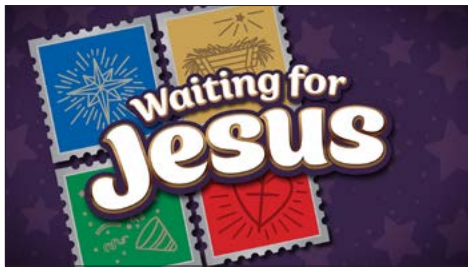


In God's Big Story

After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!

Wonder Truth: Jesus Is Our Joy
Scripture: Isaiah 35; Luke 2

WATCH GOD'S BIG STORY



JOY

[ELEMENTARY VIDEO](#)

[EARLY CHILDHOOD VIDEO](#)

WORD OF WONDER

Work together this week on memorizing this verse! Use our [motions video](#) or this [video](#) to help you!

ELEMENTARY:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for.
It is being sure of what we do not see.
—Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for
and sure of what we do not see.
—from Hebrews 11:1

WONDER ABOUT IT!

- What's one thing you're learning about God and the wonder of His big story?
- How do you see God's story as part of your own story?

WORSHIP@HOME

[Listen](#) and [watch](#) from our worship playlists any time!

**EXPERIENCE MORE
WONDER@HOME
ONLINE!**



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

Families, use this to prompt conversations at the table, in the car, and anywhere else your family experiences life together.

- In your own words, describe joy. What does it mean? (Note that true joy is deep gladness because of Jesus that lasts forever!)
- Think back on the past year. What are some times when you experienced joy?
- Do you think it's possible to have joy even when you feel sad? Why or why not?
- Who is someone you can share the joy of Jesus with this week? What will you do for or with this person to share joy?



HANDS ON

Something Unexpected

God's people waited hundreds of years for the Savior to come. When He came, it was not in a way most people expected! God sent Jesus—the King of all Kings—as a helpless baby and announced His arrival to ordinary shepherds. As a family, explore the idea that sometimes the greatest gifts come in unexpected packages!

Without your child knowing, wrap two presents—one in a large box and one in a small one. The large present should contain one small coin with little value. It should be beautifully wrapped. The small present should contain something simple that will bring your family joy. For example, a gift card for a favorite ice cream shop or a homemade gift certificate for one family Christmas movie night. The small gift can be sloppily wrapped.

Gather to open these two gifts. After opening both gifts, talk together about the experience: **What did you think would be in each gift? Which were you more excited to open? Now, which are you more excited about? How was the smaller gift like the gift of Jesus being born?**



WALK IT ACT IT MOVE IT

Waiting for Jesus Charades

Because of Jesus, we can be with God now and forever—Jesus is our joy! There's no better reason to celebrate and have a fun time! Spend time laughing as a family as you play a goofy game of charades together.

Write the following words from this week's Bible story on slips of paper: *Jesus, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Isaiah, angel, manger, joy*. Have family members take turns pulling slips from a hat and silently acting out their word for the others to guess. (You may need to help younger kids read their slips and conveniently "forget" what you read.) For older kids, add challenge by inviting them to communicate their words by pantomiming, drawing on paper, or molding them out of play dough or modeling clay. Also consider including these more challenging words from Isaiah 35 and Luke 2: Bethlehem, stable, God, peace.

As family members guess words correctly, talk together about how that word ties into the true story of Jesus' birth. And remember to laugh! After all, Jesus brings lasting joy to all who know Him!

Wonder Ink®

WAITING FOR JESUS LESSON 3