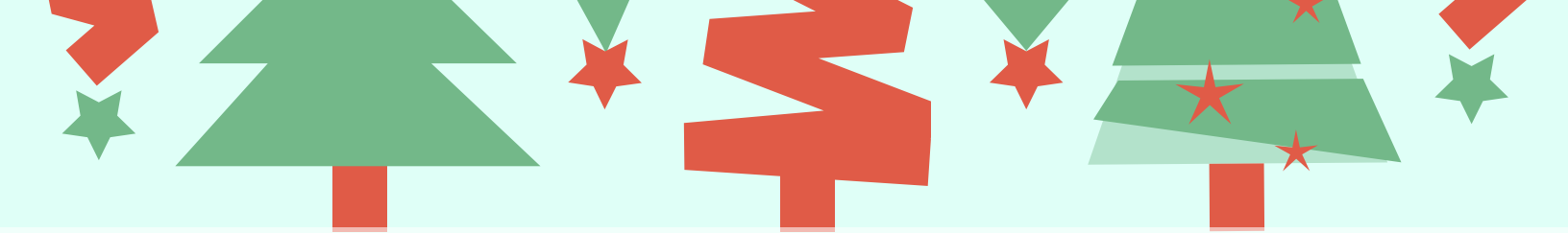


How to

Celebrate Christ

On Christmas Morning

An easy how-to family guide for
keeping Christ at the center of Christmas



HOW TO CELEBRATE CHRIST ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

Christmas... if you stop to think about it, the word itself brings back a host of memories from your childhood. From the sights to the sounds to the smells of Christmas, it doesn't take long for our mind to drift off to another time and another place.

As parents, we have the privilege of helping our children develop life-long memories surrounding Christmas. And some of the most important and lasting memories we can create are those surrounding the true reason for the season - Jesus.

So this Christmas morning, set aside a few minutes to gather the family around, and spend time together focusing on the reason we celebrate by doing some of the following fun activities:

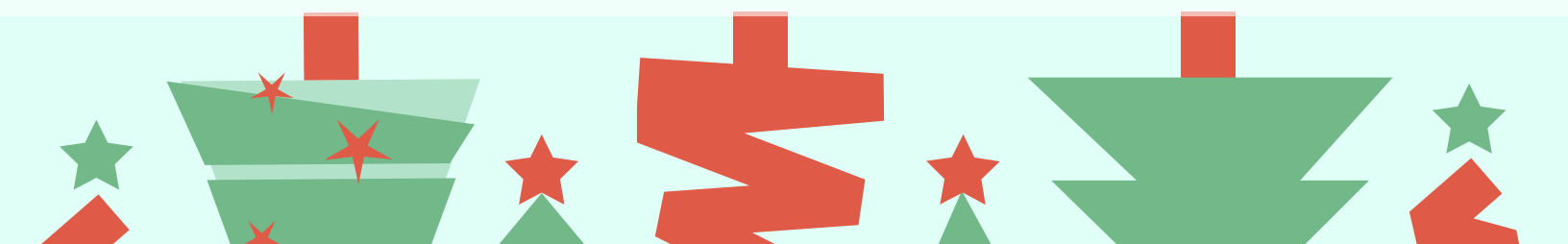
TAKE a quick trip back to THE FIRST CHRISTMAS!

1 minute - Share with your children one of your favorite childhood memories from Christmas day. What do you remember most? What was special?

2 minutes - Read the story of the first Christmas from Luke 2:1-20. (Place yourself into the story as you read it with enthusiasm so that it comes to life for your kids.)

3 minutes - Discuss the following questions as a family:

- What do you think was the hardest thing for Joseph and Mary to accept - the long journey to Bethlehem or the poor accommodations once they arrived?
- How do you think they must have felt to know that they were about to become the parents to the Son of God?
- What do you think it means when the angel said to the shepherds in verse 10 that the good tidings of Jesus' birth would "be to all people." (Answer: Jesus came to save *the world* from sin. See Matthew 1:21 & John 3:16)





TRY something NEW!

