

Curtis Family CHRISTMAS TIME DEVOTIONS



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How to Use this Book

Christmas is a wonderful time to do family devotions. It's not locking you into a year-long commitment. In fact, there are only 18 days of devotions. I wrote these books when Katie Beth was a little girl—she's my oldest child. By 1991, I typed them up on an electric typewriter and made copies stapled on the side. As the years have gone by, they look a bit nicer, but the content remains the same—the timeless Christmas story for all ages!

We always started this Christmas devotions on December 16 because we did other devotions for the first half of the month. As the years went by and the children hit teenage and young adulthood, we started earlier because we were not able to gather every day due to jobs, classes, and other commitments. In other words, you can start whenever you want.

Scripture

The Christmas story, starting with Elizabeth and Zechariah, never grows old. I love the baby miracles, the humility of the people involved in the drama, and the way God fulfills the prophetic words of Scripture to Anna and Simeon. The story of the angels singing as the King of Kings arrives in Bethlehem is one of my very favorite things to celebrate.

Our family devotions were created to make Christmas more meaningful for parents, children, grandparents, and friends. It puts the focus on the story of Jesus who came to give His life as a ransom for many.

Our family devotions were written back in 1991 so as you can imagine, there were less options for Bible translation. This is a vintage version of the NIV Bible translation—more accurate than today's version.

The Scripture passage is right here in the book. You don't have to look anything up. However, you can read the same passage out of any Bible translation. We heartily recommend NASB, NKJV, and ESV.

Just read the passage and answer the questions aloud. There are also questions for younger children. When the children were preschool and younger elementary age, we did a lot of acting out of Bible stories. You can also add puppets and games if you want to.

Worship

Singing is such a fun part of Christmas! There are Christmas songs to worship to and just plain old fun songs to sing. We always did both. Our family loves to sing. There are options for each day, but you can sing whatever you want to sing. There are so many choices right in this book and many others beyond this book.

The second section of the book contains lyrics to 43 Christmas carols and songs. There are so many more contemporary ones I'd love to add, but can't due to copyright issues. However, feel free to substitute.

Hands-On Fun

These activities are mostly simple (some are a little bit more complicated) with the idea of driving the point home. For example, when the read the passage of Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem due to the census, the family takes a census in their home of books, clothing, or movies. It gets the point across.

From our home to yours, we wish you the merriest of Christmases!

Love,
Meredith Ludwig Curtis



*Merry
Christmas*



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December 16: Zechariah



"In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'

Zechariah asked the angel 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.'

The angel answered, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 'The Lord has done this form me,' she said, 'In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.'," (Luke 1:5-25 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- What disgrace did Elizabeth experience? (**Hint:** think about the culture!)
- What could John the Baptist be entrusted to Elizabeth and Zechariah?
- What great things would John do for God?
- What disgrace would you like the Lord to remove from your life?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

Let's Act out what happened to Zechariah

- Where was Zechariah?
- What was he doing?
- Did God do what the angel promised?

SING to WORSHIP

O Come All Ye Faithful (page 75)

Joy to the World (page 71)

SING for FUN

Jingle Bells (page 70)

Silver Bells (page 84)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Make a model of the temple or look at a model of the temple. Locate where Zechariah was when all this happened.

December 17: Gabriel



"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'

'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her," (Luke 1:26-38 NIV © 1979)

DISCUSSION

- How was Mary's reaction different from Zechariah's reaction?
- Contrast her question to the angel with Zechariah's question to the angel.
- Why does the angel mention that Elizabeth, her relative, is going to have a baby?
- What difficult circumstances might lie ahead for Mary?
- Describe Mary's heart toward God and His will?
- What does it mean for us today that "nothing is impossible with God"?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What do you think angels look like?
- Would you be scared if you suddenly saw a big shiny angel?
- What did the angel promise Mary?

SING to WORSHIP

Angels We Have Heard on High (page 48)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (page 61)

SING for FUN

Away in the Manger (page 49)

Sleigh Ride (page 85)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Look at Paintings of Angels. You can find some online.

Mosaic of the Archangel Michael (13th century) from Church of Santa Maria dell' Ammiraglio
Annunciation – Fra Angelico

St. Michael the Archangel (1635) – Reni Guido

Adoration of the Lamb (Ghent Altarpiece) – Jan Van Eyck

The Annunciation the Angel Gabriel (from altarpiece) -- Gaudenzio Ferrari

Song of the Angels – William-Adolphe Bouguereau

The Angel Standing in the Sun -- Joseph Mallord William Turner

The Archangel Michael defeating Satan -- Guido Reni

Boy and Angel -- Abbott H Thayer

Abraham Serving the Three Angels -- Rembrandt van Rijn

Noon -- Abbott H Thayer

The Annunciation – Henry Ossawa Tanner

Which is your favorite painting?

Which one do you think describes what angels look like?

Now, everyone in the family draw an angel and share your picture with each other.

December 18: Mary & Elizabeth



"At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!'" (Luke 1:39-45 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Why would Mary go visit Elizabeth?
- How would Mary be a blessing to Elizabeth? (Note: Elizabeth was in her sixth month when Gabriel appears, Mary travels and stays about 3 months.)
- How would Elizabeth be a help to Mary? (See Titus 2:3-5)
- Inside Elizabeth's womb, John is already filled with the Holy Spirit. Why does He leap when he hears the sound of Mary's greeting?
- Elizabeth is then filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies. What does the prophetic word mean?
- Why does Elizabeth call Mary, "the mother of my Lord"?
- What can we see about the role of the Holy Spirit in relationship to Jesus?
- How can we be more filled with the Holy Spirit?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Baby John in Elizabeth's tummy was happy to hear baby Jesus' mommy's voice. Why do you think he was so happy?

SING to WORSHIP

What Child is This? (page 94)

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (page 65)

We Believe in the Miracle of Christmas (page 91)

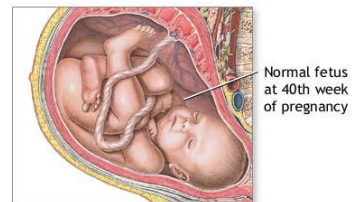
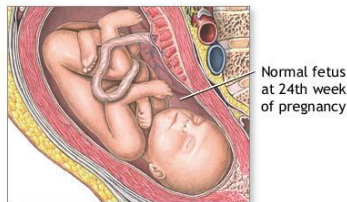
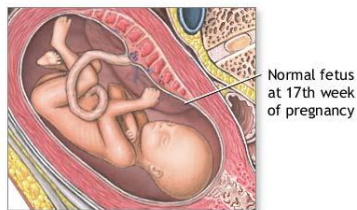
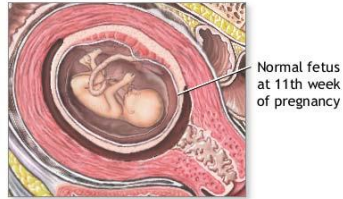
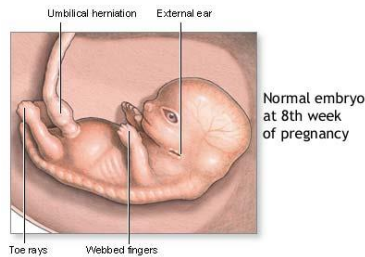
SING for FUN

Deck the Halls (page 52)

The Twelve Days of Christmas (page 87)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Look at pictures of babies inside their mommies. They live there for nine months. When can a baby move and kick?



Babies inside and outside the womb matter to God.

Gather clothing, blankets, bottles, and toys together to donate to a crisis pregnancy center.

December 19: Mary's Song



"And Mary said:

`My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home," (Luke 1:46-56 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Mary bursts out with praise to God! List the character traits she proclaims about the Lord.
- List the things God does in the earth.
- What similar things have you seen God do in your lifetime in a personal, church, national, or international level?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Mary sings a song to God about things that make her happy. Let's make up a song for God too—about Christmas things that make us happy.

SING to WORSHIP

O Holy Night (page 78)

Mary's Christmas Song (page 73)

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (page 95)

SING for FUN

Here We Come A Caroling (page 62)

O Christmas Tree (page 74)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Play Name that Carol.

You will need:

A Buzzer

An audio of different Christmas carols to play (and be able to stop quickly)

Divide up in teams or everyone on their own.

Audio player starts the first few notes of a Christmas carol. Everyone tries to guess. The first one to tap the buzzer and give the right answer gets a point.

The object is to get the most points.

December 20: John is Born



"When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'

They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.' Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him," (Luke 1:57-66 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- What evidence is there that Elizabeth and Zechariah are obedient to God?
- How does God reward their obedience?
- Why is this situation the subject of everyone's gossip and conversations?
- What did people wonder and ask about John?
- What evidence is there that the Lord's hand is with you?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Why did Zechariah name the baby John?
- How can you obey God in your life?

SING to WORSHIP

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (page 56)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (page 79)

SING for FUN

Jingle Bell Rock (page 70)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year (page 68)

HANDS-ON FUN!

God named John and Jesus. Names are special.

Look up everyone's name in a baby name book or online to find out what each name means. Compare the meaning of each person's name to their actions/words/personalities.

Write everyone's name in big, bold letters and the meaning in smaller letters below. You might want to add a Bible verse. Color and decorate with stickers and bling.

