The background is a stained glass design with various shades of blue and teal. A large, multi-pointed star in shades of yellow and orange is centered in the image. The text is overlaid on this background.

JESUS

THE LIGHT OF

CHRISTMAS



FAMILY LIFE RESOURCES

Growing Together, Rooted in Faith - Colossians 2:7

We are thrilled to announce that we are expanding our family resources here at First Church! Our heartfelt mission is to empower and equip parents to guide their children in this endeavor to love, honor, and serve God with their lives. We aim not only to provide a vibrant, faith-filled, and enjoyable environment for your children within our church community but also to acknowledge that a few hours out of 168 hours that make up a week isn't enough time to focus on or walk with God. We understand the challenges of busy schedules and endless household tasks, which is why we're dedicated to offering resources that are easy to use, relevant, and, most importantly, honor God with the goal of supporting you and your family. We pray these resources make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Family Life Ministries

Colossians 2:7 Let your roots grow down into Him,
And let your lives be built on Him.
Then, your faith will grow strong in
The truth you were taught...



The "I AM's" of Christ

AUGUST

"I Am the True Vine" (John 15:1)

- Remain in Me
- Remain in My Love
- I Call You Friends
- Not of This World

SEPTEMBER

"I Am The Bread of Life" (John 6:48)

- I Am the Living Bread
- I Am the Bread of Life - Eternal
- God the Father - Our Provider
- Our Work is to Believe

DECEMBER

"I Am The Light of the World" (John 8:12)

- Star Light (Matthew 2:10)
- A Light in the Darkness (Mark 1:1)
- The Glory of the Lord (Luke 2:9)
- I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)



Jesus the Light of Christmas

If you live in Alaska, you walk in darkness this time of year. Taking a walk in the woods, you would find yourself in darkness all day and all night. Waiting for sunrise is a long wait. Don't expect it until sometime in January.

The world was in spiritual darkness at the time of Jesus' birth. The people of God were awaiting the Messiah. They had been waiting for a long time but heaven was silent.

Then Zechariah, having been visited by an angel, prophesied of the redeemer and Savior (Luke 1:67-69).

"The Sunrise from on high shall visit us."
(Luke 1:78)

"The Light of the World" was coming to live among men. Join us as we look at the Light of Christmas from each of the Gospels.

LESSON 1

Starlight

Parent's Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

Family Reading: *Matthew 2:1-18*

Key Verse: Matthew 2:10

***"When they saw the star, they
were overjoyed"***

Jesus's birth was not just announced by an angel to the shepherds in Bethlehem. The Bible tells us that a star also rose to announce His birth. The Bible doesn't tell us specifically when the star first appeared, but we do know that there were wise men from the east who noticed it. These wise men understood that the star meant that a "king of the Jews" was born (Matthew 2:1-2):

"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 when it rose and have come to worship him."

The Bible tells us that the wise men were "overjoyed" when they saw the star. It could mean that they were just excited to see something that was unusual happening in the night sky. But those of us who know Jesus and have accepted Him as a savior, we know that the star was an important announcement that shared our Savior's birth. The wise men were blessed to have been a part of that story; even if it was only due to the starlight that drew them closer to Him for a short period of time.

Like the star's light, are there ways you can be a light that points towards Jesus with your family, friends, and others around you? Sometimes we meet people that know about Jesus, but they don't really understand who Jesus is. You can be a star in their lives that points them towards Jesus by sharing His love to those around you.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Sharing the Light of Jesus.

Decide on at least 3 (or more) things each of you can do to share the light of Jesus. Here are a few ideas:

