

2022 Edition



Celebrate Christmas in a Way Your Children Will Never Forget!

Our KidzVenture is encouraging families to go through the Christmas Story in a way where the entire family will have a blast creating memories and most importantly **placing Jesus Christ as the focus of our Christmas Season!**

You now have a new member in your family and his name is JD. JD is short for Jesus' Donkey.

Parents you are to take JD home and this is where the fun begins!

There is only **one real rule and that is that no one touches JD.** Each day starting December 1st until Christmas Eve, JD will show up in different places with ideas on how the family can make Jesus the main focus of this Christmas. **Parents, you are responsible for setting JD up every night after the kids go to bed. You can use the ideas written here, or you can use your own.**

We would LOVE to see your JD on our facebook page! If you haven't already, please go to facebook.com/OBCCKidzventure and join the fun! **We will be posting JD and his adventures on our KidzVenture page. We would love to post your pictures. Email them to kidz@obcc.church.**

It is important that you set aside some time, whether it is morning or night, to spend together as a family. Please prayerfully keep this commitment to God. The daily time and discussions can be tweaked by you depending on the ages of your children. Every week you will have a suggestion for an act of service to do with your family to Love, Live and Share Christ!

Supply List: YOUR BIBLE FOR EVERY DAY!

NOV 30

Balloons, party supplies, sign welcoming or introducing JD

DEC 1

A stuffed animal that belongs to each child

DEC 2

Baby doll or picture of a baby

DEC 3

Streamers or ribbon, tape

DEC 4

Paper with each name written vertically, red & green marker

DEC 5

A piece of candy or sweet treat for each child, note from JD

DEC 6

A favorite game of the family

DEC 7

Lunch box packed for school the next day & a note from JD

DEC 8

30 or so plastic cups & a goody to eat for each of your children

DEC 9

Pipe cleaner & something white (white cloth, white ribbon) to help JD dress like an angel

DEC 10

Tablespoon, salt or sugar, plate

DEC 11

Paper, markers, crayons & art supplies

DEC 12

Glow sticks

DEC 13

Recording device

DEC 14

Toothpaste

DEC 15

Markers (permanent & washable), paper towels, small clear plastic container & scissors

DEC 16

Nativity with a baby Jesus

DEC 17

Hot chocolate, mini marshmallows

DEC 18

Any type of cross

DEC 19

Cotton balls, white material

DEC 20

Ball of yarn

DEC 21

Baby picture of each child

DEC 22

2 Favorite Christmas movies, Christmas socks

DEC 23

One present for each of your children to open on Christmas Eve

Wednesday, November 30th

EVENING

Set up a mini party using balloons, streamers, or any party supplies you might have at home. Bring out JD after the kids have gone to bed and place him with the little party on the kitchen counter with a sign that says, "It's Christmas time again!" If you haven't had JD visit before, introduce him with a sign saying, "Hi I'm JD, Jesus' Donkey! I am so excited to tell you the story of Jesus' birth!"



Thursday, December 1st

MORNING

Say to your kids, "JD told me he can't wait for Christmas this year!!!" Say, "Why do we celebrate Christmas? We celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of Jesus. God gave us His One and Only Son as a gift!"

Read **John 1:14** out of your Bible: "So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (ESV)

Ask, "Who are we talking about in these verses? Jesus!"

Because we want to be like God and because God has given us sooo much, choose a family or a friend that your family can give a Secret Santa Surprise to or do an Act of Kindness! Pray together and ask God who this family or person should be.



EVENING

Have JD sitting on the couch next to a favorite stuffed animal of each child.

MORNING

When the kids wake up and find JD, tell them JD has best friends just like they do, and that having a best friend is a wonderful gift! Have the children tell you what they love about their best friend or their favorite stuffy.

Look up **Isaiah 9:6** in your Bible "For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us..." (ESV).