December 21: Zechariah's Song



"His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

`Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us--
to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.'

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel" (Luke 1:67-80 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied over his son. What will John's role be in the nation of Israel?
- How can John prepare for his future ministry?
- How can you prepare for your future ministry?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Zechariah sang a song for his son, John about all the great things God would do for his country through John. Make up a song or poem about how God will use you to teach people about Jesus.

SING to WORSHIP

Silent Night (page 82)

The First Noel (page 55)

SING for FUN

Away in the Manger (page 49)

Little Drummer Boy (page 72)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Zechariah was very old when he became a father, but he had a lot of wisdom and a lot of God's Word memorized. He was able to share a lot of wisdom with John.

What wisdom do your parents share with you? Make a little scroll or booklet with your parents' wisdom inside. It might say things like this:

- Say your prayers
- Share with your sister
- Forgive your brother
- Do you chores cheerfully
- All hard work brings a profit
- Wash behind your ears
- Don't forget to brush your teeth
- Jesus always loves you!



December 22: Joseph

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us.'

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home to be his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus," (Matthew 1:18-25 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Why was Joseph going to divorce Mary?
- Why did he want to do it quietly?
- How did a dream change Joseph's mind?
- Joseph had to be obedient to God so that "a virgin will give birth to a son." Describe Joseph and his walk with God.
- Where in your life do you need to grow in being obedient to the Lord?
- How will your obedience affect other people?
- How will your disobedience affect other people?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What did God tell Joseph to do?
- What things does the Lord tell us to do that can be difficult or confusing?

SING to WORSHIP

Angels From the Realms of Glory (page 47)

The Snow Lay on the Ground (page 89)

SING for FUN

Jingle Bells (page 70)

Carol of the Bells (page 50)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Joseph was a carpenter, and he taught his son Jesus to be a carpenter.

Build something simple out of wood together—it might be from a craft kit. You could build a bird house, a manger for baby Jesus, or a planter.

You could also try a craft like whittling or wood-burning.

December 23: The Census



"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," (Luke 2:1-7 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- A census. Taxes. Traveling. Poor accommodations. Inconvenient time to give birth. What lies from Satan could Mary have believed about her circumstances and God's care for her?
- How did the Lord use all these things to fulfill His prophetic words and grand purposes?
- Are there any situations in your life that can be looked at in a new way?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Do you like to travel?
- What does your mommy pack when you travel?
- What do you think Joseph and Mary packed for their trip?
- How do you think they traveled?
- Would your mommy like to travel right before she is about to have a baby?

SING to WORSHIP

O Little Town of Bethlehem (page 79)

I Wonder as I Wander (page 63)

Worship at Your Cradle (page 96)

SING for FUN

Walking in a Winter Wonderland (page 90)

I'll Be Home for Christmas (page 64)

HANDS-ON FUN!

A Census is when you count the people in a nation or city.

Do a census in your home of your books, movies, or clothing. Everyone work together to tally different kinds—to see how much of each kind.

Books: novels, picture books, biographies, cookbooks, history

Movies: adventures, cartoons, romantic comedies, Christian

Clothing: Male pants, Women/Girls pants, Male shirts, Women/Girls shirts, winter coats

You can make a little chart to use like the one below.

	Novels	Picture Books	Biographies	Cookbooks	History
Living Room					
Family Room					
Master Bedroom					
Joe's Bedroom					
Susan's Bedroom					
Frank's Bedroom					
Kitchen					
Totals					

December 24: The Word



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through Him all things were made: without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but His own did not receive him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

From the fullness of his grace, we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known," (John 1:1-18 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Define Word.
- Define Light.
- Define Life.
- Define Witness
- Describe how Jesus is the Word, Light, and Life.
- How does one become a child of God?
- How does Jesus reveal God's glory to people?

- Think about word and actions in the life of Jesus. What do they reveal about God's nature?
- How can we be a witness to the light like John the Baptist?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How long has God been around?
- Jesus shows us all about God. What things do we know about God and what is He like?

SING to WORSHIP

Joy to the World (page 71)

O Holy Night (page 78)

Do You Hear What I Hear (page 53)

SING for FUN

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas (page 67)

Christmas Song (page 51)

CELEBRATE

Traveling Dinner. We travel somewhere and eat dinner because Joseph and Mary were traveling Christmas Eve. Ideas for traveling—beach, parks, or someone's house. For more help with this tradition, purchase *Celebrate Christmas with a Traveling Dinner* at Currclick or The Old Schoolhouse Store.

December 25: First Christmas



Open in prayer thanking Jesus and telling Him that we are here to worship Him!!

SING: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing!* (page 61)

READ: "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David," (Luke 2:1-4 NIV © 1979).

SING: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (page 75)

READ: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there the time came for the baby to be born," (Luke 2:5-6 NIV © 1979).

SING: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (page 79)

READ: "and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," (Luke 2:7 NIV © 1979).

SING: *Away in the Manger* (page 49)

READ: "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night," (Luke 2:8 NIV © 1979).

SING: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night* (page 95)

READ: "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them. `Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of

great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger," (Luke 2:9-12 NIV © 1979).

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (page 48)

READ: "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests,'" (Luke 2:13-14 NIV © 1979).

SING: *It Came upon a Midnight Clear* (page 65)

READ: "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger," (Luke 2:15-16 NIV © 1979).

SING: *The First Noel* (page 55)

READ: "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," (Luke 2:17-19 NIV).

SING: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (page 47)

READ: "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told," (Luke 2:20 NIV © 1979).

SING: *Joy to the World!* (page 71)

SING: *Come on Ring Those Bells* (by Andrew Culverwell)

Everybody likes to take a holiday
Everybody likes to take a rest,
Spending time together with the family,
Sharing lots of love and happiness
Come on ring those bells!
Light the Christmas tree.
Jesus is the King, born for you and me.
Come on ring those bells!
Everybody say: "Jesus, we remember this, your birthday!"
Celebrations come because of something good,
Celebrations we love to recall.

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Mary had a baby boy in Bethlehem,
The greatest celebration of them all!

SING: Happy Birthday and blow out candles in cinnamon rolls or cake.

PRAY: Thank God for His gift of Jesus and wish Him a Happy Birthday!

CELEBRATE: Eat breakfast. Pass out presents, open them, and pray to thank Jesus afterwards.



MEREDITH CURTIS



December 26: Shepherds



"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told," (Luke 2:8-10 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- What peace does Jesus bring? (see Ephesians 2:14-22)
- Is the angels' news report confirmed by what the shepherds see?
- What word do the shepherds spread?
- What are the people's response to their words?
- How can we imitate the shepherds?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- The shepherds hurried to see Jesus and then go tell everyone all about Him. Who can we talk to about Jesus?

SING to WORSHIP

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (page 95)

Go Tell it on the Mountain (page 58)

SING for FUN

Jingle Bells (page 70)

Silver Bells (page 84)

HANDS-ON FUN!

The shepherds spread the news about Jesus all over Bethlehem!

We can tell people about Jesus, too. What would you like to tell people about Jesus? Make a list of things you can tell people about Jesus and then think of creative ways to tell people.

Here are some ideas to tell people about Jesus:

- Paint a picture and add words that tell people about Jesus
- Color a Bible verse color page and share it with a friend or relative
- Write a letter to someone telling them about Jesus
- Practice role-playing to share the Gospel and then share the Gospel with real people!
- Make a little Gospel tract

December 27: Dedication



"On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons.' {Lev. 12:8}" (Luke 2:21-24 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- The sacrifice made reveals that Mary and Joseph were poor. Why does God entrust His Son to parents who are poor, rather than wealthy?
- What qualities do you see in Mary and Joseph throughout Scripture that are worth imitating?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus to the Lord. Look at pictures of when you were dedicated to the Lord. What things do your mommy and daddy do to help you know Jesus?

SING to WORSHIP

O Come All Ye Faithful (page 75)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (page 56)

SING for FUN

Here We Come A Caroling (page 62)

O Christmas Tree (page 74)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus to the Lord. Christian families dedicate their children to the Lord. We dedicate our lives to the Lord. We can show that dedication by serving others.

Brainstorm ways to serve the people around you that have needs.

Here are some ideas:

- Shovel snow for an elderly neighbor
- Clean an elderly neighbor or sick friend's house
- Bring someone a meal
- Be a mother's helper for a day
- Cheer someone up with Dad jokes
- Visit someone in a hospital or nursing home

Make a list and choose 1 thing to do as a family.

December 28: Simeon



"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too,’" (Luke 2:25-35 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Why did a meeting with Jesus and his parents make Simeon ready to die?
- How has Simeon's prophecy been fulfilled throughout the last 2000 years: "Jesus will cause the falling and rising of many in Israel"
- How has Simeon's prophecy been fulfilled throughout the last 2000 years: "Jesus will be a sign that will be spoken against"
- How has Simeon's prophecy been fulfilled throughout the last 2000 years: "Because of Jesus, the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed"
- How has Simeon's prophecy been fulfilled throughout the last 2000 years: "A sword will pierce Mary's soul too"

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How did Simeon know that Jesus is a special baby?
- What makes you special to God and to your parents?

