

Faith on Fire

Family Guide

Week of Dec. 19, 2021

Christmas/Epiphany
(Weekly dated December 25 & Jan. 2)

Opening Prayer



+God in Heaven, thank you for sending your son Jesus into the world to save us from our sins. Give us courage and boldness to tell others about this Good News.

Thank you for...

We are sorry for. . . and we ask for your help with . . .

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen +

Jesus is Born for All People - Luke 2:1-14 & Matthew 2:1-12

(Overview for Adult Leader)

Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany celebrate that God is one of us, a human being with a human family. God the Son was born as a human baby named Jesus. We call this the mystery of the Incarnation. God wants us to know, love and follow Jesus. Matthew uses the visit of the Magi to show that Jesus whose name means "God Saves," came for ALL nations.

QUICK CONNECT (10 min)

Begin by each child completing the front cover of *their* Gospel Weekly (3 min)

Catholic Faith Word: A great way to start your Scripture time together is to do hangman with the Catholic Faith Word. Choose one word if you have multiple children or if time permits do multiple words!

NOTE: Families with **ONLY PROMISE** children, please go [HERE](#) for your Parent Teaching Guide which includes opening story, Gospel, & questions. You may look at this Family Guide for extra resources.

DO ALL TOGETHER - READ A OPENING STORY & Do the Questions This is a quick opportunity for everyone to listen to ONE story which will prepare them for the Gospel. (If you have students in different levels, pick just one story.) Promise found at **RED** link above.

Short on time? Skip the story & pick from the discussion starter questions below to make a quick connection with family members & move on to the Gospel Reading.

Questions: Pick 1 or 2 that apply to your child(ren)

- What are your favorite parts of the Christmas story? Why?
- What is the best gift you have ever received?
- What is the best gift you have ever given someone? Why? What kind of gift can you offer Jesus?
- The angels were bearers of good news (the message of God). Where do you get messages of God from?





Discover the Gospel TOGETHER - 20 min

(Overview for Adult Leader) Jesus Christ is born! (Jesus means 'God saves.') Christ is a Greek word that means the same as the Hebrew word Messiah. Both words mean 'the anointed one.' The wait and preparation culminates in joy as Jesus is born within and among us. Through Advent, we have strived to increase our patience, generosity, and vigilance. We have prepared our hearts and opened our lives to Jesus' presence. We celebrate with the angels and shepherds, for our God is among us as one like us. (~Taken from Celebrating the Lectionary, p. 94)

Read the Gospel (in Bible) OR read/act out the Gospel Play from ONE of the printed Pflaum Weeklies - Luke 2:1-14, Matthew 2:1-12



TOGETHER do the Gospel Reflection Questions found in your child's Weekly (in yellow boxes), **except** Promise & most explained below.

Who were Jesus' first visitors? (*Shepherds*)

Why were poor shepherds the first people to learn about Jesus' birth? *At that time Shepherds were not considered very important. God could have made his announcement to the kings or the important leaders or scholars, but he didn't. He choose to tell the meek and humble shepherds so that people would understand that Jesus had come for all no matter how important they were.*

Who else came to visit Jesus? (*Magi, wise men. Magi is the plural of magus, an ancient name for a person who studied books & nature to try to understand the universe and the place of human beings in it. We sometimes call the seekers who came to worship Jesus wise men or kings instead of Magi.*)

What does the visit of the Magi tell us about Jesus? *Wise people sought him out and wise people still seek him. We should be wise and seek him every day of our lives.*

What do you think the Magi did when they returned home? (*allow for all answers, perhaps spread the Good News of what they had seen*)

What is the Incarnation? *Incarnation literally means 'in the flesh.'* **When do we celebrate the Incarnation?** *Christmas. We can't understand how Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine (God), but we believe it to be true. Some teaching of our faith are mysteries and are beyond our human ability to understand.*

Why was God's son born in a stable? *Jesus was sent to us, to everyone, by God our Father to live with us and in us. He came to save ALL people not just the Jewish people. Jesus humbled himself to become a person like us.*

Why does the powerful King Herod want to know about the infant Jesus? *Herod thinks that any king could threaten his power.* **Why did the Magi disobey King Herod?** *The dream warned them of danger. If they had returned to Herod & reported what they had heard and seen, Herod may have tried to get rid of Jesus. Micah predicted a ruler that would rise to shepherd the People of Israel; Herod did not want that to happen.*

How have the four weeks of Advent changed you & prepared you for Christmas?

How do you show respect to all people, as God loves all people?

Have each child work on **their** pages in What the Church Believes & Teaches (WCBT)
Each child will work individually in their book as they may not be covering the same content.

Promise students will do Jesus is God's Son (p 20)

Good News students will do Creed: I believe... (p 9)

Venture students will do What is the Mystery of the Incarnation? (p 10)

Visions students will do Jesus is the Savior (p 10)





Go Live It!! (10 min)

Take time over the Christmas Octave (8 days starting with Christmas day) and read or better yet act out the Christmas story. Let your youngest narrate and the other family members act it out!

Don't forget to be sharing your highs & lows for the day; what you're thankful for AND our latest question: **What are you sorry for today?**



Closing Prayer:

Use the prayer found in your Gospel Weekly to close your time together. It can be found in the Family Corner (Promise/Good news) or With My Family & Friends section (Venture/Visions).

Show us what you've learned or how you've lived your faith this week!

Together, let's take one step closer to God!

Find the Assignment Form [HERE](#).
Due Next Sunday

Car Rides Review Questions!

Can you tell me what the Gospel was about?
Why do you think this story is in the Bible?
What did we learn from the Gospel?

INTERESTED IN A LITTLE MORE
ADVENTURE?! CHECK OUT
THESE ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES!!



To receive weekly tips from Pflaum Weekly click [here](#)

Learn about the Eucharist

"While all the sacraments confer grace, the Eucharist contains the author of grace, Jesus Christ himself."
~Father John Hardon, S.J.

We define grace as "God living in us." This life of God within us begins at Baptism and is increased and grows with each celebration of a sacrament. But the Eucharist is special. The other sacraments point to it. They make us part of the Body of Christ, but the Eucharist *is* the Body of Christ. It is God becoming our food. And since God is the Author of Grace, the one from whom grace comes, the grace that the Eucharist gives us is more than from any other sacrament. It is the pinnacle of the life of grace that we can share in.

Saint of the Week -

January 1, Feast of Mary
Mother of God (6 min)

Younger Students

- Christmas Story with Legos (4 min)
- Jesus & the Wise Men (3 Min)

Older Students

- The Wise Men Visit (5 min) Excellent!
- Vatican Nativity Exhibit

Adults

- Bishop Barron on Christmas Take the time to watch this!