One of the reasons Jesus came on Christmas Day was to begin something NEW in the world and in the hearts of every person. Jesus came to give us NEW and ETERNAL LIFE through Him! (Read Ezekiel 11:19, John 10:28, 2 Corinthians 5:17, & Revelation 21:5)

Don't let Christmas Day just come and go without making any lasting memories. Here are some ideas for making Christmas day extra special this year. Decide as a family to do at least one NEW thing today (or all of them):

CREATE A NEW TRADITION. Christmas day is the perfect day for both carrying on traditions of the past, as well as starting new ones for the future. (Maybe even something as simple as reading the Christmas story from Luke 2.) Don't be afraid to try something new with your family. It might just stick.

WATCH A HOLIDAY CLASSIC TOGETHER AS A FAMILY. In addition to some football, why not introduce your kids to a classic movie like "It's a Wonderful Life", "A Charlie Brown Christmas", or maybe a more recent classic, "Elf".

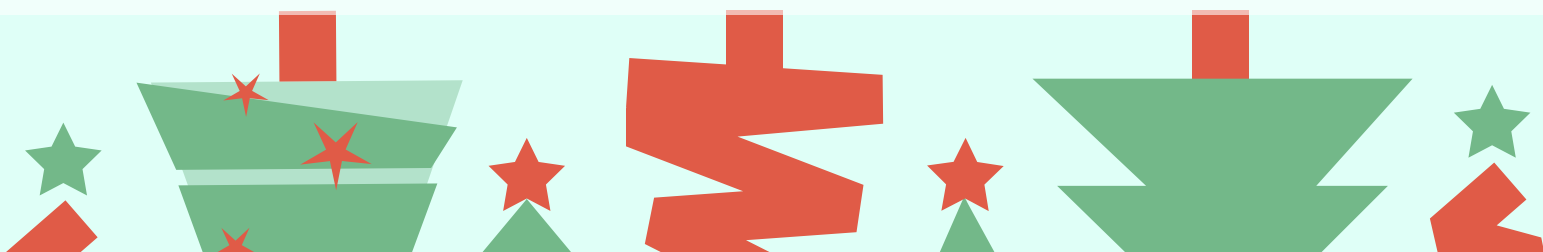
BREAK OUT THE FAMILY PHOTO ALBUMS. You know, all those photos that you've taken over the last 10 years, but never had any of them printed? Bring out the laptop or devices, and start clicking/scrolling through all those memories from previous Christmas days. Guaranteed smiles and laughter will follow.

SURPRISE A NEIGHBOR WITH A GIFT. Maybe a homemade treat or simply a card signed by each member of your family. Christmas day is a perfect time to show what it means to be both a good neighbor and a good Christian.

MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES. Paper snowflakes don't have to be a thing of the past. They are just as cool now as they were when we were kids. Have a competition, simply make them for fun, or give them to each other as gifts. Using the remaining paper by ending with an indoor paper snowball fight would be something your kids would never forget.

CUDDLE, RELAX, AND ENJOY SOME HOT COCOA. Make sure to take some time today to simply refresh and enjoy down time together as a family. These are times that your children are sure to remember.

Whatever NEW thing you try, remember to tie it back to the reason Jesus came - to begin something NEW in us!



TELL what you're most THANKFUL for that Christ has done for you in the past year!

As you wrap things up as a family, take a few moments now or later to express what Jesus means to you, and what you want to thank Him for most from the past year. Here are a few thoughts that might help:

- Who is the one person you are most thankful for that God has allowed to be in your life?
- What was your most meaningful event of the last year that you thank God for?
- How has knowing Jesus changed you or grown you for the better in the past year?

Whatever you do today, have fun, and remember to CELEBRATE CHRIST all day long. Because HE is the reason we get to celebrate CHRISTmas!

CHRISTMAS GAME!

While all things "Christmas" are not bad, not all things "Christmas" have to do with Christ. As a family, circle which things below have something to do with Christ. Discuss them together as everyone might not agree on all of them, or some of them might have a double meaning. Whatever you do, have fun doing it!