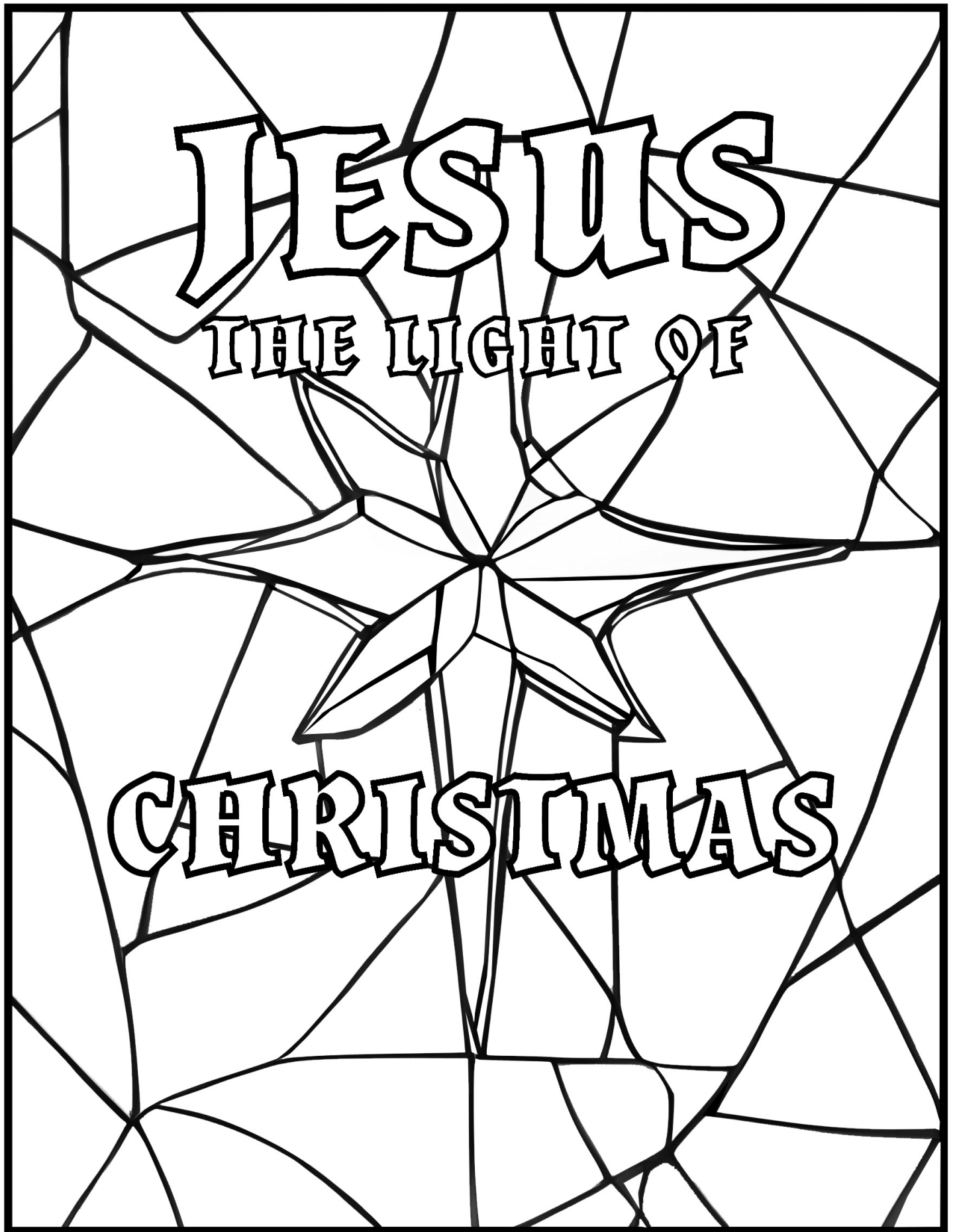
- Invite someone who would otherwise be alone over for dinner.

- When someone tells you something sad about themselves, even if that person doesn't believe in Jesus, ask them if you can pray for them. If they say yes, do it right then and there in front of them. No matter how young or how old you are in comparison to the one who needs prayer, what a beautiful example you can be to that person!

- Write someone a letter. Fill it with words of encouragement and specific things that you like about that person. It might even be more fun to make the letter anonymous so that the person doesn't feel embarrassed or obligated to thank you.

- Notice people that might need help. Perhaps someone is carrying too many items needs the door opened for them. Look for ways you could bless someone. Maybe you could rake their leaves, shovel their walk or find someone to sit next to who is lonely and ask them about themselves.

There are examples everywhere - just keep your eyes open and ask God to show you!



LESSON 2

A Light in the Darkness

Parent's Passage: Matthew Chapter 2

Family Reading: Matthew 1:18-22

Key Verse: Mark 1:1

"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet"

Every part of the Christmas story was planned out eons ago by God the Father, and proclaimed by the prophets.

God had planned for many generations for Jesus to be born from the line of King David. This is recorded in Luke 2:4-7, Luke chapter 3, and Matthew chapter 1.

Read Matthew 1:18-22. The birth of Jesus was very special. The prophet Isaiah announced Jesus' birth 700 years before He was born! You can read this in Isaiah 7:14:

***Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Immanuel.***

There are many prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. Here are a few about His birth:

Micah 5:2-4 (Born in Bethlehem)

***"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,***

(Continued on next page)

***Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”***

Hosea 11:1 (Family Flees to Egypt)
***“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.”***

Jesus’ life was mapped out thousands of years before He was born - His life was planned out entirely by God.

This was no ordinary baby, He was the Son of God!

CONCLUSION

The people during Jesus’ time were living in spiritual darkness. The prophecies were like glowing lights to keep their hope alive.

They had been waiting a long time for the Messiah. These scriptures from the Old Testament were their promises that God had not forgotten them.

What are some of the promises of God that we are still waiting for? (Clue - Acts 1:11) List them in the space below.

FAMILY ACTIVITY **Prophecy Match up**

Instruction -

Look up these references and fill in the event that God had planned out so long ago.