Ask your kids, "WHO is US?" If they are confused tell them it's all of us. THE WHOLE WORLD! Tell them that God is a giver, and point to where it says that a Son is given. JD knows that a best friend is a wonderful gift but no gift can compare to Jesus Christ!

EVENING

Set up JD with a baby doll or a picture of a baby



MORNING

When the kids find JD tell them that JD loves to be with his friends and he doesn't like to be left alone.

Look up **Matthew 1:23** in your Bible, "...She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" (ESV)

The name Immanuel means "God with us." This tells us that Jesus is God and Jesus was born to live among us. When Jesus left this earth and went to His Father, He left behind a helper, the Holy Spirit. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God gives us His Holy Spirit so we will never be left alone. God's power, His Spirit, lives INSIDE OF US!!! We are NEVER ALONE because the Holy Spirit lives inside of us ALWAYS AND FOREVER!

EVENING

Tonight, have JD use different lengths of ribbon or streamers taped zigzag over each child's doorway. The basic idea is that your child breaks through the ribbons or streamers in the same way that Gabriel breaks through the heavens with the BEST NEWS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!!!

Set JD on the door, or on the table with the leftover ribbon and streamers with your Bible.



Sunday, December 4th

MORNING

Read together the birth of Jesus foretold in **Luke 1:26-30** in your Bible.

Have the kids imagine Gabriel - the magnificent, powerful, and beautiful angel of God -being summoned before God's throne! Lightning is flashing from His throne. Beautiful colors blast everywhere, like none we have ever seen from God's glorious splendor! God gives Gabriel, the bearer of God-news, His message. Picture Gabriel soaring earthward through the heavens with the **BEST NEWS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!!!**

Discuss how this message was the most important message in the entire world. Ask your older kids **WHY** it was such an important message.

Discuss what Mary must have felt when she heard the message. The Bible says she was greatly troubled and afraid! Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because she had found favor with God. You can discuss a time when you have been afraid and encourage everyone to share.

Read **1 Chronicles 28:20**, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you." (ESV)

The Scripture says, "Mary found favor with God." Each one of us has also found God's favor. God chose **YOU** and loves **YOU!!!**

Read **Ephesians 1:4-6**, "Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son." (ESV)

End in prayer!

EVENING

Have JD write each child's name on a piece of paper in red and green markers (vertically). *The picture below shows both the "before" of evening setup and the "after" of your morning activity.*



MORNING

When the kids see what JD did, tell them that JD wanted to talk about their names. Come up with a describing word that starts with each letter of their name to create a poem about them.

Read **Luke 1:31-33** in your Bible.

Gabriel told Mary to name the baby, JESUS! The very name at which every knee will one day bow. The very name that every tongue will one day confess. Even as a baby, Jesus was God!!! Immanuel, God with us!!!

Discuss as a family that Jesus' kingdom will never end and because of that, WE HAVE HOPE! The very name of Jesus gives us hope! Amazing hope that came down from heaven! At the end of your time, bow on your knees together and thank God for the hope that we have in Jesus!

EVENING

Have JD hiding somewhere with a note saying "I have hidden a sweet treat to remind you how sweet Jesus' love is".



MORNING

When the kids wake up and find JD, tell them that JD loves them and wanted to remind them of how much God loves them too and how sweet His love is. Send them on the hunt for their treat.



EVENING

When the kids go to bed, set JD up with a game. You can have him hiding with some Jenga blocks set up around him, set him up with some friends playing twister, or have him holding a game of Operation.

MORNING

When the kids wake up, tell them that JD loves playing games and wants to have a game night!

Read **Luke 1:35-37** in your Bible.

Even though Jesus was the Holy One and the Son of God, He was also a boy. Nothing is impossible with God. Jesus was young just like all of us. He grew up playing with His brothers and sisters, and He probably loved playing games. He went to His cousin's house, John the Baptist, where He played with His cousins too! He was just like all of us except He was perfect. That might have been a bit difficult because Jesus NEVER did anything wrong. So, if you were His brother or sister, you could never blame Him for anything!



