



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

December 17, 2017

What We're Learning This Week

"JESUS WAS BORN"

LUKE 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.

Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding last week's lesson about the Holy Spirit in Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31. Last week's guide can be found [here](#)
- Read through Luke 2:1-20; pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. Jesus is the Savior Israel (and the world) was waiting for
 - Talk as a family about the miracle of God sending his son to earth to be born and to live as a man. How was this even possible? Why did Jesus have to be born and to live as a man? What does this tell us about God's character, especially his humility and the lengths he is willing to go for his people?

- Jesus was the fulfillment of Scripture's prophecy of the Messiah; He was the anticipated King of Israel! Talk as a family about the importance of this. Who was the Messiah Jewish people waiting for, and how was Jesus the fulfillment of that prophecy? What is Jesus' family history/lineage, and why was it important that he was a descendent of King David? Why did/do some people not believe Jesus was the Messiah that they were waiting for?
- God is with us, what a miracle! Talk as a family about the goodness of this truth. Talk about the purpose of Jesus' birth: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus' death resurrection.

2. Jesus entered into brokenness

- Jesus' birth is often detailed in soft, light descriptions, but in reality the story of his birth was incredibly difficult. His family was made to travel to Bethlehem while Mary was pregnant, they had nowhere to stay so Jesus was born in a sloppy barn stable, and his family was forced to flee the country due to oppressive rule.
- Talk as a family about this. Why are these details important? How has Jesus entered into the brokenness of the world in other ways? How does Jesus' birth and life as a man bring us peace in the midst of a sin-filled world?

3. Reactions to Jesus birth

- The shepherds were surprised when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to them to proclaim the birth of the Savior and the Messiah. Talk together as a family...how do we relate to the shepherds in their surprise and fear? Why were the shepherds then peaceful and comforted after the angel spoke?
- The shepherds then responded when they heard this good news. Talk together as a family about or reactions to the good news of the Gospel. How has the Gospel changed everything in the world? How has it changed our lives as a family and as individuals? How can we grow in knowing and bringing glory to God?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Praise God for the birth of Jesus! Rejoice together as a family. Celebrate the good news of the Gospel of Christ. Pray for his name to be renowned in your family, in our city, and in the world. Pray for a deeper understanding of the beauty of the Gospel.
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.

- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
 - How can we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus after Christmas? How can we share this good news of Jesus' birth with others? And how can we continue to keep the Gospel at the center of the Christmas holiday?
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED "JESUS THE RISEN KING") IS ACTS 1:8

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"
- *For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - "You will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth"

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What's Coming Up?

- Kids Christmas Choir! We will be singing at the December 24 gathering. All the details can be found [here](#)
- Help us get to know you more and to know how we can love and serve you in greater ways by taking our short [RLA Kids Family Survey](#). If that link doesn't work you can access the survey at <https://realityla.wufoo.com/forms/rla-kids-family-survey-fall-2017/>
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well!