PROPHECY:

Isaiah 40:3

FULFILLMENT:

Matthew 3:3

EVENT:

PROPHECY:

Isaiah 7:14

FULFILLMENT:

Matthew 1:18-22

EVENT:

PROPHECY:

Micah 5:2

FULFILLMENT:

Matthew 2:6

EVENT:

PROPHECY:

Hosea 11:1

FULFILLMENT:

Matthew 2:14

EVENT:

PROPHECY:

Isaiah 9:1-2

FULFILLMENT:

Matthew 4;13-14

EVENT:

(Coloring Page)

IMMANUEL

GOD WITH US



ISAIAH 7:14

LESSON 3

The Glory of the Lord

Parent's Passage: John 1:4-5

Family Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Key Verse: Luke 2:9

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

Have you ever been told, "Wait until you're older, then you'll understand!" How does that make you feel? If you feel frustrated or like you're missing out on something exciting, you may have something in common with the shepherds back in the time of Jesus's birth. They spent most of their days alone with their sheep. No contact with others - remember, there were no cell phones so that they could stay in touch with their family and friends. No news feeds where they could hear about current events.

It is not surprising that shepherds were among the last to hear any news that might impact them. Some might say they were "left in the dark," meaning they had no knowledge of what was happening in the world. However, the Bible tells us that nothing separates us from God—not feeling like we're in the dark, nor feeling lonely, as the shepherds may have felt—because nothing is hidden from God's sight (Hebrews 4:13):

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

(Continued on next page)

In fact, God chose the shepherds to hear the good news the same day as Jesus's birth. They were some of the first to hear!

Today, we usually receive a card or a Facebook or Instagram post to tell us about someone's birth. But the shepherds received the most glorious birth announcement of anyone throughout all of time. The Bible tells us that not only did an angel speak to the shepherds, but that God's glory shone around them!

This light that shone was something the shepherds got to see and feel (which made them a little afraid!) But the angels had good news to share with them!

Jesus is born and He is the Savior of the world!

Have you ever gotten excited when someone arrived? Maybe a friend or relative and you just wanted to jump up and down? The Bible shows us an example of how excited the angels may have been after giving their news, because ***"Suddenly"*** - not when they got around to it - ***"a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel"*** - this was such great news that even others in heaven got to join in - ***"praising God."***

God shared his light and the great news of Jesus's birth to people that were usually left out. Take some time to praise God together as a family. You don't need to use fancy words, but spend time feeling grateful to Him and showing Him how much He deserves all of your praise!

Can you think of a few reasons to praise the Lord? Write them down here:

FAMILY ACTIVITY

The "ABC'S" of Praising God.

Outside of cheering for our favorite sports team, we as Americans might find praising God to be outside of our comfort zone.

A fun activity you can do as a family to help you practice praising Him is to go through the alphabet with different words you could use to praise the Lord. Try to focus just on praising Him (*don't move into asking him for anything too quickly*).

A God, You are A wesome!	N _____
B Father, you are B eautiful!	O _____
C You're the C reator of the world!	P _____
D _____	Q _____
E _____	R _____
F _____	S _____
G _____	T _____
H _____	U _____
I _____	V _____
J _____	W _____
K _____	X _____
L _____	Y _____
M _____	Z _____

We gave you a few examples. Keep going, you get the idea! And don't worry - there are lots of names in the Bible that begin with "X" so be creative and don't let that letter slow you down!

(Coloring Page)

Rejoice!

I Bring
Good
News!



LESSON 4

Jesus - The Light of the World

Parent's Passage: John 1:1-18

Family Reading: John 1:1-14

Key Verse: John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

My husband loves to study the sun. He is fascinated by the power and immensity of it. The solar flares wreak havoc on our weather, yet our sun gives life to our earth. Scientists say that being in the sunshine every day can improve our health and well being.

John 1:14 describes our powerful and awesome Christ. Creator of all life. Sustainer of life. The light that overcomes all darkness:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling 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."

Reading John chapter 1, our only response is to bask in His glory. To be still and let His Light flow over us and through us. His immense power is overwhelming, yet from Him flow light and life!

So, how should we respond?

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

In your stillness soak up His light and life.

(Continued on next page)

How do we sustain His presence?

“...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience...”

(Hebrews 10:21-23)

Come before Him with a clean heart.

How do we continue to receive?

*“My son, pay attention to what I say;
turn your ear to my words.”*

(Proverbs 4:20)

Read the Bible. Listen to His Word.

Our challenge to you this Christmas season is to read the Word during family time. Read a portion before a meal. Read a portion to your kids at bedtime. Read John 1:1-14. Become familiar with it - soak it up! Bask in it and it will renew your soul.

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Memorize John 1:1-5

Write John 1:1-5 below. Copying Bible verses is a great way to memorize the Word. Use the next page for reference.

Verse 1 _____

Verse 2 _____

Verse 3 _____

Verse 4 _____

Verse 5 _____

FAMILY CHALLENGE: **Memorize John 1:1-14**

- Verse 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Verse 2** He was with God in the beginning.
- Verse 3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- Verse 4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- Verse 5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- Verse 6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
- Verse 7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.
- Verse 8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
- Verse 9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
- Verse 10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
- Verse 11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
- Verse 12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
- Verse 13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
- Verse 14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling 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.



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