EVENING

Set JD with children's packed lunch boxes. That can even be in the fridge with them.

MORNING

When the kids wake up, tell them that JD has been learning how important it is to serve others and decided to pack their lunch for them. If mom or dad normally pack the lunches then remind them that JD helped mom and dad out.

Read **Luke 1:38**, "Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.'" (ESV)

Ask, "What does it mean to serve? What does it mean to be the Lord's servant? It means to do something to show the love of God."

Start planning an Act of Service that you can do as a family this week to show the love of God to someone who won't expect it. You could help your sibling pack their lunch, help unload the dishwasher, or help a neighbor bring their trash cans in.

Close in prayer, asking God to help you all to be servants just like Mary.

EVENING

Set up 30 or more plastic cups around the living room and set a goody for each child under different cups. Set JD standing on a cup with a sign that says, "Find the hidden treat!" The treat could be a candy, a small trinket, or even loose change (for older kiddos)



MORNING

When everyone wakes up, tell them that JD sometimes gets carried away with his games!



EVENING

Hide JD in the Christmas Tree dressed as an angel. Wrap him in white cloth or even a napkin, use ribbon to tie this gown on him. Use a pipe cleaner as a halo.

MORNING

Sit down together to read **Luke 1:39-45**. Discuss Mary's walk to Elizabeth's house. I don't know how long of a walk it was, but I bet some crazy thoughts were running through her head, like, "Did I REALLY see an angel of God? Did he REALLY just talk to me? Am I REALLY going to have a baby?" Verse 45 says that Mary DID INDEED believe that God would do exactly as He said He would!

Mary did need direction and she went to Elizabeth's house. What a miracle that Elizabeth already knew! Mary believed without any proof. God gives us His directions from the Bible. The Bible is God's very words.

End in prayer by asking God to always direct your lives for His good purpose.

EVENING

Set JD out with a plate and a tablespoon of salt or sugar (this will represent the grains of sand). Overflow the tablespoon and let salt or sugar spill onto the plate.



MORNING

Ask the children what they think the salt or sugar might represent. What does it remind you of? Give them clues if they aren't sure. You can say, "We walk in it" or "We find seashells in it".

Read **Luke 1:47-48** in your Bible.

Mary is rejoicing in the Lord! Her spirit and her soul are rejoicing in God! What a beautiful moment! And in that moment, she is in awe that God would notice or be mindful of her.

Scripture tells us God notices each and every one of us, and He is not just mindful, but has many thoughts about each person. In **Psalm 139:17-18**, God's thoughts for us are "more than the grains of sand." In **Matthew 10:30** God says, "even the hairs on your head are numbered!" Try to count the number of hairs on each other's heads or try to count the grains of sand in a tablespoon! WOW! God loves us so much! Each and every person has worth and value because of that love!

Look up **1 John 4:19** in your Bible.

Pray together and have each person say, "God loves me, and I am important!"

EVENING

Set JD up with a picture of your family. Have markers or crayons set out with a piece of paper where JD has drawn a copy of your family picture.



MORNING

JD loves family! Today we're going to read about one of Jesus' family members.

Open your Bible to **Luke 1:57** and read the birth of John the Baptist!

Please read **1:76-80**: Zechariah's prophecy, "And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. You will tell His people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

John grew up and became strong in spirit. He lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry.

John the Baptist lived his life as a sacrifice to Jesus. Do you know anyone who would sacrifice their lives for you? Today would be a great day to bake cookies and give them to your local police or fire station with a note of thanks as your Act of Service. Pray and ask God to protect all of the brave people like police, fire and military!

EVENING

Set up JD with a bunch of glow sticks.



MORNING

Tell everyone that JD was thinking about what it means to be baptized. He knows getting baptized is so important to God, that even Jesus got baptized, and He is God! God is so excited whenever someone gets baptized that JD wanted to have a glow party.

Discuss with your children how important John the Baptist was to Jesus' ministry. John was to prepare the way for Jesus.

