

King James (Authorized) Version

1611

December 1

Today's Topic: Advent



Watch the Video for December 1

Read the following:

Isaiah 40:3-5

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things you would like to do as a family to prepare for the coming of Christmas?
2. What do these two passages tell you about Christmas?

December 2

Today's Topic: Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer



Watch the Video for December 2

Read the following:

Isaiah 53:3-6

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

John 1:10-14

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything in the story of Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer that surprised you? What was it?
2. How does today's reading remind you of the story of Rudolph?

December 3

Today's Topic: Holly and Mistletoe



Watch the Video for December 3

Read the following:

Psalms 51:1-3, 7

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. . . Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Romans 5:6-9

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of any other plant that is associated with Christmas?
2. Red and green are Christmas colors. Red can remind us of what Jesus did for us in dying for our sins. What does the color green make you think of?

December 4

Today's Topic: Handel's Messiah



Watch the Video for December 4

Read the following:

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Look over the names Isaiah uses for Jesus. How is each of these important to you?
2. What are some of your favorite Christmas songs that talk about Jesus?

December 5

Today's Topic: Gift of the Magi and The Fourth Wise Man



Watch the Video for December 5

Read the following:

Proverbs 14:31

He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Matthew 25:34-40

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What does the story of Della and Jim teach you about the true nature of Christmas giving?
2. According to the passage in Matthew, what are some ways we can serve God by helping others?

December 6

Today's Topic: Saint Nicholas



Watch the Video for December 6

Read the following:

Proverbs 19:17

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Luke 6:31-38

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. How was the real Saint Nicholas like Santa Claus?
2. In what ways can you be like Saint Nicholas this Christmas?

December 7

Today's Topic: WW1 Christmas Peace



Watch the Video for December 7

Read the following:

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of someone you can give the message of peace to this Christmas?
2. In the midst of battle, the story in today's video tells us that some found peace in singing *Silent Night*. What are some songs you know that bring you comfort and peace?

December 8

Today's Topic: The Candy Cane



Watch the Video for December 8

Read the following:

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Titus 2:13-14

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways the candy cane can be used to teach people about Jesus?
2. What are some of your favorite Christmas treats?

December 9

Today's Topic: The Nutcracker



Watch the Video for December 9

Read the following:

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Luke 4:16-21

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What surprised you about the story of the Nutcracker?
2. What do these verses teach you about what Jesus can do?

December 10

Today's Topic: Truth or Tradition?



Watch the Video for December 10

Read the following:

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything in today's video that you thought was truth but was really tradition? What was it?
2. Why is it important to distinguish truth from tradition?

December 11

Today's Topic: Traditional Christmas Foods



Watch the Video for December 11

Read the following:

Psalms 34:8-10

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Different types of Christmas foods were mentioned in today's video. What one is your favorite? Is there one you would like to try?
2. Food is often associated with rejoicing. Why do you think this is so? What food makes you rejoice?

December 12

Today's Topic: Angels



Watch the Video for December 12

Read the following:

Psalms 41:1-2

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

Hebrews 13:1-3

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What are some stories about angels from the Bible?
2. The video suggested some ways in which we can act like angels by helping others. What is something you would like to do this Christmas to help others?

December 13

Today's Topic: Christmas Trees



Watch the Video for December 13

Read the following:

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

John 3:14-17

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Did you learn something that you did not know about Christmas trees from the video? If so, what was it?
2. Name at least one thing about Christmas trees that you like best.

December 14

Today's Topic: Nativity Scenes



Watch the Video for December 14

Read the following:

Psalms 2:7

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Luke 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. If you could be part of a Nativity scene, who would you like to be and why? If you have enough members of your family present, act out a nativity scene right now.
2. The shepherds first saw an angel of the Lord, then a great number of angels, and then finally the Lord Jesus. They then told others what they had heard and had seen. What are some of the things you think they might have said to others about what they had just experienced?

December 15

Today's Topic: Go Tell It On The Mountain



Watch the Video for December 15

Read the following:

Isaiah 55:11-12

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Acts 10:34-36

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn from the video?
2. Why is it important to understand that God considers everyone the same regardless of their race, education, sex, age, where they live, or how much money they may or may not have? How should this affect the way we view others?

December 16

Today's Topic: A Christmas Carol



Watch the Video for December 16

Read the following:

Psalms 51:7-10

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. The heart of Ebenezer Scrooge was changed. Why do you think Christmas has such an effect on people?
2. Scrooge said that he would honor Christmas and “keep it all the year.” What is something you can do to keep the spirit of Christmas burning in your heart all year long?

December 17

Today's Topic: Christmas Trivia



Watch the Video for December 17

Read the following:

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-15

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Can you name something about Christmas that was not covered in the video?
2. According to the above passage, why did Joseph take Mary and the baby Jesus into Egypt? Can you think of anyone else from the Bible who was also “called out of Egypt” to serve God?

December 18

Today's Topic: Gifts



Watch the Video for December 18

Read the following:

Esther 9:22

As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

Ephesians 4:7-12

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What were some Christmas gifts that you received in the past?
2. Think of a spiritual gift that God has given to you. What is it?

December 19

Today's Topic: Birthday Cakes for Jesus



Watch the Video for December 19

Read the following:

Psalms 18:46

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Colossians 1:12-18

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What would you put on a Birthday cake for Jesus? Why not make one and do it?
2. Can you think of some other things you can do to celebrate Jesus' birthday?

December 20

Today's Topic: X-mas



Watch the Video for December 20

Read the following:

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Romans 11:33-36

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. The passage in Deuteronomy teaches us that God will make some things known to us. What are some things God has revealed to you?
2. Before you watched today's video, did you know that "X" stood for Christ? How does this information make you feel about the phrase "Merry X-mas"?

December 21

Today's Topic: Season of Light: Christmas-Hanukah-Kwanzaa



Watch the Video for December 21

Read the following:

Psalms 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

John 1:1-5; 8:12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. . . Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Do you like the various lights we see at Christmas time? What are some of your favorites?
2. What did you learn about Hanukah or Kwanzaa that you did not know before?

December 22

Today's Topic: We Three Kings of Orient Are



Watch the Video for December 22

Read the following:

Psalms 72:11

Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

Matthew 2:1-8

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. The wise men gave gifts to Jesus. What is something you can give to Jesus this Christmas?
2. From either the Bible or tradition, what are some other things you have been taught about the wise men?

December 23

Today's Topic: The Star of Bethlehem



Watch the Video for December 23

Read the following:

Numbers 24:17

I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

Matthew 2:9-12

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the various explanations of the Star of Bethlehem do you think is more likely?
2. Can you think of a poem, rhyme or verse that uses the word “star” in it?

December 24

Today's Topic: The Twelve Days of Christmas



Watch the Video for December 24

Read the following:

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Can you name or sing the gifts of the Twelve Days of Christmas?
2. Do you think *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was really a secret code or just an urban legend? Why?

December 25

Today's Topic: Was Jesus Born on December 25?



Watch the Video for December 25

Read the following:

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Does it really matter what day we celebrate the birth of Christ? Why?
2. Think of something you can do today that would make Jesus happy. What is it? Why not do it?