

Christmas Day Celebration Ideas

Pantano Christian Church

1. Have an adult read the story out loud and have different family members dramatize it using a variety of props such as towels, stuffed animals, etc. Record and re-watch with the family and save for future years through video and photos.
2. Read the story and pose as mannequins of the different parts. The angel telling Mary, Mary and Joseph headed to Bethlehem, the shepherds afraid, etc. (Take a video of the scene and post it on Facebook!)
3. Break the Christmas story into parts and write those parts on pieces of paper. Place those pieces of papers in a bowl, have family members take out a piece of paper, and act out the parts. Have family members guess which part is being presented.
4. Have everyone take turns paraphrasing a part of the story and illustrating it using markers, crayons, water color, sidewalk chalk, etc.
5. Using a large font, type the Christmas story out (or print from Biblegateway.com) and then cut it into sections like a puzzle. See how fast your family can assemble the story in the correct order.
6. Have each person design their own place mat representing the Christmas story. If you bring these to Pantano's 'Family Team' office after Christmas, we will laminate them for you to save for next year!
7. Have mom or dad make a Christmas Quiz from the story (you can look online for good questions). For example, the Bible never says there were 3 wise men....just 3 gifts!
8. Read the story in short parts and spend time praying on your knees thanking God specifically after each section.
9. Take each character or part from the story and have family members create 2 matching pictures of that part on index cards. Then, put all the cards together upside down and play a matching game.
10. Cut out paper stars on white or yellow paper and have each person write or draw about what the gift of God's son means to them. Assemble them in a book for later!
11. Make a birthday cake for Jesus and have everyone help decorate it. Then, on Christmas morning celebrate His birthday!

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12. Make birthday cupcakes for Jesus and deliver them to friends or neighbors later on Christmas day or Christmas evening. (Be sure to tell them that you are sharing part of Jesus' birthday celebration with them!)
13. Write thank you letters to God about how much Jesus means to you thanking Him for the gift of His son.
14. Watch your favorite Christmas movie together. Point out the teachable moments where God and the meaning of Christmas is brought into the story.
15. Have the kids make "edible nativities" using cereal, marshmallows, pretzels, frosting, gum drops and graham crackers.
16. Create a scavenger hunt around the house hiding pieces of a real nativity or crèche your own. When all the pieces are found, retell the story using the pieces.
17. Google famous Christmas carols (for the words) and then sing together as a family. Talk about how each song speaks of the Christmas story and see if you can find the history behind how each song was written! (Try O Holy Night, Silent Night, Hark the Angels, O Come All Ye Faithful to get you started)
18. It is sometimes hard to understand why God sent His son as an infant in a manger. Have family members share how they would have sent their son to save the world. Discuss reasons why God chose the way He did.

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