

Wrapping It Up

Oral acrostic

- Write the word "Christmas" in block letters on the chalkboard. Have members hold hands and form a circle. Tell them they are going to compose a spontaneous oral acrostic, using the letters in the word Christmas. Each statement must have something to do with the Christmas story that is found in the Bible.
- Start the acrostic by saying, "C is for the child in the manger." Have the person to your left continue by saying, "H is for..." Continue until each person has had a turn, even if you have to spell the word more than once. If you have fewer than nine in the circle, continue until the entire word has been spelled.
- Then tell the class that during the second round the statements should relate to their own personal plans for the holidays. Begin by saying, "C is for the company that we are expecting," or "C is for the Candlelight Service we will attend on Christmas Eve," or "C is for the Christmas presents we will be giving." Continue as in the first round.
- For the third and final round, tell members their statements should tell what Christmas means to them personally. Begin by saying, "C is for Christ who died for my sins."
- After the third round is completed, ask someone to lead the class in prayer.



Faith at Home

Show the "checklist" (Item 1) to your family and ask them which of the activities will probably be a part of your family's Christmas celebration this year. After they respond, lead them to think together about the last item and how your family could share faith with unsaved persons this Christmas season.

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Luke 2:1-20

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Checklist

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following (duplicate Item 1).

Checklist

Which of these will probably be a part of your Christmas celebration this year?

Place a check mark in front of those items.

- time with friends and family
- receiving presents
- giving presents
- spending money
- cooking, baking
- wrapping gifts
- mailing, shipping gifts
- unpacking decorations

- overeating
- overspending
- worry, frustration
- time off
- overtime
- making long distance phone calls
- decorating a tree
- giving to missions
- sending greeting cards
- attending special church program
- watching football games
- sharing faith with unsaved persons

- Ask them to check items on the list that will probably be a part of their Christmas celebration this year.
- Allow one or two minutes for members to check their lists. Then call attention to the last item, "sharing faith with unsaved persons."
- **We get busy with a lot of things during the Christmas season. It is easy for us to forget the real reason we are celebrating. And it is even easier for us to forget to help others discover that reason. The birth of Jesus Christ brought joy into the world, but the people of the world cannot experience that joy unless they come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.**
- Have the class get into prayer huddles of two to four persons. Encourage each person to name at least one unsaved person they are praying for. Suggest the group pray that God would use this Christmas in the lives of those unsaved persons to draw them to Himself.

Exploring God's Word

Dramatic reading

- Tell the class that you are going to enlist three persons to present Luke 2:1-20 as a dramatic reading. Assign the following parts to different persons and help them find their parts:
 - » Narrator (all that is not a direct quote from one of the others)

» Angel (2:10-12; 14)

» Shepherds (2:15)

- Ask the Narrator to begin reading in Luke 2:1.

Creating signs of Christmas

- Ask members to recall the Christmas story as it is told in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. Ask them to mention persons, places and events they remember. Make sure

they include these:

- The angel's announcements to Mary and Joseph that the baby would be born
- Caesar's decree requiring everyone to return to their home town
- Mary and Joseph's long trip to Bethlehem and the inn with no room
- The birth of Jesus in a stable
- The appearance of the angels to the shepherds and the shepherds' visit to the manger
- The wise men who followed a star and found Jesus, then went back home another way rather than tell Herod where the baby was
- Joseph's dream in which he was warned to take his family to Egypt until Herod died
- Herod's massacre of the baby boys in Bethlehem
- Then ask members to think of modern-day signs they might see along a trip that would remind them of the Christmas story. As an example, hold up the "No Vacancy" sign (Item 2) and ask what part of the story it makes them think of (the inn at Bethlehem that had no room for Joseph and his family).
- Give members a moment to think. Once they start naming signs they will probably think of several. Here are a few they may suggest:
 - Detour—The wise men went home another way; Joseph took his

family to Egypt before returning to Nazareth

- Yield—Mary and Joseph both yielded to the will of God in becoming the earthly parents of Jesus
- Stop—The wise men followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus lay
- Danger—The wise men and Joseph were warned of danger in their dreams
- City Limits—Mary and Joseph's destination was the city of Bethlehem
- After members have related several signs, plant this thought: **The next time you see one of these signs on the road, let it be a reminder to you of God's wonderful gift of a Savior.**

Making It Personal

Writing monologues

- Give each person paper and pencil. Point out verse 17 which tells us that the shepherds "spread the word" about what they had seen and heard. Ask members to pretend they were one of the shepherds who shared in the remarkable experiences described in this passage. Have each person write what they would have told someone else about their experience.
- Allow five minutes for writing. Then let each person read aloud his or her monologue.

Checklist

Which of these will probably be a part of your Christmas celebration this year? Place a check mark in front of those items.

- time with friends and family
- receiving presents
- giving presents
- spending money
- cooking, baking
- wrapping gifts
- mailing, shipping gifts
- unpacking decorations
- overeating
- overspending
- worry, frustration
- time off
- overtime
- making long distance phone calls
- decorating a tree
- giving to missions
- sending greeting cards
- attending special church program
- watching football games
- sharing faith with unsaved persons

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NO

VACANCY