

# 'Twas the night before Christmas...

By Amber Espinosa

Watch a great Christmas movie, or read a great Christmas story. How does it help you better understand God's love?

## For

Just for Kids

## Season

Winter



## Needed

A favorite Christmas book or movie, Children's Bible, Hot cocoa (optional ☺)

## Activity Plan

There are so many great Christmas stories and movies! Read or watch a favorite and cozy up around a cup of hot cocoa for a "Christmasy" conversation!

1. Read or watch one of your favorite Christmas stories.
2. Make some hot cocoa and have a great conversation:
  - What are your favorite parts in the story?
  - How does this story make you feel?
  - Where do you see love in the story?
  - Where do you see generosity in the story?
3. From your Bible read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20 (or see text on next page).
  - Tell about a time when you heard this story, such as at a special Christmas program or the like.
  - How is the Bible story similar to the Christmas story you chose? How is it different?
  - What does this story tell us about God's love?
  - What does this story tell us about our own Christmas celebrations?

4. Try this prayer.

*Loving God, thank you for our favorite Christmas stories, and the most important one of all—your Christmas story. This Christmas, help us to feel your love for us, and share your love with one another. Amen*

## Birth of Jesus

### Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.