SING to WORSHIP

Good King Wenceslas (page 59)

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (page 65)

SING for FUN

Away in the Manger (page 49)

Sleigh Ride (page 85)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Simeon was probably older than your grandparents when he saw Jesus. Think of all the good things your grandparents do for you.

Talk about those nice things your grandparents do. Then, make a video for them telling them how much you appreciate who they are and everything they do.



December 29: Anna

"There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him," (Luke 2:36-40 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- How many years was Anna a widow?
- What 3 things occupied her time?
- How did God use prophets/intercessors like Anna and Simeon in Jesus' life and ministry?
- How can God use you in the areas of fasting, prayer, and worship?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What did Anna do all day?
- Spend time praying for the people in your life.

SING to WORSHIP

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (page 65)
Angels We Have Heard on High (page 48)

SING for FUN

Walking in a Winter Wonderland (page 90)
The Twelve Days of Christmas (page 87)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Anna was so thankful that she finally got to see the Messiah!

Write thank-you notes today and mail them to friends and relatives who got you Christmas presents.

December 30: Wise Men



"

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route," (Matthew 2:1-12 NIV © 1979)

DISCUSSION

- How did the wise men know about Jesus?
- Why did everyone want to worship this baby?
- How did the magi find Jesus in the end and what did they do?
- How did God speak to them and thwart Herod's plan?
- How does God speak to you and give you direction?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How was Herod acting mean and sneaky?
- How did God take care of Jesus?

- How does God protect you?

SING to WORSHIP

We Three Kings of Orient Are (page 92)

What Child is This? (page 94)

SING for FUN

Deck the Halls (page 52)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year (page 68)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Everyone choose three gifts from somewhere in the house that they would give baby Jesus and why. Gather those three items and bring them back to the rest of the family. Take turns sharing your gifts and the reason behind them.

December 31: Flight to Egypt



"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more' (Matthew 2:13-18 NIV ©1979).

DISCUSSION

- Why does Joseph leave for Egypt at night?
- What vicious plot does Herod enact?
- How is this similar to Moses' birth? And abortion today?
- God kept Jesus safe. When has God kept you safe from evil plots and circumstances? Thank Him!

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Jesus traveled to another country with his parents until the bad king was dead. What other country would be fun to live in?

SING to WORSHIP

Good King Wenceslas (page 59)

O Come All Ye Faithful (page 75)

SING for FUN

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree (page 81)

Sleigh Ride (page 85)

CELEBRATE: Hang out, have fun, play games, laugh, joke! Bring in the New Year with worship and communion.



January 1: The Return

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

So, he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: 'He will be called a Nazarene,' " (Matthew 2:19-23 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- God speaks to Joseph at least 4 times through dreams. What is Joseph's response each time?
- God leads the family to the right place by putting a bad ruler in wrong place. When has God led you through circumstances, negative or positive?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Jesus moved again! What is it like to move to another home?
- Do you think Jesus liked traveling and moving?

SING to WORSHIP

Silent Night (page 82)

O Holy Night (page 78)

SING for FUN

Jingle Bells (page 69)

Away in the Manger (page 49)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Traveling can be fun, and it can be challenging. Make a collage together with magazine photographs that illustrate what it's like to travel with your family. Take a photo of everyone and include the collage. Hey! You just made a memory!





January 2: Boy Jesus

"Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

'Why were you searching for me?' He asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men," (Luke 2:41-52 NIV © 1979).

DISCUSSION

- Why was Jesus' understanding of the Law so amazing?
- Jesus was already beginning His practice of asking questions. What questions do you think He asked the teachers in the temple?
- Why is discussing the Word of God so valuable?
- What 4 areas did the child, Jesus, grow up in?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What was Jesus talking about to the teachers?
- Why did Jesus know more than they did?
- Jesus went home with His parents and was obedient to them. How can you be obedient to your parents?

SING to WORSHIP

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (page 61)

Joy to the World (page 71)

SING for FUN

Little Drummer Boy (page 72)

Carol of the Bells (page 50)

HANDS-ON FUN!

Make a list of funny questions little children ask. It can be questions you asked when you were little or questions from children you know.

Examples of questions kids ask:

Why?

When will we get there?

Why is the sky blue?

Why is it raining today?

Why do I have to go to bed?

After you have a family list of questions, count them. For each question, pass out a small piece of paper to each family member. If there are 10 questions, each family member will have 10 questions.

Someone reads question #1 aloud and everyone writes a “1” on one piece of paper and writes an answer. All the answers for question #1 are folded in half and put in a pile. Do this for every question. You will have the same number of piles as questions.

Then take turns. First family member read the first question and all the answers to it. Family votes on which answer is the best, funniest, or most random. The next family member reads question #2 and all the answers to it. Family votes on which answer is the best, funniest, or most random. Do this for each question.

You get a point for everyone who voted for your answers to the questions. The winner has the most points!

Christmas Carol Lyrics

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Angels we have Heard on High
Away in the Manger
Carol of the Bells
Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)
Deck the Halls
Do You Hear What I Hear?
Feliz Navidad
(The) First Noel
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Go Tell it On the Mountain
Good King Wenceslas
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Here We Come A' Caroling
I Wonder as I Wander
I'll Be Home for Christmas
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
Jingle Bells
Jingle Bell Rock
Joy to the World
Little Drummer Boy
Mary's Christmas Song
O Christmas Tree
O Come All Ye Faithful
O Holy Night
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Silent Night
Silver Bells
Sleigh Ride
Twelve Days of Christmas
Venite Adoremus (The Snow Lay on the Ground)
Walking in a Winter Wonderland
We Believe in the Miracle of Christmas

MEREDITH CURTIS

*We Three Kings of Orient Are
We Wish You a Merry Christmas
What Child is This?
While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night
Worship at Your Cradle
Worship Belongs to Jesus Alone*

Angels From the Realms of Glory

© 1816 James Montgomery

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight over all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching over your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the Infant light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Sages leave your contemplation
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweet - ly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in re-ply
Ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this ju - bi - lee?
Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which in-spire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethle-hem, and see
Him whose birth the an - gels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choir of an - gels praise
Mary, Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle Till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I beg thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for Heaven to live with You there.

Carol of the Bells

©1924 Words Peter J. Wilhousky Music Mykola Leontovych

Hark! How the bells, Sweet silver bells
All seems to say, "Throw cares away"
Christmas is here, Bringing good cheer
To young and old, Meek and the bold

Ding, dong, ding, dong, That is their song
With joyful ring, All caroling
One seems to hear, Words of good cheer
From everywhere, Filling the air

Oh, how they pound, Raising the sound
O'er hull and dale, Telling their tale,
Gaily they ring, While people sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas

On, on they send, On without end
Their joyful tone, To every home

(repeat)

Ding, dong, ding, dong

Christmas Song

© 1944 Bob Wells and Mel Torme

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
Jack Frost nipping at your nose
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir
And folks dressed up like Eskimos

Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
Help to make the season bright
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
Will find it hard to sleep tonight

ALTERNATE VERSE:

*They know that this is Jesus' Birth
He's given salvation to everyone on earth
And every mother's child who has sinned
Can repent and really be born again*

REAL VERSE

They know that Santa's on his way
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh
And every mother's child is gonna spy
To see if reindeer really know how to fly

And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety-two
Although it's been said many times, many ways
Merry Christmas to you!

Deck the Halls

Old Welsh

Deck the Halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la
‘Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la, la la la la
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la, la la la, la la la
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la
Sing we joyous all together, Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Old Welsh

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
“Do you see what I see, way up in the sky, little lamb?
Do you see what I see, A star, a star,
Dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite?”

Said the Little lamb to the shepherd boy,
“Do you hear what I hear, ringing through the sky shepherd boy?
Do you hear what I hear, a song, a song,
High above the trees with a voice as big as the seas,
With a voice as big as the seas?”

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
“Do you know what I know, in your palace wall mighty king?
Do you know what I know, a child, a child
Shivers in the cold, let us bring Him silver and gold,
Let us bring Him silver and gold.”

“Said the king to the people everywhere,
Listen to what I say, pray for peace people everywhere,
Listen to what I say, the child, the child,
Sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light.”
The child, the child,
Sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light!

MEREDITH CURTIS

Feliz Navidad

Jose Feliciano

Feliz navidad, feliz navidad
Feliz navidad prospero año y felicidad
Feliz navidad, feliz navidad
Feliz navidad prospero año y felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas,
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas,
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
from the bottom of my heart

The First Noel

French 13th -15th Century Christmas Carol

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took it rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Old English 15th Century

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel,
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

"Fear not then," said the Angel,
"Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Of a pure Virgin bright,

To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might."

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Go Tell it On the Mountain

African American Spiritual

Go Tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherd kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. Go tell it....

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Go tell it...

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent out salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. Go tell it...

When I was a seeker
I sought both night and day
I asked the Lord to help me
And He showed me the way. Go tell it....

He made me a watchman
Upon the city wall
And if I am a Christian
I am the least of all. Go tell it....

Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feat of Stephen
When the snow lay 'round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath'ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st it telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence
By St. Agnes' fountain!”

“Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Though the rude winds wild lament
And the bitter weather

“Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know now how,
I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, good my page;

Tread thou in them boldly;
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was int eh very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Wherefore, Christian people, know,
Who my lay are hearing,
He who cheers another's woe
Shall himself find cheering.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley/Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin’s womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Please as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris’n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Here We Come A'Caroling

Traditional English Wassail Song

Here we come a-caroling
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a wandering,
So fair to be seen.

Love and joy come ot you,
And to you and yours too,
May God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

We are not daily beggars
Who beg from door to door,
But we are neighbors' children,
Whom you have seen before. Love and joy.....

God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress too
And all the little children,
That round the table go. Love and joy....

And all your kin and kinfolk
That dwell both far and near
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year. Love and joy....

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Folk Song

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall

If Jesus had wanted for any we thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King!

I'll Be Home for Christmas

© 1943 Kim Gannon, Walter Kent, & Buck Ram

I'll be home for Christmas
You can plan on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents under the tree.
Christmas Eve will find me.
Where the love light gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dream.

My darling Christmas Eve will find me
Right where the love light gleams
And I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams
If only in my dreams.

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to me
From heav'ns all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

Yet, with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not,
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now! For glad and golden hours

Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas

Meredith Wilson

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
Ev'rywhere you go;
Take a look in the five-and-ten, glistening once again
With candy canes and silver lanes aglow.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,
Toys in ev'ry store,
But the prettiest sight to see is the holly that will be
On your own front door.

A pair of hopalong boots and a pistol that shoots
Is the wish of Barney and Ben;
Dolls that will talk and will go for a walk
Is the hope of Janice and Jen;
And Mom and Dad can hardly wait for school to start again.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
Ev'rywhere you go;
There's a tree in the Grand Hotel, one in the park as well,
The sturdy kind that doesn't mind the snow.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas;
Soon the bells will start,
And the thing that will make them ring is the carol that you sing
Right within your heart.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,
Toys in ev'ry store,
But the prettiest sight to see is the holly that will be
On your own front door.
Sure, it's Christmas, once more!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Eddie Pola & George Wyle (1963)

It's the most wonderful time of the year.
With the kids jingle belling,
and everyone telling you, "Be of good cheer,"
It's the most wonderful time of the year.
It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greeting and gay happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all.

There'll be parties for hosting,
marshmallows for toasting and
caroling out in the snow.
there'll be scary ghost stories and
tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago.

It's the most wonderful time of the year.
There'll be much mistletoeing
and hearts will be glowing,
when loved ones are near.
It's the most wonderful time of the year.
It's the most wonderful time of the year.
There'll be much mistletoeing
and hearts will be glowing,
when loved ones are near.
It's the most wonderful time, It's the most wonderful time
It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont (1822-1893)

Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh,
O'er the hills we go, laughing all the way;
Bells on bobtail ring, Making spirits bright
Oh what fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fannie Bright was seated at my side,
The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seemed his lot,
He got into a drifted bank and we got upset. Jingle bells....

A day or two ago, the story I must tell
I went out on the snow and on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by in a one horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away. Jingle bells.....

Now the ground is white, go get it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight and sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bob tailed bay two forty as his speed,
Hitch him to an open sleigh and crack, you'll take the lead. Jingle bells....

Jingle Bell Rock

Joe Beal and Jim Boothe

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowin' and blowin' up bushels of fun
Now the jingle hop has begun

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bell chime in jingle bell time
Dancin' and prancin' in Jingle Bell Square
In the frosty air

What a bright time, it's the right time
To rock the night a – way
Jingle bell time is a swell time
To go glidin' in a one-horse sleigh

Giddy up jingle horse pick up your feet
Jingle around the clock
Mix and mingle in a jinglin' beat
That's the Jingle Bell
That's the Jingle Bell
That's the Jingle Bell Rock

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Little Drummer Boy

Katherine K Davis, Harry Simeone, & Henry Onorati; 1958

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A New Born King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pump um pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum, When we come.

Little baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pump um pum
That's fit to give a King, pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum, on my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pump um pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum, Me and my drum.

Mary's Christmas Song

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My soul glorifies the Lord
My heart rejoices in God
For He has been mindful of my humble state
And from now on
Everyone will call me blessed
For the Mighty One
Has done great things
Holy is His Name
Holy is His Name
Holy is His Name

Mary sang this song
When angels prophesied
That she would bring forth God
In human flesh
The miracle of life
The miracle of grace

Dancers danced
Angels sang
Mountains clapped
Oceans rang
Now, singers sing
Church bells ring
As we celebrate
The birthday of our King

O Christmas Tree

Traditional German Carol—O Tannenbaum

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
The sight of thee at Christmastide
Spreads hope and gladness far and wide
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message,
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message,
Thou dost proclaim the Savior's birth,
Goodwill to men and peace on earth.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Words John F. Wade (c. 1743)/Translated to English by Frederick Oakeley (1841) & William T. Brooke

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem, Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God In the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born the happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n, Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither, Bend our hearts' oblations.

There shall we see Him, His Eternal Father's
Everlasting Brightness now veiled under flesh;
God shall we find there, a Babe in infant clothing.

Everlasting splendor of the Eternal Father
We shall see in a garment of flesh;
God, infant, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Father, eternal, Thine eternal splendor
Now veiled in flesh our eyes shall see:
God as an infant, swaddling clothes around Him.

Child, for us sinners, Poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee with love and awe,
Who would not love Thee, Loving us so dearly.

Lo star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer Him frankincense and gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child, Bring our hearts oblations.

Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)

Words John F. Wade (c. 1743)

Adeste Fideles
Laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem
Natum videte
Regem angelorum
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

Deum de Deo
Lumen de lumine
Gestant puellae viscera
Deum verum
Genitum non factum
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

Cantet nunc lo
Chorus angelorum
Cantet nunc aula caelestium
Gloria, gloria
In excelsis Deo
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

Ergo qui natus
Die hodierna
Jesu, tibi sit gloria
Patris aeterni
Verbum caro factum
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

O Holy Night

Adolphe C. Adams

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He ap-peared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night, divine, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led the by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King: before Him lowly bend!
Behold you King: before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessing of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of Mother mild;

Where Charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

John Marks

Rockin' around the Christmas tree
at the Christmas party hop.
Mistletoe hung where you can see
ev'ry couple tries to stop.

Rockin' around the Christmas tree,
let the Christmas spirit ring.
Latter we'll have some pumpkin pie
and we'll do some caroling.

You will get a sentimental feeling
when you hear voices singing
"Let's be jolly,
Deck the halls with boughs of holly."

Rockin' around the Christmas Tree.
Have a happy holiday.
Ev'ryone dancing merrily
in the new old fashioned way.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Rev. Joseph Mohr; 1816

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
‘Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav’nly hosts sing, “Alleluia”
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night!
Here at last, healing light
From the heavenly kingdom sent,
Abundant grace for our intent.
Jesus, salvation for all.
Jesus, salvation for all.

Silent night! Holy night!
Sleeps the world in peace tonight
God sends His Son to earth below

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

A Child from whom all blessings flow
Jesus, embraces mankind,
Jesus, embraces mankind.

Silent night, Holy night!
Mindful of mankind's plight
The Lord in Heaven on high decreed
From earthly woes we would be freed
Jesus, God's promise for peace,
Jesus, God's promise for peace.

MEREDITH CURTIS

Silver Bells

Ray Evan & Jay Livingston

Silver bells, silver bells
It's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring
Soon it will be Christmas day

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks
Dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing
Meeting smile after smile
And on every street corner you'll hear

Silver bells, silver bells
It's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring
Soon it will be Christmas day

Sleigh Ride

Lyrics by Mitchell Parish (1948) & Music by Leroy Anderson

Just hear those sleigh bells jingling
Ring ting tingling too.
Come on, it's lovely weather
For a sleigh ride together with you.

Outside the snow is falling
And friends are calling 'Yoo-hoo.'
Come on, it's lovely weather
For a sleigh ride together with you.

Giddy up, giddy up, giddy up,
Let's go, Let's look at the show,
We're riding in a wonderland of snow.

Giddy up, giddy up, giddy up,
It's grand, Just holding your hand,
We're gliding along with a song
Of a wintry fairy land.

Our cheeks are nice and rosy
And comfy cozy are we
We're snuggled up together
Like two birds of a feather would be.

Let's take that road before us
And sing a chorus or two
Come on, it's lovely weather
For a sleigh ride together with you.

There's a birthday party
At the home of Farmer Gray
It'll be the perfect ending a perfect day

MEREDITH CURTIS

We'll be singing the songs
We love to sing without a single stop,
At the fireplace while we watch
The chestnuts pop.
Pop pop pop.

There's a happy feeling
Nothing in the world can buy,
When they pass around the chocolate
And the pumpkin pie
It'll nearly be like a picture print
By Currier and Ives
These wonderful things are the things
We remember all through our lives.

Twelve Days of Christmas

Traditional English Christmas Carol

One the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

One the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me 2 turtle doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

One the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me 3 French hens, 2
turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

One the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 4 calling birds, 3
French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

One the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 5 golden rings, 4
calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 6 geese a laying, 5
golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge
in a Pear Tree

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me 7 swans a
swimming, 6 geese a laying, 5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens,
2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 8 maids a
milking, 7 swans a swimming, 6 geese a laying, 5 golden rings, 4 calling
birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree ...

