from Matthew mentions Jesus as a young child with Mary) even though Nativity scenes often put them together.

It’s also important to notice that the scriptures don’t give us a specific number of Wise Men. We typically see three of them in Nativity scenes because of the three gifts mentioned in the Bible: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These wonderful gifts were fit for a king!

Regardless, the Wise Men understood that Jesus was no ordinary child, and they gave an offering of gifts that reflected that.



MAKE & DO:

Add the Wise Men to your Nativity scene! Even though they weren’t kings (despite the Christmas carol calling them the “3 Kings”), some fabric scraps and stick-on jewels will add a royal, majestic look to your figures.

If you’re doing any Christmas baking, pay particular attention to the spices added, like cinnamon, cloves, or nutmeg. Just like frankincense and myrrh were sweet-smelling substances, these ingredients are a special and precious addition. You might even light scented candles or use essential oils that are another fragrant reminder of the Wise Men’s offering.



DIG DEEPER:

As a family, pray and ask God for wisdom and reminders of obedience, that we might seek out Jesus and come to a personal relationship with Him. Just like the Wise Men took great expense to find and offer gifts to Jesus, may we also consider it a valuable thing to pursue God’s will in our lives.

With this in mind, pray and thank God for His work in your life, and pray that it may be a pleasing offering to Him.

Baby Jesus



READ:

Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem. There they presented him to the Lord. In the Law of the Lord it says, "The first boy born in every family must be set apart for the Lord." (Exodus 13:2,12) They also offered a sacrifice. They did it in keeping with the Law, which says, "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." (Leviticus 12:8)

In Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. The Spirit led him into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought the child in. They came to do for him what the Law required. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

"Lord, you are the King over all.

Now let me, your servant, go in peace.

That is what you promised.

My eyes have seen your salvation.

You have prepared it in the sight of all nations.

It is a light to be given to the Gentiles.

It will be the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them. He said to Mary, Jesus' mother, "This child is going to cause many people in Israel to fall and to rise. God has sent him. But many will speak against him. The thoughts of many hearts will be known. A sword will wound your own soul too."

.....

Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required. Then they returned to Galilee. They went to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong. He was very wise. He was blessed by God's grace.

Luke 2:21-35, 39-40



TALK: Here is what we (and all of God's people up until then) had been waiting for! The Promised One has come. Isn't it interesting that the One who would save us from sin and death would come as a helpless baby? By coming to earth as a human being, and experiencing what all humans experience, Jesus could know and understand what we as humans go through. What's more, Jesus would live a life of perfect obedience to God the Father, something we as human beings could never do!

Our passage today gives us a hint of the reason why Jesus came. He didn't stay a baby, but grew up into a man who would die as a sacrifice for our sins. Simeon, the man in the temple realizes that the whole world will be saved by this baby. As a grown man, Jesus would die on the cross, but come back to life again, three days later. He went up to Heaven, but also made a promise to come back again. This is why we have reason to hope at Christmas, and all year! We are saved from sin, and have heaven to look forward to, if we believe and put our trust in Him.



MAKE & DO:

Put Jesus at the centre of your Nativity display. Some scraps of fabric, raffia or twigs will help add some texture and make it extra special.

Talk together and make a list of "Gifts for Jesus". They can be simple, like "loving my brother", or "playing nicely with my friends". Some can be gifts of self, like "remembering to be thankful" or "being content instead of complaining". Young children won't be able to think abstractly, and that's OK. The point is to think of others and how to share kindness and love like Jesus did.



DIG DEEPER:

As you get your Christmas festivities in order, be sure to carve out some quiet time to share your testimonies together as a family. When did you learn about Jesus? How did you ask Jesus to come into your heart?

Prayerfully talk together, and take the opportunity to ask your children if they would like to receive Christ. See the next page for some conversation points to talk about as you pray together.

1

CREATION

- The Only True God created all things and has the rights of ownership over all He has made (Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 45:5-7)
- Of all that God has made, humans are special for they alone are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)
- Human beings were created to know God and be in a relationship of love with Him (Psalm 73:25-26, Psalm 84:1-2)

2

SIN

- Everyone has sinned (Psalm 14:3; Romans 3:23)
- Sin is breaking God's moral law (1 John 3:4)
- Sin breaks fellowship with God (Romans 6:23)
- Sin brings condemnation (Ephesians 2:3)

3

CROSS

- The Cross expresses God's love for sinners (Romans 5:8)
- Jesus paid the penalty for our sins (Galatians 3:13, 1 Peter 2:24)
- Jesus' death means that there is nothing we can do to please God, rather Christ has done it all (Philippians 3:7-9)

4

OUR RESPONSE

Two things are required

- Repentance (1 John 1:9)
- Faith (Romans 10:9-10)

5

THE INVITATION

- God's invitation of love (John 3:16, Acts 4:12, John 14:6)

6

THE COMMAND AND PROMISE

- Come follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24)
- Receive Eternal life (Romans 10:13)

Of course, not all children will be able to express or understand the language above, but talk to your child in age-appropriate ways to communicate these key beliefs in a way that will illuminate the joy that comes from knowing Him.