Look up **1 John 1:9**. Explain that repenting (truly being sorry) for your sins prepares us for Jesus! God wants to forgive us for our sins and He is always waiting for us to come to Him because He loves us. John the Baptist baptized people. When someone is baptized they are standing up for God and showing everyone that they want to love and serve God all of their lives. When you are baptized, you are imitating the death and resurrection that Jesus Christ Himself experienced. You are baptized with water on the outside for everyone to see. At the same time God is changing you on the inside where no one can see. Please make it clear that getting baptized does not get you into heaven but it is important that we get baptized because it pleases God. End in prayer asking God to help us to obey Him.



EVENING

Place JD next to an iPad or any kind of recording device.

MORNING

Today read **Luke 2:1-5** in your Bible.

Mary was GREAT with child meaning she was going to have a baby any moment and traveling would have been very difficult. Sometimes we go through difficult things because God is using us in a mighty way. Mary would have had a tough time traveling to Bethlehem, but she was right where God wanted her to be!

Talk about a difficult time that you went through and how you can look back and see how God used you. Go for a walk together as a family and try to imagine what your lives would be like if the only transportation you had was to walk. Would that be difficult? How would your lives be changed?

Have the kids record a Merry Christmas message and send it to a friend that might need a little cheering up.

End by praying for that person that their message would be just what they needed.

EVENING

Write 'I ♥ Jesus!' with toothpaste in your child's bathroom sink. Set up JD holding the tube of toothpaste.



Thursday, December 15th

MORNING

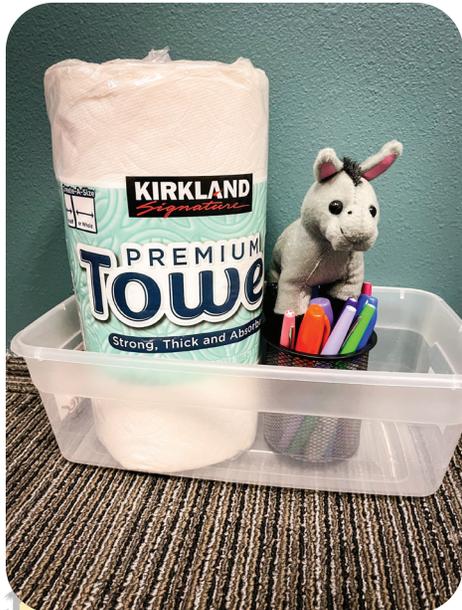
Tell the kids that JD has a very difficult time waiting for Christmas! He is so excited about Jesus' birth!

Read **Luke 2:6-7** in your Bible.

Talk about things that are hard to wait for such as Christmas, birthdays, vacations, family visiting, or the birth of a baby.

Read **Luke 2:6** again. Imagine all of God's Holy Kingdom, ALL of His angels. They had waited thousands of years for this very moment!!! It is always a joyous occasion when a baby is born. Family and friends pack the hospital waiting room waiting expectantly! The time had come when the Son of God was to be born and ALL of heaven was bursting with joy and excitement!

End in prayer thanking God for each person in your family.



EVENING

Set out paper towels, a small clear plastic container, scissors, and permanent black marker and washable markers. Set up JD with a sign that says, "Want to see a rainbow?"

Friday, December 16th

MORNING

When the kids are up in the morning or home from school, have them draw a rainbow on a paper towel in washable markers (leave space between each color). They can add clouds at the end of each rainbow. They can write God's Promise or something simple in permanent marker. Once they are done they can place the paper towel gently in the water and watch the rainbow grow.

EVENING

Place JD in your nativity right next to or looking right at the baby Jesus.



Saturday, December 17th

MORNING

Tell the kids that JD loves Jesus! He wants everyone to know that babies are so frail, so tiny, and always need to be taken care of!