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 9 ladies dancing,
8 maids a milking, 7 swans a swimming, 6 geese a laying, 5 golden rings, 4
calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

...

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 10 lords a leaping,
9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a milking, 7 swans a swimming, 6 geese a laying,
5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a
Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me 11 pipers
piping, 10 lords a leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a milking, 7 swans a
swimming, 6 geese a laying, 5 golden rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens,
2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me 12 drummers
drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids
a milking, 7 swans a swimming, 6 geese a laying, 5 golden rings, 4 calling
birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

Venite adoremus Dominum, Come, Let us Adore the Lord (The Snow Lay on the Ground)

(12th Century Christmas Carol)

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Refrain:

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,
that brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. Refrain

Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;
the angels hovered round, and sang this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum. Refrain

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Refrain

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Lyrics by Richard B. Smith (1901-1935) & Music by Felix Bernard (1897-1944)

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening,
In the lane, snow is glistening
A beautiful sight,
We're happy tonight.
Walking in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird,
Here to stay is a new bird
He sings a love song,
As we go along,
Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown
He'll say: Are you married?
We'll say: No man,
But you can do the job
When you're in town.

Later on, we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire
To face unafraid,
The plans that we've made,
Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,
And pretend that he's a circus clown
We'll have lots of fun with mister snowman,
Until the other kids knock him down.

When it snows, ain't it thrilling,
Though your nose gets a chilling
We'll frolic and play, the Eskimo way,
Walking in a winter wonderland.

We Believe in the Miracle of Christmas!

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Word of God Word with God
Word became flesh
And all of Heaven gazed in wonder
Every heart stood still
As glory was disrobed
Flesh had found a home
And no one understood that it was good

We believe in the miracle of Christmas
We receive the wonder of His love
Emmanuel—Now our God is with us
We believe We believe

Son of God Son of Man
Messiah walked the land
And all of Heaven gazed in wonder
Every heart stood still
The Spotless Lamb was slain
Prophecy fulfilled
And no one understood that it was good

God so loved the world that He gave
God has a plan to save

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O star of wonder star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guides us to thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. O star...

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high. O star...

Myrrh is mine; it's bitter perfume;
Breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star....

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to the heav'ns replies. O star....

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Traditional English 16th Centruy

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Now bring us some figgy pudding
Now bring us some figgy pudding
Now bring us some figgy pudding
And a cup of good cheer! Good tidings....

We all like our figgy pudding
We all like our figgy pudding
We all like our figgy pudding
With all its good cheer. Good tidings....

We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
So bring it out here! Good tidings....

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year. Good tidings.....

What Child Is This?

What child is this, who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. This, this....

So, bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of Kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this....

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night

Johann Cruger (1057) and Nahum Tate (1702)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angels of the Lord came down
And glory shone around, and glory shone around

“Fear not,” said, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind”

“To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be a sign, and this shall be a sign”

“The Heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All humbly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.

Thus spoke the angel, and forthwith
Appeared in shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus,
Addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song

“All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace
Good will to all from highest heaven
Begin and never cease, begin and never cease”

Worship at Your Cradle

©2007 Meredith Curtis

This tiny little baby
Sleeping on the hay
Has come to save the world
So the prophets say
Bringing gifts and offerings
To Christ the newborn King
Young and old, rich and poor
Who heard the angels sing

(chorus)

I'd have worshipped at His cradle
I'll worship at His throne
I'll worship Him forever
Worship God alone!

Worship Him Worship Him Worship Him Worship Him
Worship Him God alone!

Worship Belongs to Jesus Alone

©2005 Meredith Curtis

We are the reason a Baby cried
The reason the angels sang on high
He is the reason we sing
Jesus, Receive this offering we bring

(chorus)

Receive honor and wealth and wisdom and strength
Receive glory and power and praise
Worship belongs to Jesus alone
To the Ancient of Days

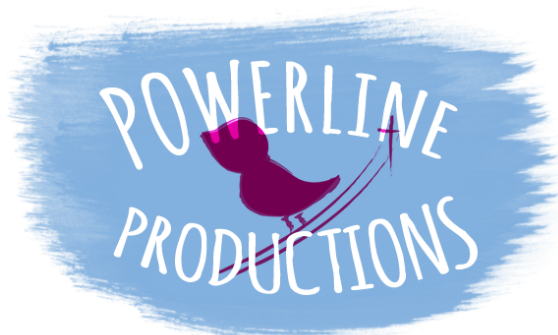
(verse 2)

He is the reason wise men came
He is the star of Bethlehem
He is the reason we live
Jesus, Receive this offering we give

(bridge)

| |: Worship belongs to Jesus alone
Worship belongs to You :| |

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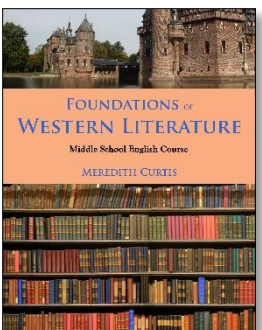
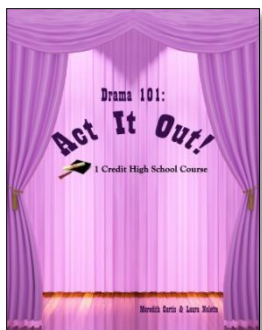
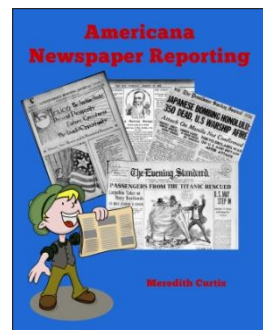
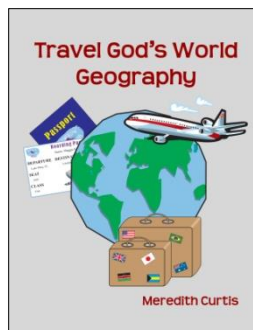
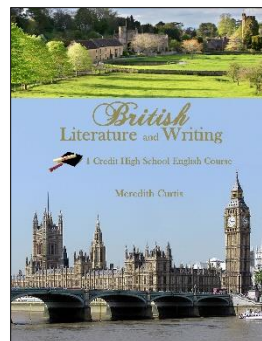
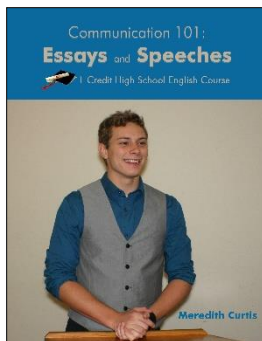
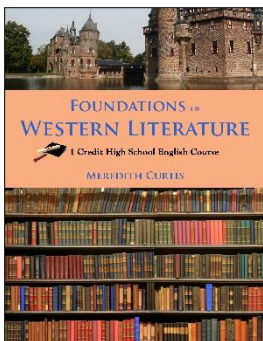
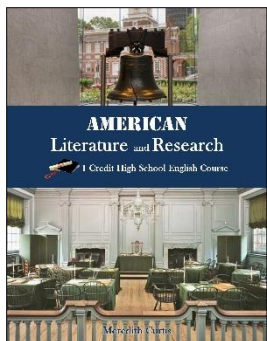
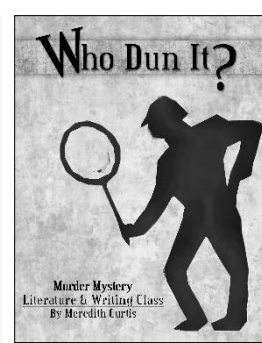
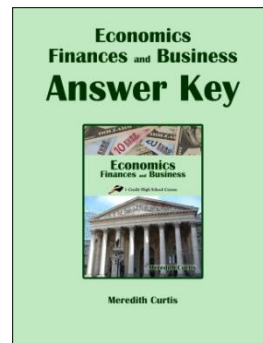
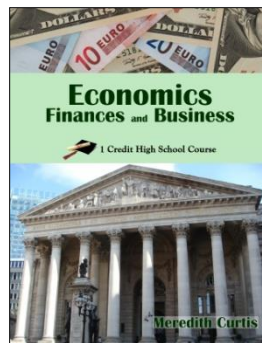
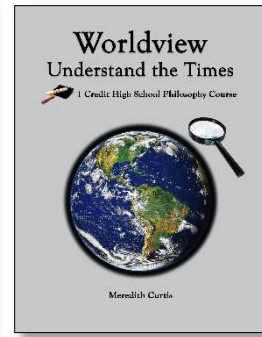
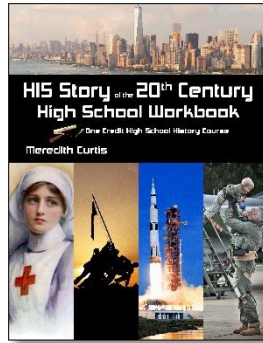
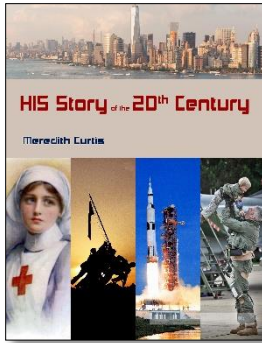
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High School & Middle School Courses

