

Day 7

Line-string

Read: Luke 2:4-6

Did you know Joseph was of the lineage of King David? This makes Jesus in his humanity a direct descendant through his legal father Joseph, to David and Abraham. When Jesus is referred to as the "Son of David" this is more than a reference to his physical lineage but his Messianic title! Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies!

Share with your kids what you know about your lineage. How far back can you name your ancestors. Discuss how the Prophets in the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would be from the seed of David and how Jesus fulfilled that prophecy.



Day 10

Baby Jesus

Read: Luke 2:6-7

Did you know that Bethlehem was very crowded at the time of Jesus birth because of the census? The Bible tells us there was no room for them in the inn. Many wonder that God would allow the Messiah to be born in such a lowly place. Jesus, our Savior came to earth not to live in a beautiful palace and be served, but to live and walk humbly, giving himself to us as a living sacrifice.

Do you have a Baby Jesus figurine from a Nativity set? If so, have a parent hide baby Jesus somewhere in your house. On Christmas morning everyone must be like the Wise Men and SEEK Baby Jesus—the first and greatest of all gifts at Christmas. If you need help finding him Christmas morning, play the hot/cold getting closer game with your parents.



Day 8

Donkey

Read: Luke 2:5

Did you know that the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was a four to six day journey? People either traveled by foot, by animal, or by cart. Donkeys were the normal mode of travel and most likely how Mary and Joseph traveled, although the bible never states Mary actually rode on a donkey.

Have you ever been on a long car trip? Were you comfortable? Did anything happen on your car trip that wasn't planned? Maybe a flat tire, engine problem or car sickness. Imagine as a family what it was like for Mary and Joseph as they journeyed to Bethlehem.



Day 11

Swaddling Blanket

Read: Luke 2:7

Wrapping a baby in swaddling clothes was a custom of the time. The scripture shows the great love and care given to Jesus by his parents despite his humble place of birth. This is a reminder that love is more important than any material possession we can give or acquire for our children.

There may not be many gifts under your tree this Christmas, but the gift of love and care from people that love you are more valuable than any toy. Discuss as a family all the people you give gifts to this year. Of all the material things you give away, what is something you can give that is not materialistic, but of greater value. God loved us so much that he gave us his Son. Jesus is truly the greatest gift. Can you share Jesus with someone this Christmas?



Day 9

Purple Cloth & Leader of House of Judah

Read: Micah 5:2

Do you know why the Bible calls Bethlehem little? It was a pretty insignificant place compared to the big cities in Judah. Bethlehem was a very small town in the hill country of Judah. It had to be distinguished as Bethlehem Ephrathah because there were other places called Bethlehem too. God often chooses the seemingly insignificant places and people to accomplish His plans.

Were you born in a small town or big city? Were you born rich or poor? Out of the small humble clan of Judah came Jesus! It doesn't matter where you came from God can use you! Share with your kids where you were born and what your childhood was like. Also, share your testimony of how God has used you throughout your life.



Day 12

Dove

Read: Isaiah 9:6

Did you know the Dove is a symbol of peace? Matthew 10:16 says to be as "innocent as doves". When Noah sent out a dove from the ark the dove brought back an olive branch, another symbol of peace. Doves were also used as a sacrifice for sins. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace symbolizing his gift of peace to all through his sacrifice that leads to salvation.

What do you think of when you hear the word peace? Would you say you experience peace? What seems to interrupt peace in your heart? What scriptures help us remember where true peace comes from? Read Romans 5:1, John 14:27-28, Galatians 5:22-23, John 16:33, Phillipians 4:6-7. Pick one verse and write it on a sticky note. Place it on your bathroom mirror and try to memorize it this week.

