

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

## Focus on Faith

### Jesus Is Born

The commercial hype surrounding Christmas seems to come earlier every year. The sentimental music, redundant decorations, and blatant consumerism leave us exhausted. Who can really celebrate anything in the middle of all the noise? The true story of Jesus' birth is quite simple: it tells us that when we look for God, we will find him in unexpected places. When God the Father sent Jesus, he chose a humble stable to be the birthplace. For Jesus' parents, God chose Mary and Joseph—good, modest people who loved and cared for Jesus. He selected poor shepherds to be the first to learn of the coming of Jesus. At its heart, the Christmas story calls us to focus on God's presence all around us and examine what is truly important in our lives. We can prepare for Christmas with planned moments of peace.

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Begin a discussion about how you will celebrate the holiday season in your home. How will you remember the birth of Jesus?

### Spirituality in Action

Talk with your child about how God especially blesses those in need. Encourage small acts of generosity, such as opening doors for others, giving up a seat on a bus, and carrying someone's groceries.



### Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning to pray with the Holy Family. Ask him or her to tell you why Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are special. Then light a candle, and pray silently with your child.

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*The Nativity, Gustave Doré*

### Hints for at Home

Build a manger. With your child, gather twigs, leaves, and dried grass. At home, create a support by fastening the twigs together with twine or glue. Then arrange the remaining twigs across the support and add grass and leaves. Keep your manger until Advent, and place it on a mantle or under the Christmas tree to remind you why this time is special.