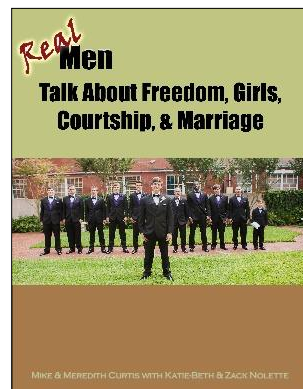
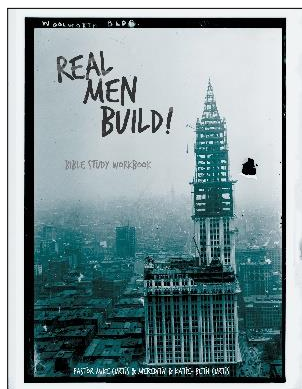
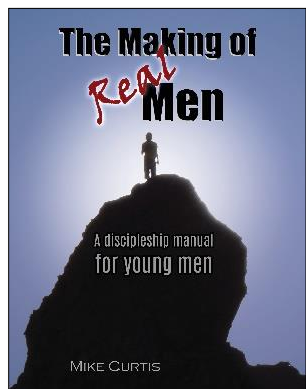
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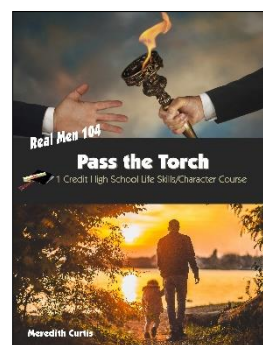
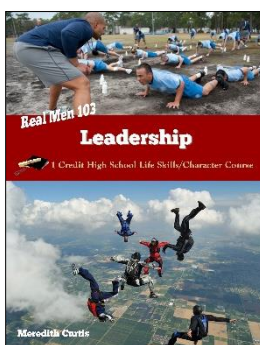
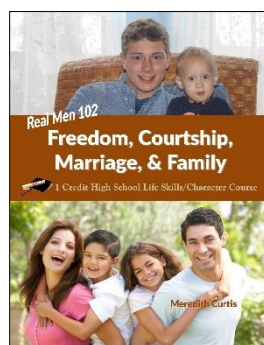
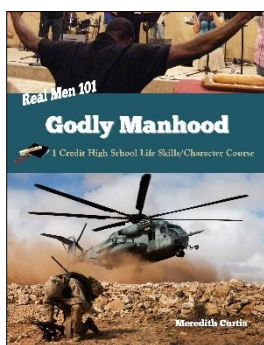
Real Men Discipleship Manuals

God calls fathers to impart life to their sons, passing the baton in the race of faith. These Bible studies were created for fathers (or mentors) to go through this material with their sons. Pastor Mike Curtis used these materials to mentor his own son and other young men in the church. These manuals cover tough issues that fathers and sons need to talk about and live out in their lives.



Real Men High School Electives

Do you want to prepare your sons to become godly husbands, fathers, church leaders, and pillars in their communities? These one-credit high school life skills classes build character and prepare young men for the future. Using living books, Scripture, and practical assignments, young men will learn to become the man God has called them to be.

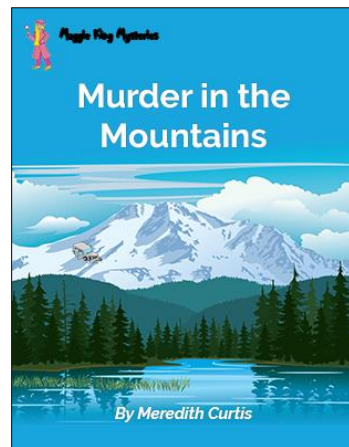
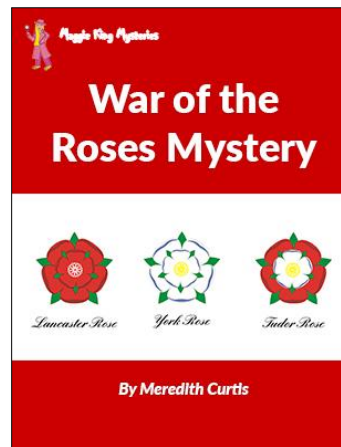
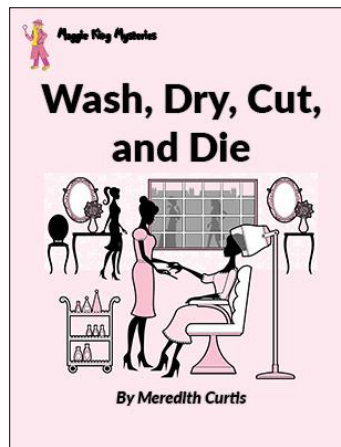
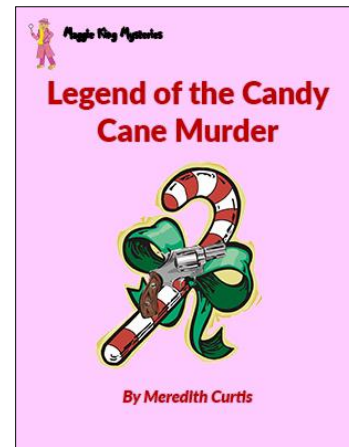
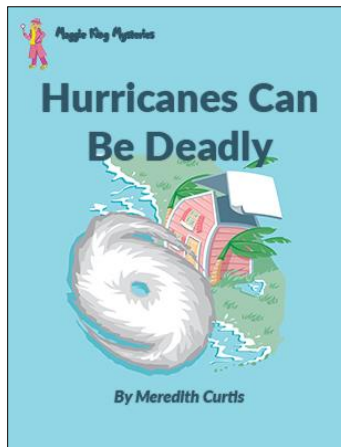
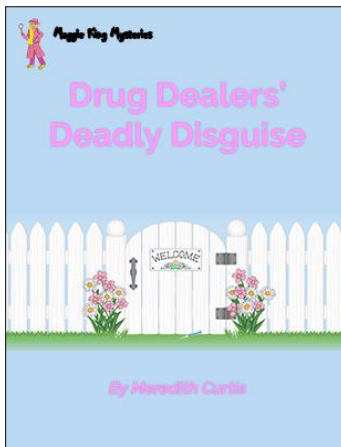


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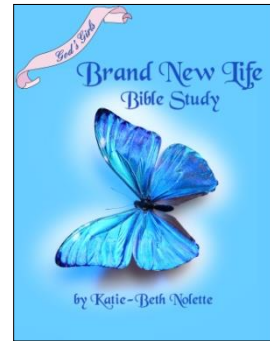
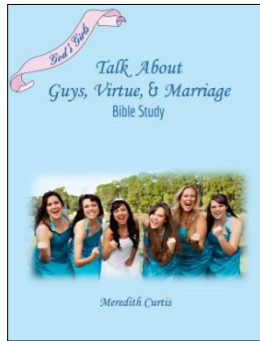
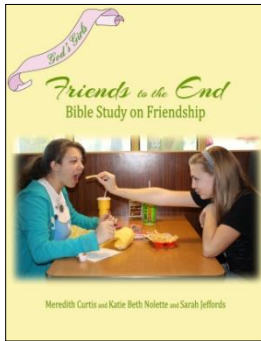
Maggie King Mysteries

If you like cozy mysteries, you will love this series! Meet Maggie King, a pastor's wife and homeschool mom who keeps stumbling across dead bodies. With her sidekicks, Sophia and Mary-Kate and her curious children, Maggie is on one adventure after another.

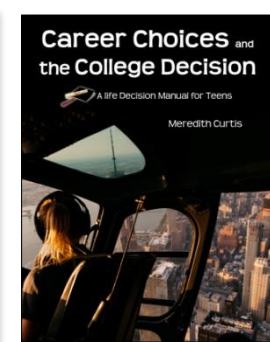
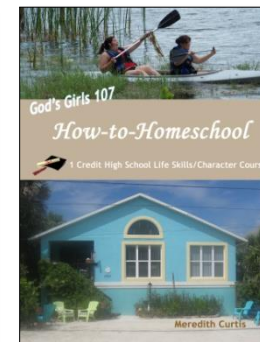
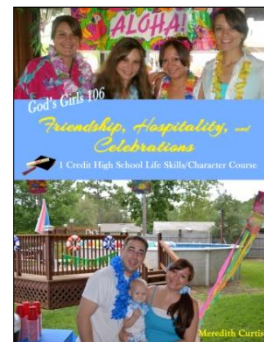


