



HOUSE PARTY

PARENT GUIDE

December 27th

Life App Definition

Christmas — celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Main Idea

We finish up the month in Luke 2:8-20. After Jesus was born, the first people to find out were some unassuming shepherds in a field, minding their own business. An angel announced Jesus' birth along with an angel choir that proclaimed God's peace for everyone on earth. The shepherds rushed to see the baby for themselves. They were so excited that they spent the rest of the night telling everyone they could about Jesus.

When life seems out of our control, peace can be hard to find, especially at Christmastime. Yet Christmas is all about the coming of Jesus, the Savior, who offers God's peace to all people everywhere. We pray that kids will come to a new understanding of peace. We hope that this Christmas kids everywhere will come to know God's love.

Memory Verse

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11 NIRV).

Bottom Line

God's peace is for everyone.

Monthly Profession

I will walk in peace because I am taught of the Lord.

Small-Group Discussion

Review the story and use the following questions to reinforce the lesson learned from the story.

- Who lived near the place where Jesus was born?
 - Shepherds
- What was it that almost blinded the shepherds?
 - An angel
- Where did the angel tell the shepherds they would find Jesus?
 - Wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger

- What happened after the angel gave them the message?
 - An angel choir appeared, filling the sky.
- What did the shepherds see at the edge of town?
 - A bright light (star)
- What did the shepherds see among all the animals?
 - A baby lying in the animals' feeding trough
- What did the shepherds say Jesus would bring to all people?
 - Peace
- When you think of peace, what do you think of?
- What is the opposite of peace? How does that make you feel?
- How can we tap in to God's peace during those situations?

Object Lesson

The following activity is intended to help your children apply the lesson that was learned in today's House Party. Complete the activity as a family by following the steps below.

Supplies Needed

- ❑ Word Cards activity page (attached)
- ❑ A gift bag

Activity

- This is a great game to get all the family involved.
- Cut out the word cards and place them in the gift bag.
- Show your family the gift bag and explain that it has cards with words associated with today's Bible story.
- Let them know that everyone will take turns being the "prompter."
- The prompter will pull a card from the bag and read the card to himself/herself.
- They will then try to make the rest of the group guess the word by using only a password—which is a one-word hint. (For example, if the word is "star," the prompter can say "sky.")
- Whoever guesses the word correctly has to share how that word is connected to today's story.
- Set a 30-second timer for each round. If the prompter can't get anyone to guess the word within that time, the prompter has to reveal the word and share how it is connected to today's story.
- Ask your children how it made them feel when the word or password was difficult?
- The prompter was the only person who was allowed to see the word in each round. The rest had to trust the prompter to give a password that could help them guess the word easily. Some of the words and passwords were difficult, weren't they?

- Share with them that in the same way, God wants us to trust Him to lead us through difficult times. God sees what we can't see. Because He sees more than we see, we can be sure that He will take care of us. When we put our trust in Him, we can experience God's peace. Once we have that peace, we can bring that peace to others because **God's peace is for everyone.**

Prayer

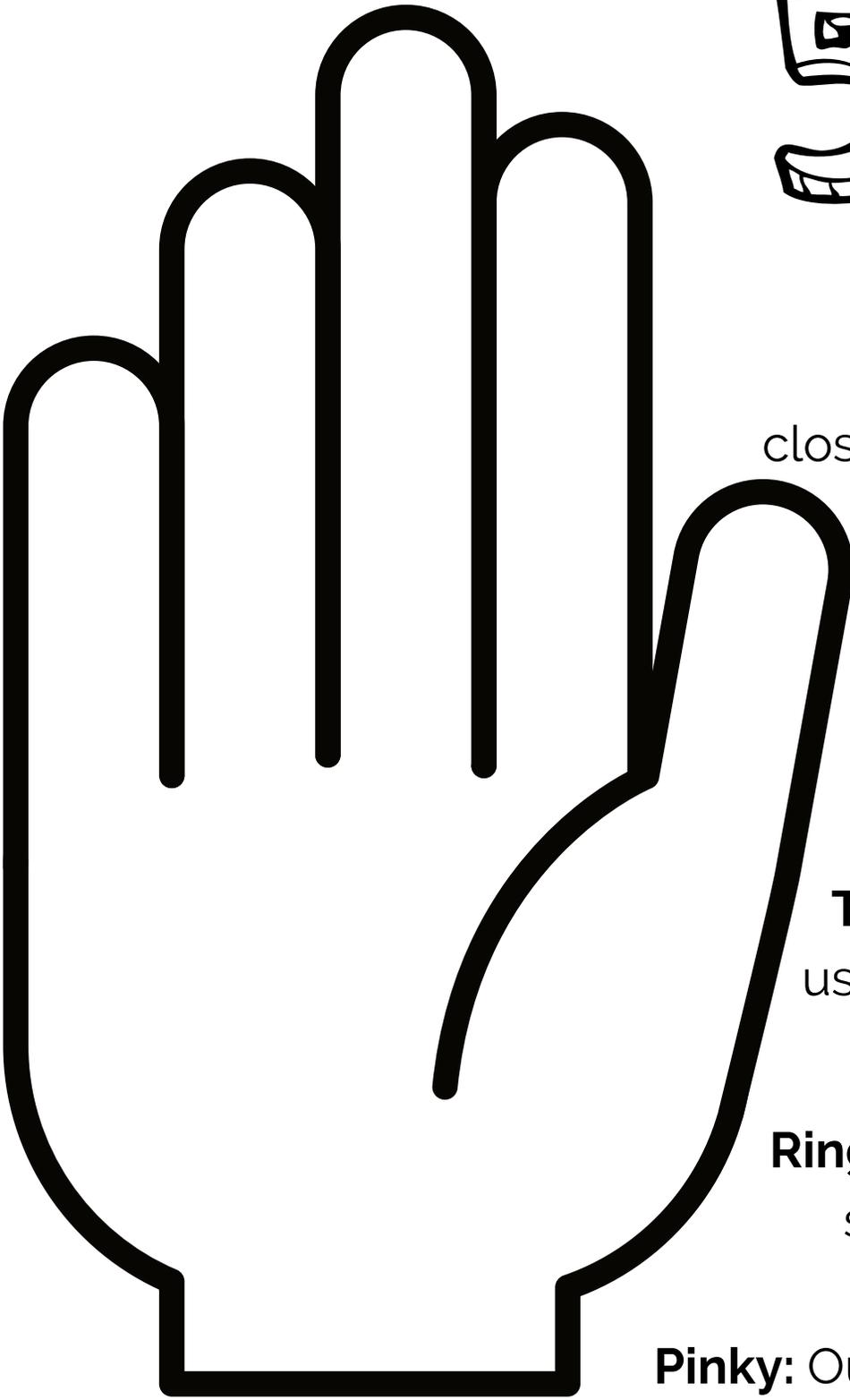
Spend a few moments in prayer with your children. Take time to thank God for the peace He gives us through Jesus.

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, so that we can experience peace.
Thank You that the peace You give us through Jesus is perfect and lasting.
Your peace helps us get through tough times and also helps us deal with our worries and fears. Thank You that God's peace is for everyone. Help us experience Your peace every day and in every situation. Amen.

Name: _____

The 5-finger prayer



Thumb: Those who are closest to you & your family

Pointer: Those who point you in the right direction (like your teachers and pastors)-- pray for wisdom

Tallest: Those who lead us (like the government)-- pray for guidance

Ring: Those who are weak, sick, in trouble, or need healing

Pinky: Our prayers for ourselves

"Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18