Now read **Luke 2:7** in your Bible. God could have had Jesus come down at any age. Why a defenseless baby? Jesus totally depended upon His mommy and daddy for everything. When Jesus was a baby, a lot of babies died because there weren't any hospitals. And to make matters worse, King Herod wanted to kill Jesus! Jesus came down to earth as a teeny tiny baby to be just like us in every way. He was even placed in a manger.

End in prayer thanking Jesus for going through everything that we go through, just to show us how much He loves us.

EVENING

Set up JD with hot chocolate and mini marshmallows.



Sunday, December 18th

MORNING

Tell the children that tonight you are going to have that treat and sit outside for a little while.

Read **Luke 2:8** in your Bible.

The shepherds were the very first people God chose to tell about Jesus! Go outside with the children and their hot chocolate. Go look at the stars. Tell the children that these are the same stars that were there when God told the shepherds about Jesus. Isn't God so amazing and made those shepherds feel so special for being the first ones to know. God is all about making everyone feel special. He wants us all to know that we are valuable because we are His! We belong to HIM!

EVENING

Place JD by a cross. It can be any size or type. If you don't happen to have one, you can make one. A piece of jewelry can also be used.



MORNING

When the kids wake up, tell them that JD has SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS!

Read Luke 2:9-10 in your Bible. Try to imagine and describe what that moment looked like. We know it scared the shepherds super badly, but the angel immediately made them feel safe. Read verse 10 again. The angel brought, hot off the press, a tweet gone viral NEWS! And not just any NEWS but from the Almighty, Magnificent, Holy God of the Universe who reached down from heaven to touch the hearts of ALL people with His amazing grace NEWS!!!

Take some time to talk about the unearned grace that God has offered us. Grace is a gift from God given through Jesus Christ! God's grace is free, but we do have to receive it! God loves each and every one of us and He wants everyone to accept His Son as their Lord and Savior. Close in prayer. If someone hasn't accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior in your family, ask them if they want to now.

Here's how you lead:

1. Everyone, myself included, has sinned. Sin is when we do something that makes God sad. (forgetting God, disobeying Him, being selfish, hurting others). God's Word says: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." **Romans 3:23**
2. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus died on the cross so all the wrong things we have done can be forgiven. God's Word says: "Christ died for our sins." **1 Corinthians 15:3**
3. If you admit that you've done wrong things, and if you believe that Jesus died for you and was raised from the dead in three days, God will forgive all your sin. God's Word says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins." **1 John 1:9** "Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." **Acts 10:43**

4. It's that easy! God wants you to be in His family. God's Word says: "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." **John 1:12** "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" **1 John 3:1**
5. God gives us eternal life! God's Word says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16**. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and because of Him we will spend all eternity in heaven!

It's as easy as the **ABC's!**

A for **Admit** that you have sinned,

B for **Believe** God's promise, and

C for **Confess** that you accept the gift of salvation!

EVENING

Put JD somewhere in the clouds. Use cotton balls or white material to make it look like he is in the clouds.



MORNING

When the kids find JD, read the verse and tell the kids JD wants to celebrate with the angels!

Read **Luke 2:13-14** in your Bible.

What an INCREDIBLE sight, a great company of heavenly hosts! Your Bible may say multitude. Just know that it is a whole lot!!! This was a HUGE celebration!!! Verse 14 was the first Christmas carol! End singing Christmas carols as a family!

EVENING

Get some yarn and create a yarn trail through your house that your kids have to follow. When they get to the end of the trail, they will find JD!



