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December 20-26

# Christmas

1. The Living Christ – Look at a picture of Jesus and share what we know about Him and why He’s important to us. Explain that in 2000, the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles wrote their testimony of Jesus Christ, signed their names to it, and shared it with the world. Look at a copy of it (one page 4 below). Share and discuss parts that are important to you.
  - You can also watch [this clip of apostles reading excerpts from “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”](#) or [this 5-minute video](#) of the full reading of it.
2. Scripture Hop – Follow instructions on page 3 below to learn part of a line from the “Living Christ.”
  - If you want to extend this, you could have each kid draw a picture of Jesus, share their testimonies of Him, and sign their names on their pictures to testify that they know Christ lives.
3. Christmas Song – Watch video for “[He is the Gift](#)” song from Shawna Edwards and talk about how important Jesus Christ is to us.
  - “[When We Seek Him](#)” is also a cute Christmas song from Shawna Edwards.
4. Friend Story – Read one or more of the following stories from The Friend:
  - [The First Christmas Gift](#)
  - [The Christmas Cake](#)
  - [When Jesus Was Born](#) nativity pictures to use to tell the story of Christ’s birth
  - [A Gift for Jesus](#)
5. Candy Christmas Nativity – We did this last year, and it was so fun and helped us feel the Spirit. It came from an idea in *The Friend*. Gather materials to make a candy nativity scene and read the descriptions for each part of the nativity scene. After each part is read, use candy to make that part of the nativity scene. Suggested supplies for this and descriptions are on pages 5-6 below. An picture of ours we made last year is on the following page.
  - You can listen to [this playlist of Christmas songs](#) while making these.
  - *Wording for descriptions are from [The Friend](#). [This article](#) in *The Friend* has even more of these descriptions with more details if you want a longer child-friendly version of the Christmas story or if you’d like to stretch it out and focus on one each day.*
  - *Pages 10-12 of [this lesson plan](#) has the same descriptions split up into cards. This is how we did it last year. We laid the cards out and let the kids take turns finding the next number for us to read and discuss. The card method worked great, but we thought we’d try to see if our kids’ attention spans are better enough that we can just read them from a sheet this year.*
6. Movie – Watch “[Christ Child: A Nativity Story](#)”.



Click on the pictures below to access past Christmas lessons:



## Additional Ideas:

More Great Free Ideas at [www.theredcrystal.org](http://www.theredcrystal.org)  
[Christmas Crafts Around the World](http://www.theredcrystal.org)

# SCRIPTURE Hop

(FAMILY PROCLAMATION)

Cut apart the following strips and spread them out far enough in a room so that the kids will need to hop from one strip to another. Make sure to keep them in the correct order. Have them stand by the first one and help them say the top line out loud. Explain what it means. Then have them jump to the next one and do the same thing until they've jumped on each of them, said them out loud, and discussed them one at a time. Then have them start back at the beginning and practice saying the phrases in order while hopping from strip to strip again. Try going a little faster each time. Repeat as many times as wanted/needed. These can also be used as flash cards, taped onto the wall to practice throughout the week, etc.



WE bEAR TESTimony



ThAT JESUS is



THE Living CHRiST,



THE ImmORTal



Son of God.

# THE LIVING CHRIST

## THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ two millennia ago, we offer our testimony of the reality of His matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come.

He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary's cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.

We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

He rose from the grave to "become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life. He also ministered among His "other sheep" (John 10:16) in ancient America. In the modern world, He and His Father appeared to the boy Joseph Smith, ushering in the long-promised "dispensation of the fulness of times" (Ephesians 1:10).

Of the Living Christ, the Prophet Joseph wrote: "His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:

"I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father" (D&C 110:3-4).

Of Him the Prophet also declared: "And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

"For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

"That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God" (D&C 76:22-24).

We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth—"built upon the foundation of . . . apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20).

We testify that He will someday return to earth. "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him. Each of us will stand to be judged of Him according to our works and the desires of our hearts.

We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

### THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

*Joseph Smith*  
*Thomas M. Morgan*  
*James H. Hunt*

January 1, 2000

### THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE

*Boyd K. Packer*  
*L. Tom Perry*  
*Dwight H. Petersen*  
*Neal A. Maxwell*  
*Russell M. Nelson*  
*Dellin H. Oaks*

*M. Russell Ballard*  
*Joseph B. Wirthlin*  
*Richard G. Scott*  
*Robert D. Hales*  
*Jeffrey R. Holland*  
*Henry A. Eyring*



## CHRISTMAS CANDY NATIVITY

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Wrap cardboard in tin foil to place your candy nativity scene on. Read the descriptions in order one at a time. After each is read and discussed, let each person use candy pieces to create that part of the nativity scene. Ideas are given for candy pieces you might use to create that piece, but feel free to be creative and use whatever other ideas you have! When we did this with our family, we just had a pile of candy supplies in the middle of the table. After each part was read, family members could choose what they wanted to use to make that part of the nativity scene.

