

EPIPHANY

Take time to seek Christ.
Family Devotional

Gather as a family with all the materials needed.

Ask: Have you ever had to really look for something that was missing? Invite the family to tell a story about looking for something that was lost. There are no wrong answers. For older children, challenge them to think about how they found what was missing.

Activity: Using the page provided, cut out the stars and give at least one to each family member. Have each person hide their stars around your home. Before you start, set some rules that work for your family and home. Will you hide stars in bedrooms? Should they be seen without having to open drawers? Once everyone comes back to the family, seek the missing stars!

Another option is to play a round of hide and seek and seeking people instead of stars.

Explain: Seeking is an important part of our faith. No matter how old we get, as followers of Jesus we are always seeking to learn more about God's love and to share that love in greater ways. Reading the Bible, learning from other people, and praying are some ways we seek Jesus.

Ask: Can you think of a time in our Bible when people had to seek out Jesus?

Read: Matthew 2:1-12 from a children's Bible or watch the video of the scripture using the QR code provided.

Ask: What did you hear in this story?

Epiphany is January 6th, but feel free to use this devotional any time after Christmas.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

at least one pair of scissors

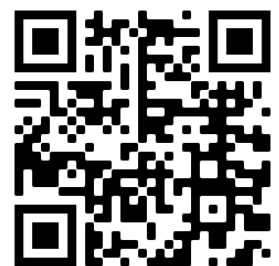
tape you can use on your walls

pencils or crayons for writing

Bible

tablet or phone for watching the Bible Story

chalk for additional extension activity



Watch the story of the Magi using this link.

Explain: This is the story of the Magi or Wisemen. These men were people who were always seeking to learn more. They studied the stars and books from all over the world. When they saw a special star in the sky, they did some seeking to learn what the star meant. Then they traveled to go and see Jesus. Their journey would have taken months!

Ask: What do you think their trip to seek Jesus was like? What do you think they saw on their way?

Explain: We don't really know exactly what the journey would have been like, but we do know it would not have been easy. The Magi kept seeking because they knew that Jesus was special.

Ask: Why do you think the Magi thought Jesus was special? Why do you think Jesus is special?

Ask: The Magi noticed something amazing in nature that made them seek God. What do you think is amazing in nature? Why?

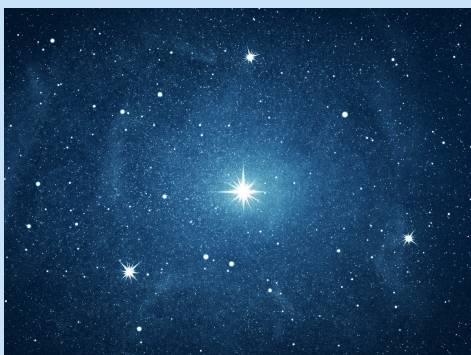
Read: Psalm 147.

Explain: Psalms were used in worship much like our hymns and songs. Some are full of joy and some are heartbreaking. Psalm 147 is a psalm of praise that celebrates God's creation.

Activity: Write your own psalm of praise that celebrates God's creation using the worksheet provided as a starting place or Psalm 147 as an example. Remember, your own psalm of praise can be whatever you want and there are no wrong answers.

Ask: What ways can we commit to practicing seeking God his year? How will your family seek Jesus in 2022? We seek Jesus by praying daily, attending worship weekly, or committing to service as a family. Talk with our family ministries team about ways to serve the church and community this year.

As you end, say a prayer together.



Extension Activity: Star Watching

Can you believe that the stars we see today are almost the same ones that the Magi saw when they studied the sky? Take time to stargaze as a family. Bundle up with coats and blankets, and maybe even start a campfire and see what stars you can see. There are lots of free apps you can download on your phone to help you know their names and where they can be found. Is our Creating God amazing?

Stars to Hunt





A PSALM OF PRAISE



BY: _____

Write 3 words that describe God:

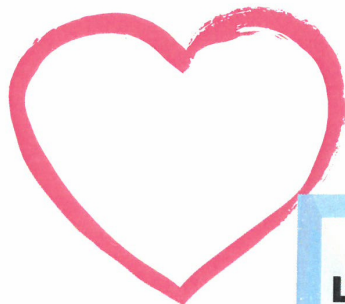
1

2

3

Draw a picture of something God created that you think is pretty amazing.

In the heart below, draw or write one way that you know God loves you:



Write one way God helped you this past week on the lines below:

Now let's put it all together in your own Psalm!

Lord, you are _____, _____, and _____.

You made the _____

_____!

You helped me _____

_____!

I know you love me because _____

_____!

I WANT TO PRAISE YOU NOW!

Seek Jesus by spending time in God's creation

YOUNG EXPLORERS

WINTER SCAVENGER HUNT



leaf with holes



evergreen smell



snow



acorn



rock wall



squirrel



signs of a
woodpecker



brightly
colored bird



berries



y-shaped twig



a rock to
safely climb



oak leaf



perching bird



multi-colored
rock



pine cone



bird feather



Mass Audubon



HINT: Take a picture of this page and use the markup tool to keep of track everything you find.



