

LOVE

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

DEVO:

Do you remember, 4 VERY long weeks ago, we started Advent? We have covered HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. This is our final week of Advent and we are discussing LOVE. But I want to remind you of that first devotion we covered on hope! In that devotion we talked about how we feel when we are hoping for a gift or waiting with great anticipation for something. Do you remember that? Remember how your heart might race a little bit and you get butterflies in your stomach when you are hoping for a gift! Guess what? I have butterflies right now and my heart is racing because I am going to tell you about that greatest gift EVER given! Do you know what it is? Share some guesses with your family!

Did anyone guess Jesus? If you did, you are 100% correct!

God gave us the greatest gift of all and it's Jesus. The very first Christmas, He came to us, as a tiny baby, so that we might be His forever. John 3:16 tells us, that God **loved** the world so much that he gave us his one and only son. Can you imagine giving away your great possession? That's what God did. He loved us so much that he gave us Jesus. And by believing in Jesus and his death on the cross for our sins, we are given another gift! It's the gift of eternal life. That's a pretty, spectacular gift, isn't it? Jesus **loves** us so much to come into this big world and save us from our sins!

Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas. I like to think of Christmas as a huge birthday party for Jesus. Sometimes we can get mixed up in the excitement of Christmas and we focus on all

the pretty decorations, Santa, elves, reindeer, and gifts. Sometimes, we can forget why we are celebrating. Do you remember why we are celebrating? Oh, I hope you remembered that we are celebrating because of Jesus's birthday and the love he brings.

Did you know that someone else came and celebrated Jesus' birthday by bringing gifts on the very first Christmas? Three wise men, to be exact. They traveled a very long way to see Jesus by following a star. They brought Jesus gifts, because they loved him. We also give gifts at Christmas because we love Jesus and to help us remember that he greatest gift of all.

This Christmas, take time to have a birthday cake for Jesus. Sing Happy Birthday to Him. Blow out the candles. Spend time thinking of all the ways Jesus loves you. Never forget what a gift of love He truly is.

Scripture Readings of Love:

If you'd like to read more about the wise men, you can read Matthew 2.

JOHN 3:16 - For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 PETER 4:8 - Above all, **love** each other deeply, because **love** covers over a multitude of sins.

ROMANS 8:39 - Neither height nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love** of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

thoughts to ponder:

Listen to these songs of love:

Miracle of Love by Chris Tomlin

Love Came Down at Christmas by Ali Matthews

Reflect on God's great love for us while coloring the page below.



Who can you extend love to this Christmas?

Take a few minutes to pray together as a family and thank God for all the love He has shown you.

ORNAMENT INSTRUCTIONS:



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Tape

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ~Thread the jute twine (Short brown piece) through the heart and tie into a french knot.
- ~Pull the knot to the base of the heart, so the loop is all that shows at the top of the heart. Tape the knot down on the back of the heart. (brown side)
- ~Take the end of the red string and tape it to the back of the heart. ~Start wrapping the string around the heart, moving in different directions, so you eventually cover the entire heart.
- ~Be sure to keep the jute ornament hanger loop out of the way, so you can hang it up, once you are finished.

~Tuck the end of the string under a tight section once you have it wrapped.

~Hang your ornament on your tree or somewhere to remind you of the gift of love you received in Jesus.