

NOVEMBER 15-21

FOR PARENTS

This week, we speed through the birth of Jesus and his early years of growing up, right up to the time he began his ministry by calling twelve people to follow him.

By sending Jesus, God opened up the covenant with Abraham to the whole world.

God welcomed all who have faith in Jesus into the blessings of the covenant.

While Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, we know Jesus was not just another human being.

Although Jesus was truly human, he was also God with us. As someone who was truly human, he could share all our sorrows. Yet because he was truly God, he could save us from all our sins.

KID CONNECTION

Invite your children to listen to these familiar stories with new ears. Take time to recall the stories in our previous weeks' reading, which have led to the story of Jesus' birth. Talk about how what you have read before is one big story culminating in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Look for ways the covenant between God and Abraham and the covenant between God and the Hebrew people are lived out in the life and teachings of Jesus.

REMEMBER 1 THING

**Jesus called twelve people to follow him.
Jesus is calling you! Listen!**

READING PLAN

Day	Chapter Titles From <i>Read and Learn Bible</i> <i>* find this story on Website</i>	Scripture
11/15	Good News from Angel Gabriel; Message for Mary; Son for Elizabeth	Luke 1:5-80
11/16	Jesus Is Born; The Shepherds; Jesus Is Blessed	Luke 2:1-38
11/17	Wisemen from the East; The Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2:1-23
11/18	Young Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
11/19	Jesus and John the Baptist; A Wild Test*	Luke 3:1-22; 4:1-12
11/20	Twelve Men	Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-4
Sunday	Follow Me!	Matthew 4

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Instructions and discussion tips are available on the church website.

Choose one or more activities that will interest your family as you make this week's stories your own.

Follow Me

Play a game of Follow Me, reminding family members of the words Jesus said to call his disciples.

Balloon Attraction: Science Experiment

Supplies needed: balloon(s)

Explore static electricity and wonder together about what it was about Jesus that caused men and women to leave their families and follow this teacher from Nazareth.

Block Game

Supplies needed: two sets of 10-15 assorted blocks or Legos.

One team builds a tower while the other team does not watch. Then the team that built the tower describes to the second team how to build their tower identical to the first teams and what it looks like. Debriefing the activity is very important and helps connect this fun exercise with our Bible story.

November 15-21

Follow the leader:

Pick one family member as the first leader. The leader does a series of different actions, without speaking, and the rest of the family has to follow the leader. You can play this game while sitting down or while walking through your home or a local park.

Balloon Attraction:

Supplies needed: balloon for each child.

Blow up a balloon for each child. Using the scientific methods of hypothesis and observation we will explore what things are attracted to each other.

Reminder: a hypothesis is a guess about what will happen next.

Observation is when we try something out to see what will happen. By trying things out, we can see if our guesses are right!

Begin by asking your child, "Do you think your balloon will stick to the wall?" (creating a hypothesis)

Let them try to get the balloon to stick. (observation)

Ask, "Do you know how you can make your balloon stick to the wall?" Accept all hypotheses and try a few of their ideas. Then invite your child to rub the balloon up and down on their shirt or pants and then try sticking it to the wall.

Ask, "Do you know why your balloon stuck to the wall this time?" The answer is static electricity. When you rub your balloon on fabric, the balloon picks up static electricity. When the balloon picks up static electricity, we say that the balloon is charged. Objects charged with static electricity cause other objects to stick to them.

Talk about how Jesus attracted people to him...he wasn't charge with static electricity but there was something about him that made people want to be near him. Ask, "I wonder what caused people to follow Jesus, even leaving their homes and families?" There are many ways people are attracted to one another. When you choose a friend, that is a kind of attraction. The way we are attracted to Jesus is a very special kind of attraction because it gives us a relationship with God.

Block game

Divide your family into two teams. Each team needs an identical set of 10-15 assorted blocks or Legos.

Both teams turn their backs to each other. One team builds a tower without letting the other team see it. Set a time limit so no one has too much time. The first team then describes their tower, (again with a time limit) and the second team has to try to build an identical tower by listening to the first team's description- no peeking

Switch roles and do it again.

Variation: Use more blocks or put a one minute time limit on the building.

Debrief the activity:

- I wonder what it was like trying to design something that you couldn't see?
- I wonder what made it (whatever answer you are given)?
- I wonder if you think it was easy for Peter, Andrew, James and John and the other disciples to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- I wonder if it is easy for you to follow Jesus?