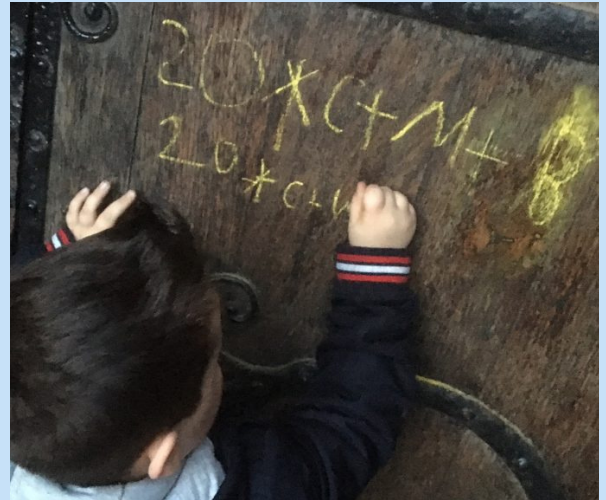
massaudubon.org/youngexplorers

Chalk the Doors

Some churches have their members start the New Year by chalking the doors of their home. This is a way to remember the Magi who visited. It is also a way to mark our homes as places where we seek Jesus. The current year is split between in half and the letters C+M+B are placed in the middle. These letters represent the Latin words: *Christus mansionem benedicat*" which means, "May Christ Bless This Home." Using a piece of chalk, write "20+C+M+B+22" on and around your front door. This is done by families at the start of the year.

Pray this prayer as you chalk your doors:

Gracious God, our Creator,
Bless this chalk and the home it marks.
May all who come through these doors
experience your blessing and
your presence this year.
May this home be a haven
of peace, joy, love and hope,
Because Your presence can be found here.



20+C+M+B+22

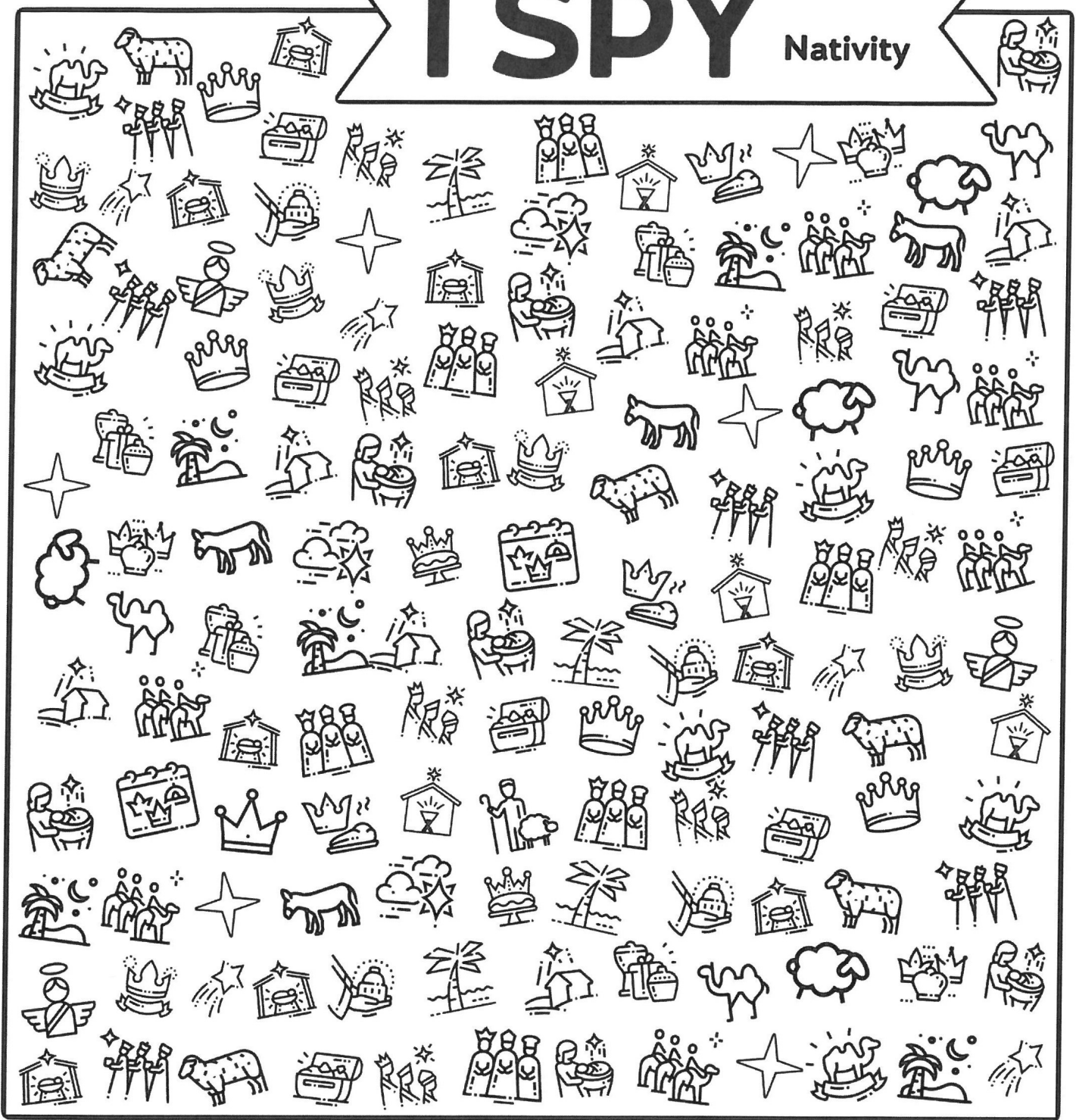
Psalm 147: 1-5

Praise the Lord!

Because it is good to sing praise to our God!
Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise!
The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, gathering up Israel's exiles.
God heals the brokenhearted
and bandages their wounds.
God counts the stars by number,
giving each one a name.
Our Lord is great and so strong!
God's knowledge can't be grasped!

I SPY

Nativity



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | | 4 | | 4 | | 5 | | 4 | | 5 | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 6 | | 7 | | 1 | | 3 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 3 | |