

The Christmas Story



1. We're Teaching This

This series will invite your student into conversation about two different Gospel's accounts of Christ's birth story. Specifically, we'll take the time to explore what these God-inspired authors are trying to communicate with the way they tell the story. We'll begin with Matthew, who was primarily writing to a Jewish audience, unpacking how the story of Jesus is really the culmination of the Old Testament story. We'll then turn our attention to Luke, who was writing to a primarily Greek audience, focusing on how Jesus' entry into the world foreshadows the kind of King that he will be.

2. Think About This

It can be pretty easy to miss Christmas with all the stuff there is to do for, well, Christmas. At the Parent Cue blog, Jon Acuff writes this about not missing Christmas:

Christmas is about 7 minutes long when you have kids. One minute it's Thanksgiving and the next you're putting away your ornaments. Nothing moves as fast as the holidays and it's no wonder that so many people find this time of year stressful. How do you make sure you make the most of your Christmas? Here are three simple ways.

1. DO ONE LESS THING

I'm terrible at being still. On Saturdays, I often ask my wife, "What are we doing today?" She'll look up from a book or knitting and say, "This, this is what we're doing. The kids are playing. You've built a fire. This is enough." Maybe you over stuff your calendar like me, especially during Christmas. Well this year, do one less thing. Don't try to fit it all in. Look at your list of activities and remove one. Leave some room around the edges of your calendar and give the rest of what you'll do some breathing room.

2. PUT THE PHONE DOWN

Your phone isn't just a phone, it's also an escape pod. Whenever you want, it offers you the chance to mentally disappear from a moment. Part of the reason we miss the holidays is that we're stuck on our devices. This year, be deliberate about taking a break. Leave it in a drawer. Put it back in your bedroom during a dinner party. Throw it in the glove compartment when you drive to grandma's house. Something that small can make a big difference.

3. START A NEW TRADITION

Sometimes, we speed through the holidays because we don't have any traditions. A good tradition is like a speed bump. It slows you down and reminds you of years gone by. It pauses you and quiets the moment. It doesn't have to be massive. One of ours is that we let our kids get up early on Christmas morning, but they have to wait at the top of the stairs before they come down. They think it's torture but also secretly love the anticipation. That's our tradition. What new one can you start?

3. Try This

In superhero comics (and movies and TV shows) when two or more superheroes who usually do not appear together do appear together, it's referred to as a team-up. Well, my two favorite parent ministry resources, Parent Cue and the Fuller Youth Institute, team-up on a podcast to talk about creating family holiday traditions. Think of it as a super Christmas family resource team-up!

Check it out here: <http://theparentcue.org/pcl-51-how-to-make-room-for-moments-during-the-holiday-season/>

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