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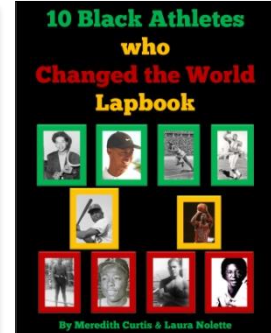
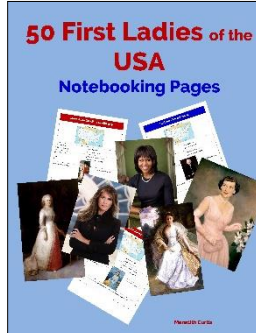
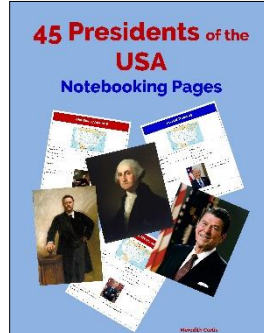
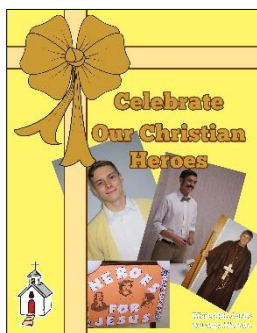
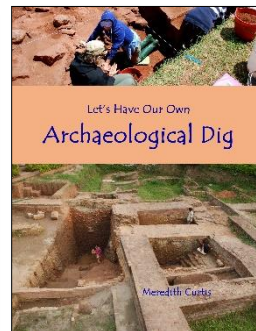
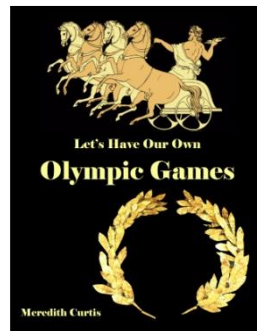
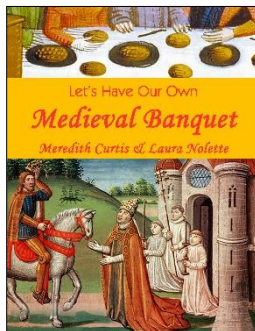
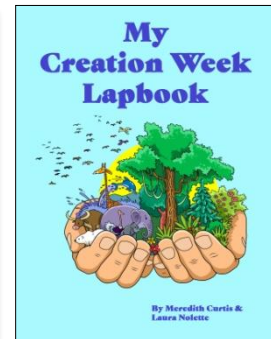
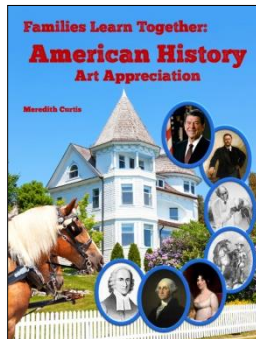
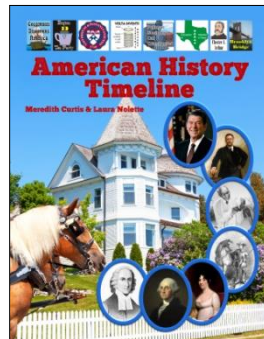
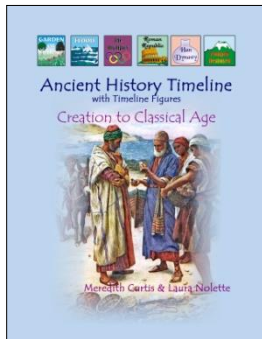
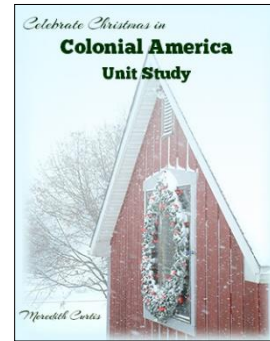
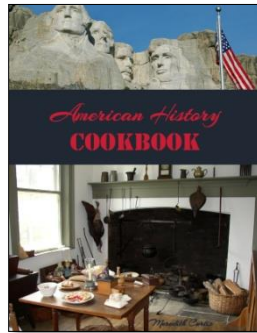
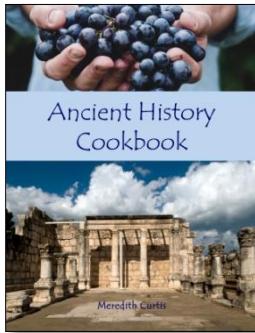
God's Girls Bible Studies



God's Girls High School Electives

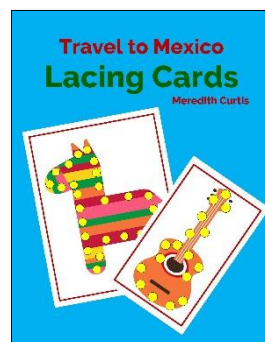
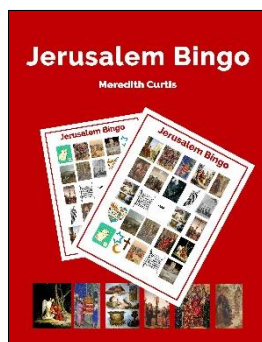
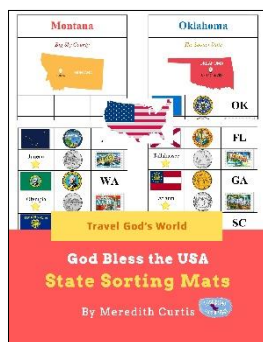
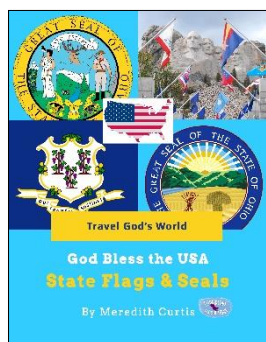
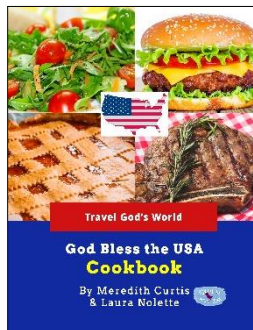
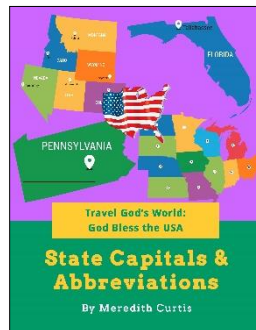
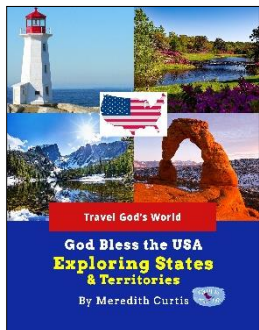
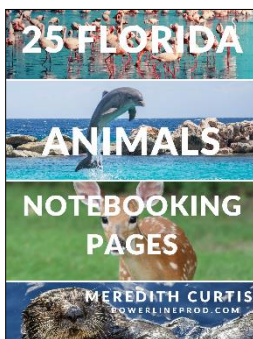
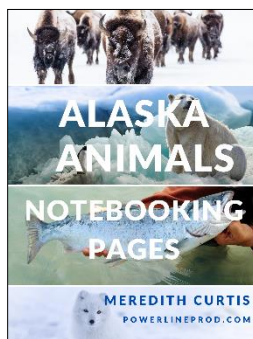
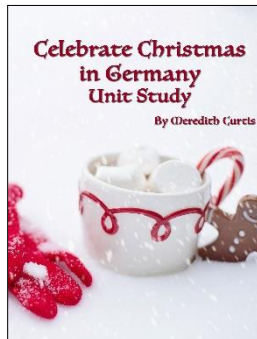
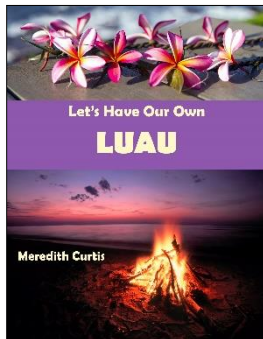
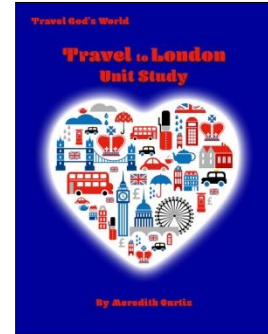
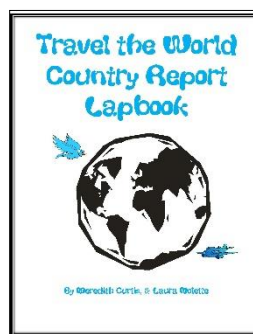
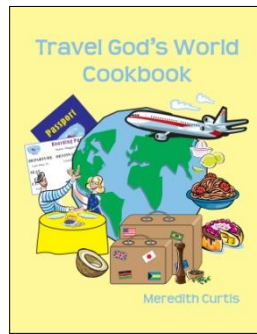
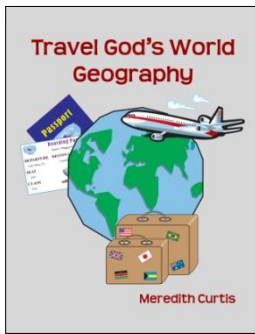


