

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
**Advent and
Christmas**

from Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12; and
Luke 1:26-58; 2:1-20.

Through the birth of Jesus, God came among us.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Righteous
- Expose
- Disgrace
- Resolve
- Angel
- Fulfill

Emmanuel means "God is with us."

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 196-201, 202-207,
212-217, 218-223

Spark Bible pages 1058-1059, 1127-1130

Family Prayer

Dear God, you continually show us that your
ideas of power are not ours. We fail time and
again to understand, and yet you do not give
up. We praise your holy name. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Who are Mary and Joseph?
- 2 What do you understand about fully human/
fully God?
- 3 What do we receive from babies?
- 4 Use a nativity scene—or toys representing
the characters—and play through the story.



Eye Spark

This week as you see the stars, morning or
night, remember the birth of Jesus.



Ear Spark

Listen for songs praising the coming of God
as a baby. Sing "Away in a Manger."

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Sing several favorite hymns and/or carols as
a family.

For younger kids

Imagine a favorite toy is the baby Jesus and
sing him to sleep.

For older kids

Research the origin of your favorite
Christmas carol.

Art

Folk art is a type of art that is made by people who aren't professional artists. Folk art uses available materials. Folk art nativity scenes are a tradition among Christians around the world. Search online for nativity sets from around the globe. What differences do you see between the different scenes? What parts are always the same? If you have some art materials around the home, work together as a family to create your own folk art nativity scene.

Computer Lab

On the Internet, look up ways to make your very own family Advent wreath. Light the wreath at dinner each night as you wait for Christmas.

Creative Drama

Examine your family's manger scene or find a picture of a nativity scene. Talk about each character. Allow each character to tell the Christmas story from their perspective. Don't forget to include the animals.

Video

Watch a Christmas-themed movie for your next family movie night. Suggestions: *Veggie Tales: The Star of Christmas*; *Veggie Tales: The Toy That Saved Christmas*; *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; *The Muppet Christmas Carol*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*; *The Little Drummer Boy*; *The Santa Clause*; *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; *Eloise at Christmastime*; *The Nativity Story*.

Bible Skills and Games

Have someone read the Bible story from the Spark Story Bible or the Spark Bible. Make up quiz show clues based on the story and then see what family members know about this story. The game show host can make a trumpet sound when someone gives a correct answer.

Cooking

Make a whole nativity scene with sugar cookies. Cut each figure out with a table knife and carefully transfer it to a baking sheet. Frost and decorate the cookies after they are baked. Put all the nativity figures together and tell the Christmas story to one another. Check your Spark Bible or Spark Story Bible to make sure of the details. Then enjoy eating your creation and sharing some with friends.

Music

During Advent, sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" before dinner. During the Christmas season, sing a verse of "Joy to the World" before dinner.

Science

What smells are part of your home during Advent and Christmas? Go on a scent search to look for spices, greenery, and other holiday scents at home. Who can find the most smells? The strongest smell? The gentlest smell?