



LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
Christmas!

FAMILY Christmas GUIDE
2024



2024 FAMILY *Christmas* GUIDE

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Family Christmas Guide is back! Each year, we aim to celebrate the season with you and your family while reminding you of why we get to celebrate. Honoring Jesus' birth with decorations, gifts, trees, cookies, and parties is so fun! We hope that we have helped you create another family Christmas tradition using the Family Christmas Guides.

Growing up, one of my favorite family Christmas traditions was watching the "25 Days of Christmas" on TV. After dinner each night, my parents and I would snuggle up on the couch and watch whatever Christmas show was playing that night. Sometimes, my mom would make hot chocolate or pop popcorn. Sometimes, my dad would bring home sweet treats. No matter what the extras were, the time that we spent together watching those Christmas films made a lasting impact. This year, we want to help your family create those memories by watching episodes of *The Chosen* that remind us of the very first Christmas and everything we have to celebrate.

Each episode is accompanied by a page in this booklet filled with a brief devotion, discussion questions, and a family activity. These episodes can be found on YouTube, Amazon Prime, or the Chosen app. Each page will contain specific QR codes to take you directly to the episode.

So sit back, relax, and hold the popcorn until the very end. When we watch the last episode, *Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night*, we will all open our popcorn buckets and make hot chocolate. We hope this guide helps you create another Christmas tradition.

Merry Christmas from Mrs. Ashley and the NMC Kids Team

THE Messengers

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EPISODE

This week, sit down with your family, grab a snack, and watch *The Messengers: Special Christmas Episode*. This episode focuses on Mary and Joseph and the two angels that visited them. Before pressing play, though, let's read! Turn in your Bibles to Luke 1: 26-38. Read it out loud as a family! Next, turn to Matthew 1:18-25. Read it out loud also!

BEGINNING DISCUSSION

1. How many different versions of the Christmas story do you know? (ex: from the movie, "The Star," from Luke, Matthew, and even pieces of John introduce Jesus.)
2. What did the angels reveal to Mary and Joseph? (Luke 1:28-33 and Matthew 1:20-23)
3. Why do you think the angels shared similar messages that weren't exactly the same?



Now, it's time to press play and enjoy the show!

DISCUSSION

1. In the episode, they began with 48 AD, then jumped to 4 BC. Why do you think they did that? (Younger kids may need help understanding that the sick woman in the bed was Jesus' mother. She remembered and told the story to a friend of Jesus, Mary Magdalene. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the primary narrative voice throughout the episode.)
2. What was the first thing both messengers said to Mary and Joseph? (Do not be afraid.)
3. How did this episode change your view of the Christmas story? (Answers will vary)
4. Mary felt that people needed to know about the events of Jesus' birth and the song she was inspired to sing. Is there anything about the gospel message that you want to share with others?

ACTIVITY: HIDE AND SEEK!

Assign two people to be the messengers and two people to be Mary and Joseph. The messengers will close their eyes and count to ten while Mary and Joseph hide. The messengers will search for Mary and Joseph. When a messenger finds Mary or Joseph, they shout, "Do not be afraid! With God, all things are possible!"

Say: Mary and Joseph weren't hiding from God, but do you think seeing an angel or a vision of the Lord would have been scary? Maybe! God had a plan to use Mary and Joseph to raise Jesus to be the Savior of the world! That was a lot of responsibility. But Mary and Joseph loved the Lord and trusted Him with their lives and daily walks. What a beautiful gift it is to trust in Jesus.

THE *Shepherds*

A STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

This week, sit down with your family, grab a snack, and watch *The Shepherd: A Story of the First Christmas*. This episode is a take on the birth of Jesus Christ through the eyes of some local shepherds who are simple working men. These simple men, particularly a young disabled shepherd named Simon, have a world-shaking visit that begins to change this world forever. Before pressing play, though, let's read! Turn in your Bibles to Luke 2:1-18. Read it out loud as a family! Next, turn to Isaiah 9:2-7. Read it out loud also!

BEGINNING DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever heard of a shepherd? What is the job of a shepherd?
2. Once the shepherds saw Jesus, what did they do next? (Luke 2: 17-18)
3. What are the four names given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6? (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)
4. Is Jesus God or human? (Jesus is both fully God and fully human.)

Now, it's time to press play and enjoy the show!

DISCUSSION

1. In the episode, what captured your imagination the most? What would you ask God about the events that took place?
2. What was the attitude of the people toward the shepherds?
3. Did it help to hear the prophecies being read in the synagogue about the Messiah before Jesus came? Why?
4. Did you notice that there was a theme throughout the episode? Someone had to provide a spotless lamb as the sacrifice for the sins of the people. The shepherd struggled to bring a lamb of acceptance for sacrifice, but at the end of the episode, we see the shepherd smile when asked, "Have you found a spotless lamb for sacrifice?" Why did he smile? Did he find the spotless lamb?

ACTIVITY: THE SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS GAME

Use painter's tape to make a box on the floor (the sheep corral). Place white cotton ball "sheep" all over the room. Have the children, the shepherds, use candy canes to move the cotton balls into the square. When a cotton ball enters the corral, the shepherds shout, "Glory to God in the Highest!" Time the group to see how long it takes them to corral all of the sheep. Repeat as many times as you would like to see if the kids can beat their previous time(s).



