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December 19-25

# Christmas

1. **Christmas Song** – Choose a favorite Christmas song about Jesus to sing. Review why we celebrate Christmas.
  - I also really love this “[Love is Alive](#)” music video and song from Gentri and The Chosen (it does show some blood on Jesus when He’s born, so keep that in mind if your kids are super young).
2. **Layers of Gift Wrap Activity** – A teacher friend of mine (Linda Olson) gave me this idea a while ago, and I’ve been excited to do it! Talk about how people in Old Testament times were born before Jesus was and had to wait and have faith that He would one day be born on Earth. Read and discuss [Isaiah 25:9](#). Talk about how sometimes it’s hard to wait for things. We’re going to play a gift opening game that gives us a little taste of waiting for things.
  - **Discussion:** Read and discuss this quote from the manual:  
*The Old Testament carries a spirit of eager anticipation. In that way, it’s a little bit like the Christmas season. Beginning with Adam and Eve, Old Testament patriarchs, prophets, poets, and people looked forward to better days, filled with hope for renewal and deliverance by the Messiah. And the Israelites were frequently in need of that hope—whether they were in captivity in Egypt or Babylon or held captive by their own sin or rebellion. Through it all, prophets reminded them that a Messiah, a Deliverer, would come “to proclaim liberty to the captives” ([Isaiah 61:1](#)).  
That hope began to be realized when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. The mighty Deliverer of Israel was born in a stable and laid in a manger (see [Luke 2:7](#)). But He wasn’t just the Deliverer of the ancient Israelites. He came to deliver you—to bear your grief, to carry your sorrows, to be bruised for your iniquities, so that with His stripes you can be healed (see [Isaiah 53:4–5](#)). This is why Christmas is so full of joyful anticipation even today. The Messiah came over 2,000 years ago, and He continues to come into our lives whenever we seek Him.*
  - **Game Instructions:** Wrap up a small present in many layers. Cut apart the Old Testament scripture cards from pages 3-4 below. On each layer of wrapping, tape one of the scripture cards. Make sure to tape the circle pieces onto the outer two layers so they’re the first ones read. Instead of having clues for who to give the gift to next like in the traditional game, we’re just going to have everyone sit in a circle and take turns passing the gift around the circle, unwrapping one layer at a time and discussing the scripture on each layer. We feel like this will help keep it more reverent and help us focus on listening to what the scriptures are saying. Discuss how prophets in the Old Testament had to wait and have faith in the coming of our Savior, similar to how we are waiting and having faith that there is a present coming after all of these layers.
  - **Note:** In the present, our plan is to have a small nativity item for each kid (like one of [these from Hobby Lobby](#)), some playdough/salt dough (that we’ll also use for the ornament Old Testament symbols activity in this lesson), and some chocolate.
3. **Christmas Stories/Videos** – Read and sing/listen to one or more of the following:
  - [The Meaning of Christmas Through the Eyes of Children](#) video from the church
  - [The Nativity Star](#) story from *The Friend*
  - [The Many Names of Jesus](#) story from *The Friend*
  - [The Symbols of Christmas](#) from *The Friend*
  - [Why Do We Call Jesus Christ the Savior?](#) From *The Friend*
  - [Jesus is Born!](#) From *The Friend*
  - [Animated Nativity Story for Children](#) from Latter Day Kids
  - [The Symbols of Christmas](#) from Latter Day Kids

4. Playdough Old Testament Symbols of Christ Ornaments – Do the [Come, Follow Me Family Fun](#) ornament activity from the Liahona magazine (you'll need to scroll down a little bit to get to it). You can use whatever crafting supplies you have on hand, but we're planning on using homemade playdough to make them. [This website](#) has an easy salt dough recipe that could be used.
  - This [Christmas song playlist](#) could be good to listen to while creating these.
5. The Nativity Movie – Eat some favorite treats while watching “[The Christ Child: A Nativity Story](#)” 17-minute video from the church.

*Another tradition that our kids LOVE is doing these candy Christmas nativities. I'm sure we'll be doing this again sometime before Christmas this year as well because our daughters have been asking about when we're going to do it again. Click on the picture below for a link to our past lesson with the instructions.*



**52 WEEKS OF NEW TESTAMENT ACTIVITIES:**  
Click on [this post](#) for more details about this book for 2023. Currently available on Amazon, Cedar Fort, Barnes and Noble, and Walmart websites.

## Additional Ideas:

More Great Free Ideas at [www.theredcrystal.org](http://www.theredcrystal.org)  
[Old Testament Cartoon Videos from the Church Website](#)

# OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES LAYERS OF GIFT WRAP GAME



"The gift of the Son of God is a priceless gift. He is the gift that lights our way and lifts us. He is the gift that sustains us through the difficult days of our mortal journey. He is the gift that offers divine love, lasting hope, and true joy."  
*President Henry B. Eyring,  
"The Promised Messiah"*



Tape these circle cards onto the outer layers of the present so they are the FIRST ones read (some wording taken from manual). Tape the rest of the scripture cards onto separate layers of wrapping around a present. Take turns opening one layer at a time and reading/discussing each scripture. Discuss how the Old Testament prophets had to wait and have faith in the coming of our Savior.



Centuries before the Savior was born, Old Testament prophets felt joy as they spoke of the coming Messiah. As you read each of the following scriptures, think about why they would have been precious to those who looked forward to the gift of the Savior's mission.

## Psalm 35:9

9 And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

## Isaiah 25:8-9

8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

9 ¶ And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

## Isaiah 51:11

11 Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

## Zephaniah 3:14-20

14 ¶ Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

15 The Lord hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

### Zechariah 9:9

9 ¶ Rejoice greatly,  
O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O daughter of  
Jerusalem: behold,  
thy King cometh unto  
thee: he is just, and  
having salvation; lowly,  
and riding upon an ass,  
and upon a colt the  
foal of an ass.

### Moses 5:9–11

9 And in that day the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying: I am the only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever, that as thou hast fallen thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will.

10 And in that day Adam blessed God and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth, saying: Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God.

11 And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.

### Isaiah 9:6

6 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.