Teach History the Fun Way

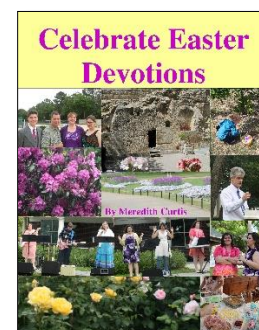
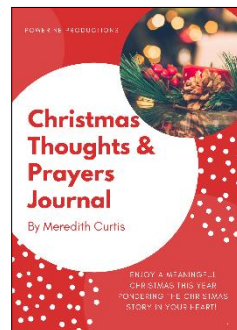
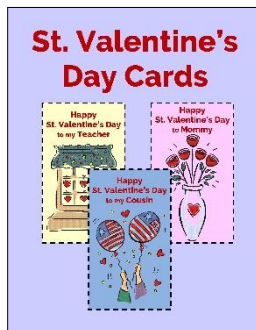
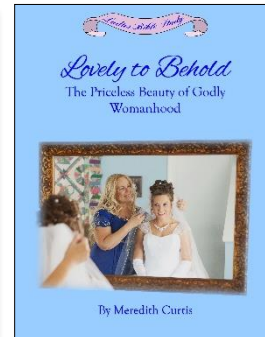
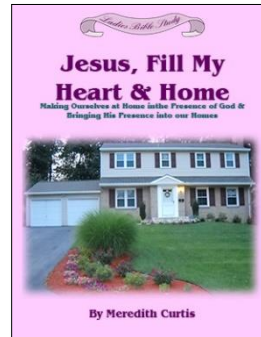
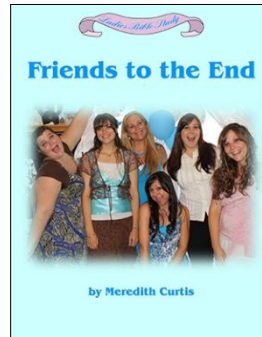
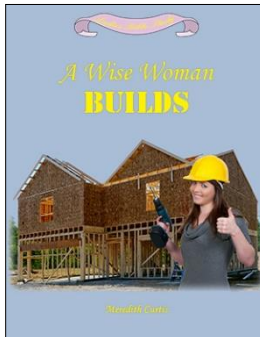
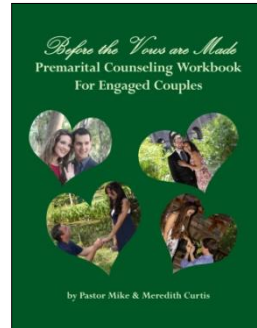
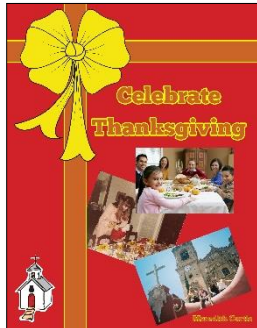
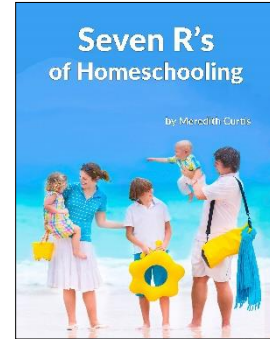
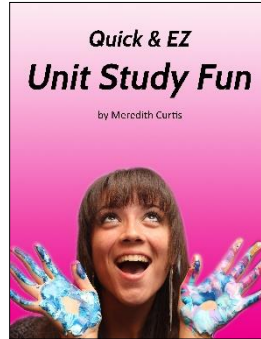
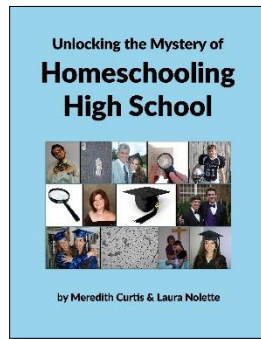
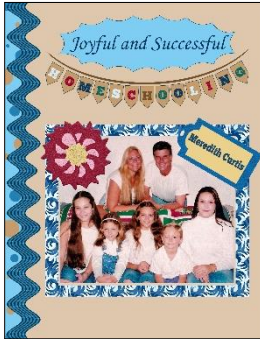


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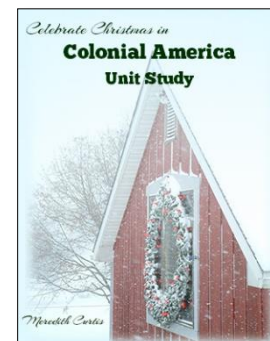
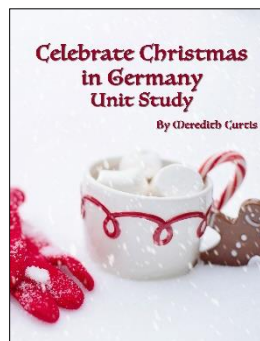
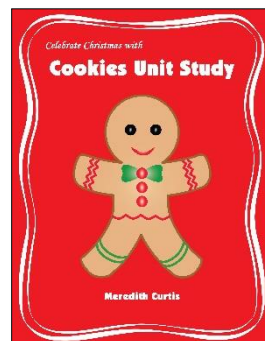
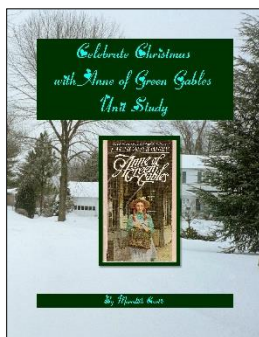
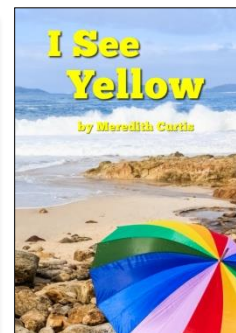
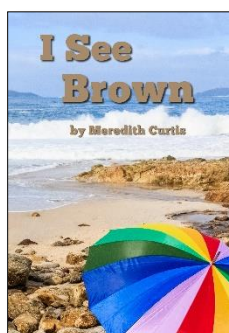
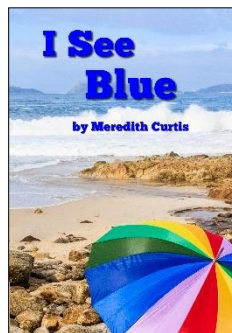
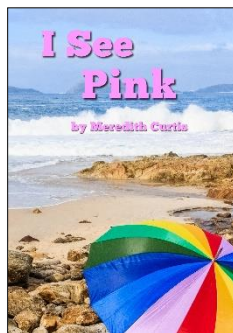
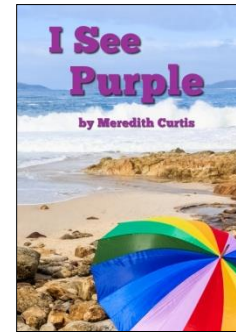
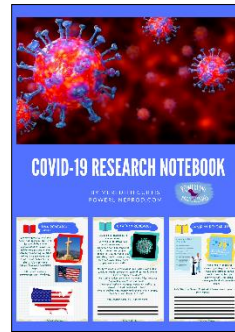
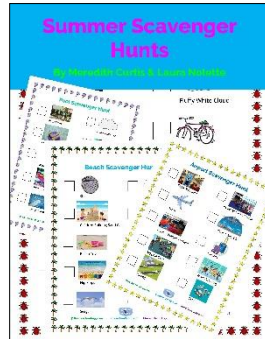
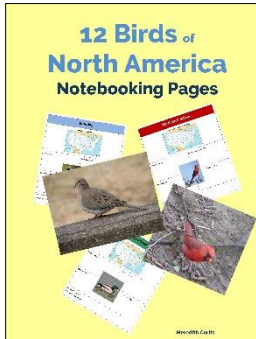
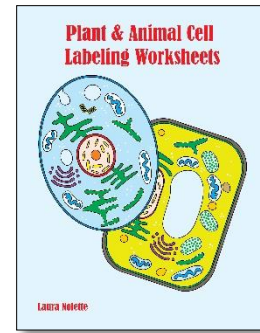
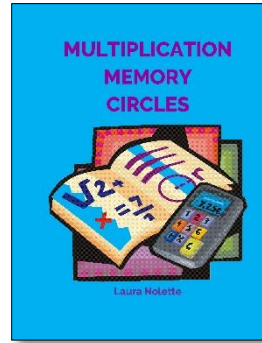
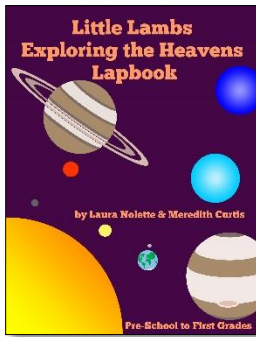
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CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS



About the Author



Meredith Curtis, a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom of five children, leads worship, mentors ladies, and, sometimes, even cooks dinner. Her passion is to equip people to love Jesus, raise godly children, and change the world around them with the power of the Gospel. "Lives are changed in the context of relationships," Meredith often says, as well as, "Be a world changer! Raise world changers!" She enjoys speaking to small and large groups.

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Meredith is the author of several books.

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God's Girls 104: Motherhood
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God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations
God's Girls 107: How-To-Homeschool

**Here are the devotions we use every Christmas in our home!
We hope that you will enjoy them too. God bless you & Merry
Christmas!**



Meredith Curtis is a pastor's wife and homeschooling mother of five wonderful children. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 1984 with a BS degree in Nursing, worked as a RN for two years, and has been a homemaker since the birth of her first child in 1986. Currently she is leading worship and mentoring ladies at Powerline Church. She is the author of *HIS Story of the 20th Century*, *Travel God's World Geography*, and *Jesus, Fill My Heart & Home Bible Study*. God, in His kindness, has given her a joyful home, good friends and children who love Jesus! As much as she enjoys ministry and all her blessings, her delight is spending time in the Presence of her first love, Jesus!

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