**Announcements for Winter 2024–25**

These faith-building ideas for families are ready to be shared via email, on a social media platform like Facebook, or in a weekly bulletin or newsletter. Each week’s suggestions coordinate with the Shine curriculum that children and junior youth use during Christian education time. Announcements for this quarter run from Sunday, December 1, through February 23. Modify the dates as needed to match your church’s schedule.

**Add this explanation the first week you send out or post the announcements:**

Today we are beginning a weekly announcement for families of children and junior youth. Each Sunday you will find faith nurture ideas that coordinate with the weekly session plans from the Shine curriculum used by our church. The Bible story can be read from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*,which is available for purchase from www.ShineCurriculum.com/shop. Or simply read it from a translation of your choice. Each week includes the prayer practice that was introduced during Sunday school. Continue that practice each day or use the suggested prayer practice in *The Peace Table*.

*****Session 1*

**December 1, 2024**

**Prepare the Way**

**Read** page 108 in *The Peace Table* or Isaiah 2:1–5. Imagine everyone putting down their weapons and living in peace. Talk about some ways to live at peace with one another.

**Pray** prayers of praise to God for the hope that Jesus brings to the world. While praise can be exuberant or loud, it does not have to be. We can praise God in a variety of ways, including with quiet prayers and soothing music. Praise God in a way that feels most authentic to your family.

**Read** the book *A Child’s Garden: A Story of Hope* by Michael Foreman or watch it read aloud on YouTube. How is this similar to the Bible story?

*****Session 2*

**December 8, 2024**

**Zechariah and Elizabeth**

**Read** pages 162 and 166 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 1:5–25, 57–80. Wonder together about what it would be like to be unable to talk for nine months. Brainstorm ways to communicate without talking.

**Pray** prayers of praise for the peace Jesus brings into the world. Use art supplies to create a peaceful picture as you pray.

**Celebrate** the good things God has done. Take turns sharing good things that happened this week. Celebrate each good event with a clap, whistle, or cheer.

*****Session 3*

**December 15, 2024**

**Mary Shares Her Joy**

**Read** page 164 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 1:26–56. Talk about times when you have experienced joy as a family.

**Pray** a prayer of praise. Have each person share what they would praise God for and create a family song of praise to God.

**Explore** a variety of artwork depicting Elizabeth and Mary’s visit. Images can be found at globalworship.tumblr.com; search for “visitation art.” Provide art supplies so family members can create their own picture depicting this week’s Bible story.

*****Session 4*

**December 22, 2024**

**Jesus Is Born**

**Read** page 170 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 2:1–20. Take turns sharing which part of the story you like best.

**Pray** prayers of praise to God for the gift of Jesus. God showed love by sending Jesus to earth. Talk about ways that you can show love this week.

**Look** at picture books about the birth of Jesus. Notice the variations in the way the story is told and shown. Search online to view “multicultural Christmas nativities” to see how people around the world illustrate the Christmas story.

*****Session 5*

**December 29, 2024**

**Simeon and Anna**

**Read** page 174 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 2:21–40. Talk about times when kind words of blessing have been spoken to you.

**Pray** a prayer of praise to God for wise and caring adults, such as teachers, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

**Read** *Waiting Is Not Easy!* by Mo Willems or listen to a read-aloud online. Just as Simeon and Anna waited to see Jesus and Gerald had to wait for Piggie’s surprise, we must wait sometimes. What are things you can do to make waiting easier?

*****Session 6*

**January 5, 2025**

**Jesus’ Family Visits the Temple**

**Read** page 180 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 2:41–52. Talk about how Jesus listened to and learned from the teachers. Invite conversation about favorite teachers you’ve had.

**Pray** “help me” prayers. Read Psalm 121 as part of your prayer time this week.

**Play** a traveling game. Have a volunteer hide while others close their eyes and chant: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, we’re traveling from Jerusalem. Where is Jesus?” Everyone looks for the person hiding. Clap when you find them!

*****Session 7*

**January 12, 2025**

**Jesus’ Baptism and Temptation**

**Read** pages 182 and 184 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 3:21–22; 4:1–13. When Jesus had a hard choice, he remembered words from the Bible. Talk together about what can help your family make good choices.

**Pray** “help me” prayers. Ask God to help you love yourself, your family, and friends.

**Tell** the story of your baptism if you’ve been baptized. Share where it took place, what it was like, and who was there to share it with you.

*****Session 8*

**January 19, 2025**

**Jesus in His Hometown**

**Read** page 186 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 4:14–30. Talk about times when you’ve felt left out or treated unfairly.

**Pray** “help me” prayers. Stand in the doorway of your house and ask God to help each person as they go to work, school, church, or other places this week.

**Make** “good news” scrolls. Have each person make a paper scroll, writing or drawing a “good news” message (“God loves you,” a heart, or something similar) in the middle. Mix up the scrolls and have each person choose one to keep this week as a reminder of God’s love.

*****Session 9*

**January 26, 2025**

**Miraculous Catch of Fish**

**Read** page 191 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 5:1–11. Talk about what you think it means to “fish for people.”

**Pray** a listening prayer. Help each family member find a quiet place to pray. Draw, write, or move as you pray.

**Make** paper boats as a reminder that Jesus is always calling us to follow him. Search for “How to Make a Paper Boat” by EzOrigami on YouTube.

*****Session 10*

**February 2, 2025**

**Sermon on the Plain**

**Read** page 207 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 6:20–36. Take turns sharing about what makes you feel sad and what makes you laugh.

**Pray** a listening prayer using verses Luke 6:20–21. Slowly read the two verses. Pause to listen for what God might want to say to you through these verses. Then slowly read the verses again imagining being in the crowd listening to Jesus. What would you want to say to Jesus and what might Jesus say back?

**Read** the book *Enemy Pie*by Derek Munson or watch it on YouTube. How did Dad’s enemy pie work? What did the main character learn about his enemy?

*****Session 11*

**February 9, 2025**

**Jesus Heals Two Daughters**

**Read** pages 220 and 223 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 8:40–56. Share about times when you’ve been sick and who helped you.

**Listen** for God as you pray using a Prayer Time Bag. Fill a bag with items, such as play dough, art supplies, coloring pages, and blocks. Gather around a table or room for a set amount of time (10–15 minutes). Have each family member choose items from the Prayer Time Bag. Spend quiet time with God as you work with your chosen materials. When time is up, share about your time with God.

**Assemble** a care package for someone you know who is sick or lonely. Think about helpful items to include and deliver the package together.

*****Session 12*

**February 16, 2025**

**Mary and Martha**

**Read** page 232 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 10:38–42. Imagine Jesus coming to your house for a visit. What would you do to get ready?

**Pray** a listening prayer. Breath in and out slowly five times. Imagine God sitting with you. What is God like? Listen for God’s voice. Breath in and out slowly five more times. Say amen.

**Read***Three Hens and a Peacock* by Lester L. Laminack or find a read aloud online. What did the hens and the peacock learn from switching places? What could Mary and Martha have learned if they switched places?

*****Session 13*

**February 23, 2025**

**Birds and Lilies**

**Read** page 236 in *The Peace Table* or Luke 12:22–34. Tell about a time when God took care of you and your family.

**Pray** a listening prayer. Think about something that worries you. Play a recording of bird sounds on YouTube as you pray. Listen for what God might say to you about your worry.

**Watch** the video “Treasure (Matthew 6:20–21) Hand Motions Video” by Seeds Family Worship (YouTube) and do the motions. (This video is from the book of Matthew, but it is the same message as in Luke.)