Christmas with the Chosen

HOLY NIGHT

Okay, everyone, it's our last movie night together. It's time to enjoy the hot chocolate, popcorn, and sweets provided. *Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night* reminds us of the joy, celebration, and reason for it all. This episode is unique: there are musical appearances and a story woven together to reveal the beauty and necessity of Jesus Christ's birth. Some of the episode will look familiar because they have taken pieces of *The Shepherds* and *The Messengers* to create this Christmas special. Before pressing play on our final Christmas episode, discuss the following questions:

BEGINNING DISCUSSION

1. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
2. Why do you think we sing certain songs around Christmastime?
3. What is a Christmas tradition you enjoy as a family?

Have you popped your popcorn? Have you made your hot chocolate? Are you snuggled up and ready? Great!

Press play and watch *Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night*.

DISCUSSION

1. Who did the Israelites think that Jesus would be? (Take a minute to look at some of the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus. Genesis 49:10, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 11:10, Zechariah 9:9)
2. How do you celebrate Jesus' birth? What does it mean to keep Him as the focus of this season?
3. What is one thing you learned from the Family Christmas Guide 2024 that you want to remember each Christmas?

ACTIVITY: SPREAD THE LOVE OF JESUS

Spread Jesus' love and celebrate His gift to us by helping and serving others who might not see a reason to celebrate. As a family, visit a nursing home, serve meals to those in need, or make and deliver Christmas cookies to your neighbors. Remind your kids that we do this not to earn God's favor but to love Him by loving others. Now that you know about Jesus, like the shepherd, you **MUST GO** and tell others about Him!



SCRIPTURAL *References*

THE MESSENGERS

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:18-25

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:1-18

Micah 5:2-3

Ezekiel 34:23-24

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 35:3-6

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN

Genesis 49:10

Micah 5:2

Isaiah 11:10

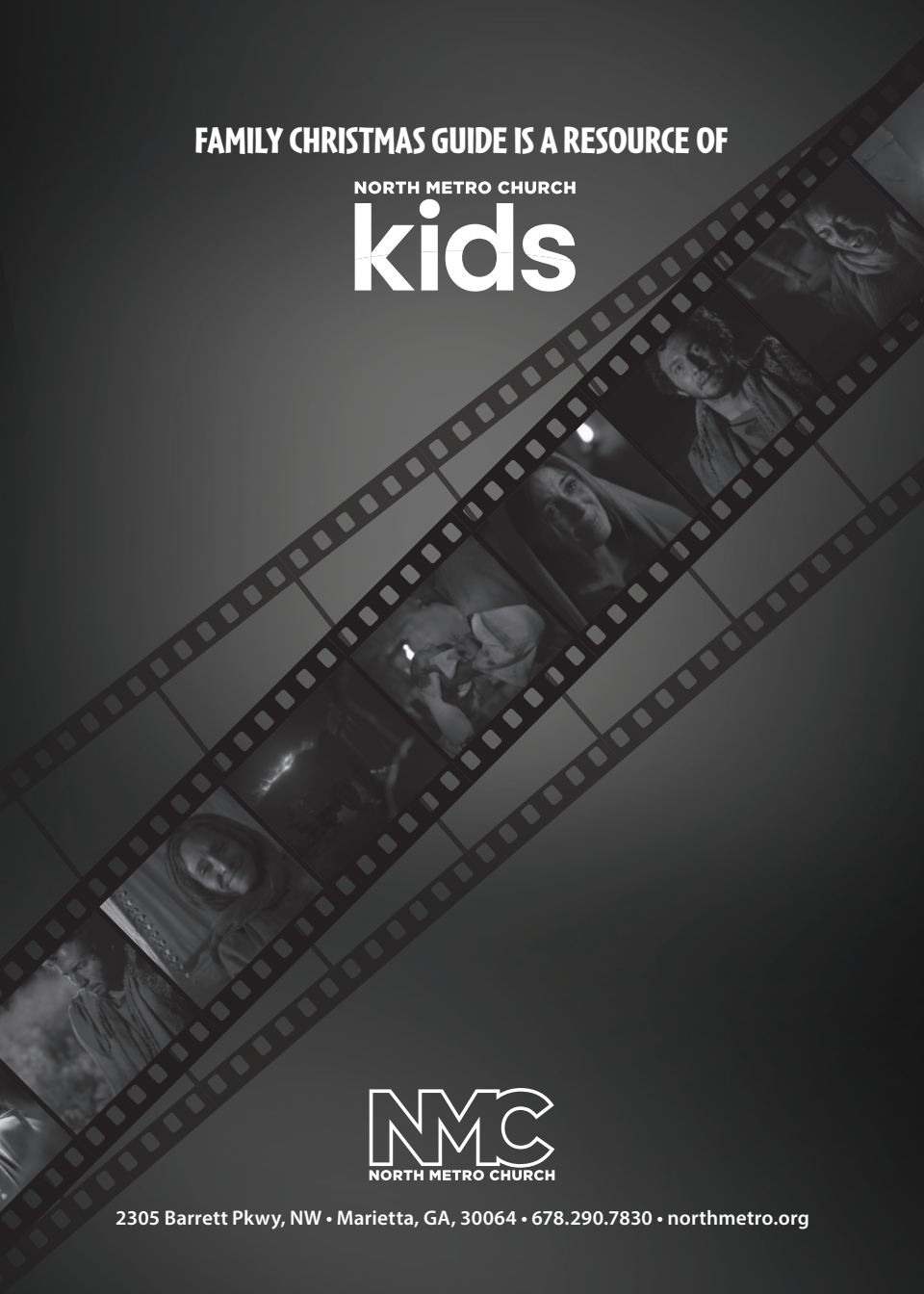
Zechariah 9:9



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