

# A CHRIST-LIKE CHRISTMAS

Christmas family devo & activity guide – Dec. 19-25, 2016



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## PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION

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To celebrate God's incredible gift of Jesus and to actively offer his love and heart to those around you.

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## SETTING UP

**1 ½ HOURS**

- Talk as a family about your Christmas schedule and agree on an evening or at least part of one day that you can set aside to be together as a family to enjoy each other and talk about Jesus. \*Note: Journey is intentionally creating space for this by choosing to not meet for gathered worship on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Begin your time together by watching a favorite Christmas movie. \*Note: This movie can be any number of things. The point is to enjoy your time together and set up an environment where you can talk afterwards. Some possibilities include: *It's A Wonderful Life*; *Home Alone*; *Elf*; *A Christmas Story*; *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; *The Santa Clause*; *The Polar Express*; *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; *Christmas with the Kranks*; or *A Christmas Carol*. If you want a more biblical movie, you might try *The Nativity Story*.

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## DIGGING IN

**30 MIN**

- After the movie, move into a discussion with your family. \*Note: Alter your discussion depending on the ages of your family. Some of you may need to keep this conversation short, while others can dive in deeper.
- **"What's your favorite thing about Christmas?"** Talk about family, gifts, food, time off, etc.
- **"Why do we celebrate Christmas? What's this holiday really about?"** Talk about Jesus. Talk about God's love for us and the life with God Jesus brings us into.
- Read [Luke 2:1-38](#). **"When Jesus started his ministry, he said..."** Read [Luke 4:18-19](#). Share what Jesus has done for your life. Discuss what "salvation" and "freedom" in Christ looks like for you. Talk in simple terms how following Jesus has changed you. How following him as changed you.

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## TAKING IT HOME

**30 MIN**

- **"Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. He is the gift of love, compassion, sacrifice and forgiveness to us. He not only offers these gifts to us but also invites us to offer them too!"**
- **"This Christmas, how can we offer some of those things to other people?"** \*Note: Discuss practical, age appropriate ways that you can share his love. For older kids, talk about forgiving others or sacrificing for others (with your time or money). For younger kids, talk about simple ways to serve.
- Plan a simple activity to do as a family. Ideas include: writing notes; inviting a family over for a fun event; buying a gift for someone not on your list; leaving a big tip for a waitress; etc. – get creative!