





A FAMILY

CHRISTMAS

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTIONS:

Visit all three stations in any order you want. Use this booklet for instructions on what to do at each station. Take supplies needed to complete the task from the station and use the “Work Tables” for completing the task.



THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Have someone read the following:

God is always speaking to us. He speaks to us in many everyday happenings like conversations we have with each other, through nature, life situations, and our reading – especially the scriptures.

A star in the night sky was an everyday happening, but to those who were anticipating the coming of Jesus knew it was a sign that the Son of God had finally arrived on earth and was now living among us.

Have another person read:

“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked people, “Where is the child who has been born to be the king of the Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born. We saw it rise in the sky in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-2 (CEV)

ACTION:

Everyone take a star from the basket. Write your name on the star and decorate it any way you would like. While decorating, each person should share when they felt Jesus’ presence with you. Here are some suggestions:

- A time when you were scared to do something, and you asked God to help you do it.
- A time when you were angry, and you wanted to say a mean word and you asked God to help you calm down.
- A time when you were sad and the thought of how much God loves you helped to take your sadness away.

Take the star with you to hang on your own tree to remember God is always with you.



GIVING OUR LOVE AND GRATITUDE

Have someone read the following:

Words contain power. Words can encourage and strengthen or can hurt and wound.

We will be sharing many gifts with those we appreciate and love this Christmas. There is no greater gift to give than words of love and thanks. These words can be the most valuable gift you can give.

Have another person read the following:

- *"...how good and delightful is a word spoken at the right moment—how good it is!"* Proverbs 15:23 (AMP)
- *"Finally, brothers and sisters, ...encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."* 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)
- *"...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love..."* Ephesians 3:17 (NIV)

ACTION:

Take a Christmas card(s) provided. Write a note of encouragement to someone you've been thinking about lately who could use some encouragement. Place it in an envelope, address it, and either mail it or give it to the person as soon as you are able.



GIVING GIFTS

We exchange gifts at Christmas to remember that God gave us the world's greatest Gift ever known - the Baby Jesus. Every gift we buy, make, wrap and exchange should be a symbol of God's love and grace.

In all your shopping, wrapping, tagging and delivering of gifts, have you seriously thought about what God wants from you this Christmas?

Have someone in your group read the following:

- *"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."* Matthew 2:11
- *"His free gift is nothing like the scourge of the first man's sin. The judgment that fell because of one false step brought condemnation, but the free gift following countless offenses results in a favorable verdict—not guilty".* Romans 5:16 (VOICE)
- *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* 2 Corinthians 9:15

ACTION:

Have you considered what Jesus wants for Christmas? What is it that you haven't given Him?

- More of your time with him by reading His Word and praying.
- Making sure your words to others are kind and encouraging.
- Being more patient with those you live with.
- Sharing acts of kindness to others.

Share with your group what that might be for you.

Take a box and wrap it and tie a ribbon around it. Take a tag and write on it what you are giving to the Lord this Christmas. Tie a string loop on the gift you have wrapped for hanging it on the tree. Place it on the tree.

When you've finished all 3 stations pray the following prayer together:

Lord, we want to celebrate your birthday by being more like you and sharing you love. Amen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





SPIRITUAL LIFE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
THE SALVATION ARMY - USA EAST
440 WEST NYACK RD
WEST NYACK, NY 10994