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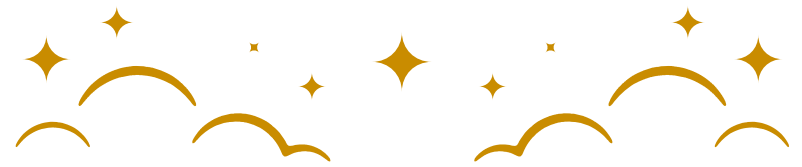
ADVENT

ACTIVITY BOOK



WEEK 1

It's been an interesting first week, hasn't it? We met a priest who couldn't talk for nine months, his barren wife who miraculously had a baby, and their son, John the Baptist – who ate bugs and prepared the way for Jesus. Talk about a story with a lot of twists and turns! Which part did you find most surprising?



Some of these were easy to guess and some were really hard! Sometimes it's easy to see what God is doing in our lives...and sometimes it doesn't make any sense at all.

Just like a game of charades, when we go through tough times, we may not understand what's happening. We may even wonder if God is still good. But later, when the hard season has passed, we see His faithfulness.

Activity of the Week

In honor of Zechariah, let's play charades – no talking allowed! Choose someone to go first, and whisper the following scenario in their ear. Have them act it out while everyone else tries to guess what they're doing:

- ◆ GOING FISHING
- ◆ GETTING MARRIED
- ◆ BUILDING A ROCKET SHIP
- ◆ RUNNING INTO A SWARM OF BEES
- ◆ EATING SOMETHING SPICY
- ◆ PREACHING A SERMON LIKE PASTOR MIKE
- ◆ BEING JOHN THE BAPTIST
- ◆ OPENING PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

QUICK TIP

feel free to add your own ideas to this list!



Pray and Ask

Zechariah didn't understand God's plan at first, either. He felt a lot of doubt. But in the end, Zechariah rejoiced because He saw that God's plan was perfect! It prepared the way for Jesus – for joy, hope, and salvation. Let's close in prayer, asking God to give us faith to trust His plan, even when we don't understand it.

WEEK 2

This week we talked about the greatest love story of all time. It began with a loving God who created the world to fill it with His glory. But there was a problem – Adam and Eve welcomed sin and sadness into the world. God had a choice: He could give up on His creation, or He could save the day! God Himself came to earth, in the form of a baby named Jesus, to rescue us from sin and death. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We celebrate His unbreakable love, which has the power to change lives!

Did you know that YOU can be an agent of God's love? Just like a secret agent on a special mission, Christians are on a mission to spread the love of God to the whole world. This week, we'll be making Christmas cards to share God's love with others.



Activity of the Week

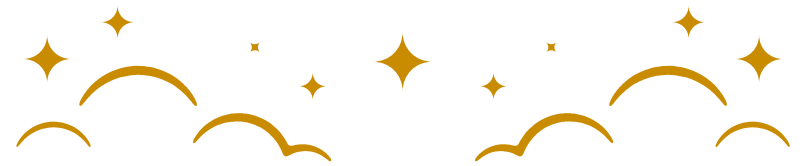
Get out the card stock and paint chips in your Advent box. You'll need some glue and scissors, too. Cut triangles in the paint strips to make simple Christmas trees. Make them different heights and glue them onto your paper. Decorate your paper creatively – you can draw rolling hills under the trees, color stars in the sky, or even add some glitter!



Pray and Ask

Now, for the most important part. Pray and ask God to help you think of someone who needs a little extra love. You can pick a teacher, classmate, family member, neighbor, mailman, grocery store clerk...the sky's the limit! Write a note on the card, wishing them a Merry Christmas, and telling them how much God loves them. Deliver your card sometime this week.

WEEK 3



Close out this activity with a song. As you continue to stargaze, sing *Angels We Have Heard On High*. Pretend you are a shepherd, 2000 years ago, watching in wonder as the sky sparkles with angels.

Activity of the Week

For this activity, you'll need to wait until the stars are out. Make the hot chocolate in your Advent box. Give everyone a mug (or thermos) of hot chocolate, grab some picnic blankets, and head outside. You may want to bring a flashlight so you can see this activity book, too! Spread out the blankets, lie on your backs, and get all your giggles and wiggles out. Okay, now quiet down. Shhh...quieter...quieter...quieter.

Look up at the stars and imagine you're a shepherd. It's been a long day. In the distance the sheep are bleating. Bah! Bah! Suddenly, light explodes across the sky. Angels! Everywhere! Their singing thunders through creation: "Glory to God in the highest!"

How would you feel if the sky lit up with angels right now? How do you think the shepherds felt? As we imagine that night, what are some words you would use to describe God?



Angels We Have Heard On High

*Angels We Have Heard On High
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo*



