



FAMILY
LifeGroup



CHALLENGE

Last session we asked you to try and remember a Bible verse. See who can remember it.

Mighty One has done great things for me, holy is his name.
Luke 1:49



EXPLORATION

This week we continue our series, Christmas is more than a..... This week is titled, Christmas is more than a Feeling.

Click [here](#) to find out what it is all about!



VERSE

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[e] 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,^[f] 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 conceive and 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 as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



MAIN THOUGHT

As soon as December rolls around we start to say, "Oh, it's beginning to feel like Christmas". But, Christmas is more than a feeling! There were many feelings in the story of Christmas, and we all have many feelings throughout out life. We can be assured that God understands how we feel, because he felt it all too, in the life of Jesus. God understands us, and no matter how we feel He is always God!



DISCUSSION

These are to guide the general conversation.

1. What is your favourite part of Christmas?
2. What is your happiest memory?
3. What feelings can you think of from the Christmas story?



ACTIVITIES

CRAFT ACTIVITY

BAKING AND SHARING

There were lots of different feelings from all the characters in the Christmas story. Sometimes they were frightened, sometimes they were happy and excited and sometimes they were confused. But, no matter what, they had an encounter with God and their lives were changed forever!



You Will Need:

- Recipe for cookies and icing <https://sugarpunrun.com/easy-sugar-cookie-recipe/>
- Ingredients (see recipe)
- Cookie shapes (see the end of the guide)

As a family, make cookies, in the shape of characters from the Christmas story; manger, crown for the wise men, shepherd's crook and star. Don't forget to decorate your cookies with yummy icing!!

ACTIVE ACTIVITY

SHARE THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

God loves you so much, and He wants others to know that love too. This Christmas you and your family can help share the true feeling of Christmas!

You Will Need:

- The cookies you made as a family.

Package up some cookies and give them away to your neighbours, family and friends. You might even like to include a note to explain the shapes you have made.



PRAYER

Jesus, thank you that you came to earth and lived the life of a person. We pray over the cookies we have made and ask that you would allow them to share the love and truth of Christmas. Amen.



BLESSING

Name, may the love of Christ fill your Christmas with so much more. Amen.



CHALLENGE

Try and remember this verse this week. Perhaps you and your family might like to make up some actions to help, or even a song? It's a big one this week!!

**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.
*Matthew 1:24***

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

We would love to see how you and your family are growing faith in your home.

Why not set up a mini 'Table' for the kids like we have been using at LifeWay? It can be as simple as paper and pencils, scissors and glue and Lego or Play dough. They can then make something while you watch the Live Stream as a family.

If you are happy to share photos or videos of what you have been doing please send them to Elise von Stanke elise.vonstanke@lifeway.net.au and we will share these with our community through Facebook and Instagram @lifewaylutheranchurch.

We would also love you to join us for KidsWay Live, our Zoom Life Group for our Primary School aged children. Email Elise for more information.