MORNING

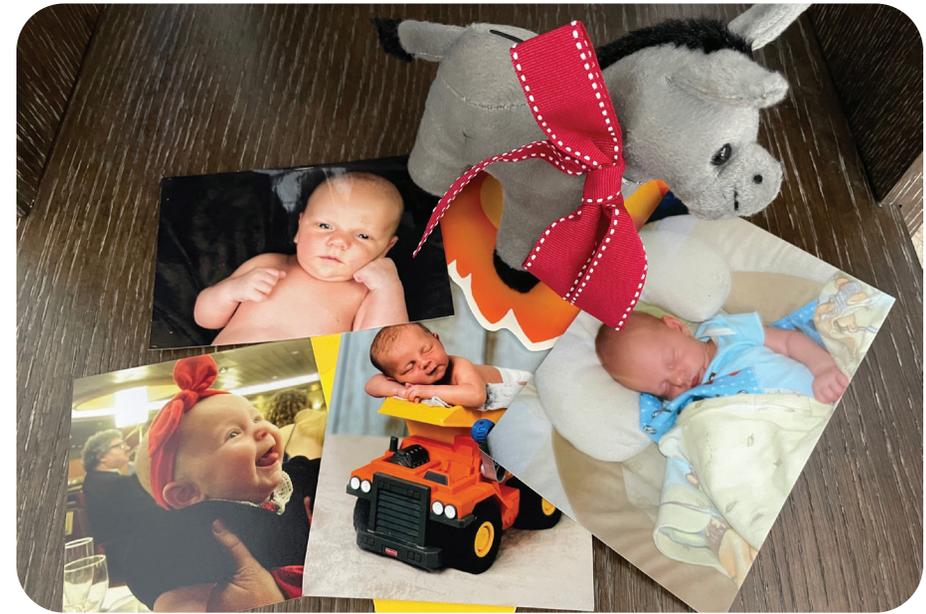
When the kids find JD, tell them that JD is ready to go, "Let's GO to Bethlehem!"

Read **Luke 2:15-16** together in your Bible. Re-read the last part where it says, "which the Lord has told us about."

Turn on the Christmas tree lights and lay there under the Christmas tree together and talk about the fact that we can trust EVERYTHING that the Lord says! His Bible is Truth and everything He says is Truth! Pray together.

EVENING

Place JD with a baby photo of each of your children.



MORNING

Tell your kids that JD was so excited about the birth of Jesus and he wants to hear how excited your parents were when they had you. Parents tell your kids about your joy in telling the family that you were getting ready to have a child.

Read **Luke 2:16-18**. As soon as they saw Jesus, the shepherds spread the word to everyone and ALL who heard it were amazed!

John 12:45-46 says, "For when you see me (Jesus), you are seeing the one who sent me (God). I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark." (ESV)

No one can remain the same after seeing the Light of the World, Jesus Christ!!! Make a plan as a family to tell everyone about Jesus Christ and how much God LOVES them!!!

EVENING

Set JD up by the TV with a few favorite Christmas movies. The Star is JD's favorite movie.



MORNING

Tell the children that tonight you will all get snuggled up in your Christmas jammies and Christmas socks and enjoy spending some time together relaxing after we read about Mary.

Read **Luke 2:19** in your Bible.

Tell your children that every child is a gift from God. Take some time to talk about how you think Mary felt. She treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

To ponder means to 'think about' and Mary had a lot to ponder!

- She was told by an angel that she was going to have a baby and not just any baby but the Son of God!
- Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, knew Mary's baby was the Savior, Jesus, but Mary didn't even tell her!
- She was about to have a baby and had to travel a long distance!
- Then, when Joseph and Mary arrive very far away from home, there was nowhere for them to stay, AND THEIR BABY WAS ABOUT TO BE BORN!
- Oh, and don't even get started on the PLACE she had her baby. The baby Jesus was born in a manger, with all of the farm animals!
- When she looked at baby Jesus' face, did she expect him to glow?
- How do you raise the Son of God?

Maybe share some stories of how you felt as young parents or some funny things that your kids did when they were little.

EVENING

Set JD with a small present for each child away from any other presents. Make sure it's one you are ok with them opening the next day.



Saturday, December 24th

MORNING

Tell your kids that JD was mischievous last night and so excited for Christmas!

Have the kid(s) open their Christmas Eve present. Then look up **2 Corinthians 9:15** and read "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

Before you open your presents on Christmas Day with your family, be sure to put Christ first by reading **Luke 2:1-20**.