**SUGGESTED SUPPLIES:** graham crackers, frosting, marshmallows, gumdrops, animal crackers, Bubble Tape/Fruit Roll-Up, Hershey's Kiss/peppermint swirl candy for the star, mini candy canes, Lifesavers, sprinkles/gold-wrapped candy for wise men gifts

### 1 - Mary

A long time ago, a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph were going to be married. Mary and Joseph were good people who did what God wanted them to do. One day an angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby! The angel said she should name the baby Jesus. The baby would be the Son of God, the Savior. Even though Mary was probably worried by what the angel told her, she had the faith to accept God's will. She said, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:47). Have you ever been afraid because you thought something was too hard to do? Remember, God loves you and will help you! To read more about the angel's visit to Mary, read Luke 1:26-38.

Mary: two marshmallows/gumdrops glued on top of each other with frosting

### 2 - Joseph

Joseph might have worried about what people would think about Mary. Sometimes you might worry about what people think or say about you. But what matters most are the things you say and think about others, and how you treat them. Try to be like Joseph and treat others the way Heavenly Father wants you to—with love and kindness. To read more about Joseph, read Matthew 1:18-24.

Joseph: two marshmallows/gumdrops glued on top of each other with frosting

### 3 - The Stable

On this night in Bethlehem, all of the rooms for travelers were full. Someone suggested that Joseph and Mary could stay in the area with the animals. It would give them warmth, quiet, and privacy. Joseph filled a manger with clean, soft hay. Everything was ready for a special baby to be born. Even though the inn was so crowded that there wasn't room inside for Jesus to be born, we can make room in our lives for Christ. Studying the scriptures, praying, and serving others are some things that will help us feel close to Him. Jesus Christ will always make room for you!

Stable Walls: Graham Crackers Glued Together with Frosting  
Animals in Stable: Animal Crackers



#### 4- The Manger

Joseph and Mary placed the baby Jesus in a manger probably filled with sweet straw (see Luke 2:7). C.S. Lewis said, "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

Jesus was born on Earth as a small baby in a manger, but lived and died to save us.

Manger: Graham Crackers or Sugar Wafers

#### 5- Baby Jesus

The prophet Isaiah said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). Isaiah didn't say, "unto Mary and Joseph" or "unto the people in Bethlehem." He said, "unto us." Jesus Christ was born to bless everyone. He was born to bless you. What does this mean to you? To read about the Savior's birth, read Luke 2:6-19.

Baby Jesus: mini marshmallow wrapped in Bubble Tape, Fruit Roll-Up, or frosting

#### 6 - Angels

Angels came and told the shepherds that the Savior had been born. The shepherds went to find and worship the baby Jesus. We can be like the angels by telling others the real story of Christmas. Practice telling the story of Christmas to a friend or family member now.

Angels: marshmallows/ gumdrops for bodies, Lifesaver halos

#### 7 - The Shepherds

Sheep learn to trust their shepherd, and they go to him when he calls. Each sheep is important to its shepherd. Jesus Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd. You are a sheep in His flock, and He loves you and wants to bless and protect you. Have you ever noticed that a candy cane is the same shape as a shepherd's crook? When you see candy canes this Christmas, think about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What can you do to follow Him? To read more about the shepherds, read Luke 2:8-18.

Shepherds: marshmallows/ gumdrops for bodies, mini candy canes

#### 8 - The Star

"The star that led the Wise Men to the Savior was real. But it also was symbolic of the light that came into the world with the Savior's birth." (Sue Clark)

How can Jesus bring light into our lives?

Star: wrapped Hershey's kiss/ peppermint swirled candy



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### 9 - The Wise Men

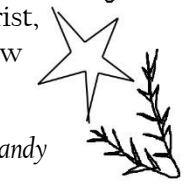
You can be like one of the Wise Men, who followed the light of the star to Jesus. Even though you will have challenges along the way, following the Light of Christ will lead you to happiness. You can't give Jesus a present, like the Wise Men did, but what gifts can you give Jesus? As you follow Christ, your light will help brighten the way for others. To read more about the Wise Men, read Matthew 2:1-12.

*Wise Men: marshmallows/ gumdrops for bodies, small pieces of graham crackers with sprinkles or gold-wrapped candy to represent the gifts, chocolate chips for crowns*

Frosting Recipe from [www.allmomdoes.com](http://www.allmomdoes.com)



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