

The Christmas Story

Teaching:

- For Grades 1-3, watch: [Jesus is Born](#) and [Jesus and the Shepherds](#).
- For Grades 4-8, watch [Kids' Telling of the Christmas Story](#).
- For Adults, watch Fr. Mike Schmitz's video: [Christmas: A Time of Hope](#).

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus in three ways: 1) 2,000 years ago, 2) the Second Coming at the end of time, and 3) Coming into our hearts this Christmas. Spend the next few weeks doing one, two, three, or all four of these fun family activities.

Watch the Story

Spend some time as a family watching the story of the first Christmas. Two good options are:



The Star (2017): You can't go wrong with funny talking animals leading the way! A family favorite of all ages!



The Nativity Story (2006): A more serious version for older children and adults that walks through the story of Jesus' birth and the greater implications for the leadership of the time.

Eat the Story

Edible Manger: Snack Pack Pudding, Shredded Wheat Cereal, pretzel nuggets, mini marshmallows.

Open the pudding, then shred the cereal over pudding to represent hay. Place the pretzel nugget on the hay to represent the body of baby Jesus and top the nugget with marshmallow to represent the head of baby Jesus.

Birthday Cake for Jesus: Bake a birthday cake for baby Jesus. You have a decorated cake for your birthday, why not Jesus? [Examples here](#). Don't forget to sing!

Baby Jesus Wrapped in a Blanket: Crescent rolls and little smokies. Take pieces of the crescent rolls and wrap around the smokies. Bake at 350 for 10 min. Or, use hot dogs cut into pieces.



A Christmas Prayer

Lord, you came upon a midnight clear,
to bring joy to the world and draw us near.
It was a holy night when you came from above
to fill our hearts with hope and love.
Thank you, sweet Jesus boy,
for clothing us with comfort and joy. Amen.

Paint the Story

Try one of these crafts using your child's hands, feet, or fingerprints, but skip Santa/reindeer and stick with the nativity theme!

Jesus In a Manger Handprint



Baby Jesus in a Manger Fingerprint



Christmas Manger Footprint

Decode the Story



ESCAPE ROOMS were the craze before COVID. Here's a nativity one you can do from you home!

Start [here](#) by reading the instructions for parents, and then explain how to play to your children.

For each mystery, read the information, answer the question, and use the decoder to break the code.

[Mystery #1](#) [Mystery #2](#) [Mystery #3](#) [Mystery #4](#)

Final Challenge

Crack the mysteries using the following:

[Cryptogram](#)

[Polybius Cipher](#)

[Morse Code](#)

[Pigpen Cipher](#)

➔ [Answer Keys and Cipher Hints](#)

Want a way to give back this Christmas?
Bring in your gently-used clothing and shoes and we'll send it to families in Honduras struggling after the hurricane in November. Donations accepted until Jan. 8th.