

A DECEMBER THAT MATTERS

A NIGHT TO SAVOR WHAT MATTERS THIS CHRISTMAS



CONVERSATION & COCOA

HEY PARENTS!

There are a lot of "should's" that pile on your plate during the holiday season. As much as festivities and decorations add to the enjoyment of this month, they can also add more to your existing list of responsibilities which can feel a bit overwhelming.

This guide is meant to provide you not with another "thing you should do," but with some freedom and clarity for how to focus in on what truly matters this December.

This guide includes:

- Formative questions to encourage family conversations around the birth of the Messiah, Jesus
- A recipe for a fun hot chocolate bar (because conversation is always better when food is involved!)
- A fun family game idea

Other than the hot cocoa ingredients, this should not cost you anything and can happen any night in December when you're all together. Have fun!

RECIPE:

Hot Chocolate Bar

GAME:

Christmas A - Z

EVERYDAY FORMATION QUESTIONS

Ask over dinner or while sipping your hot cocoa...

- What is Christmas really about?
- As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we often talk about how He is Immanuel - a name for Jesus that means "God With Us." How is God with us?
- Why did it matter that Jesus came to the world?
- The Bible talks about Jesus as the Light of the World. What does light do? How is that like Jesus?
- We give gifts at Christmas to remind ourselves about the gift of Jesus. Can you share about a gift you have received that you felt so thankful for? Why did it make you feel that way? What does it look like to have those same feelings about Jesus?
- What would you like to say to God about the gift of His Son Jesus?
- How can we show our neighbors the Light of the World this week?

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The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

- Isaiah 9:2



HOT COCOA BAR

HOMEMADE HOT COCOA
(Servings: 4)

INGREDIENTS -

- 4 cups milk (preferably whole or 2%)
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup bittersweet or semisweet chocolate chips or chopped chocolate bar
- 1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Instructions: Place milk, cocoa powder and sugar in a small saucepan. Heat over medium/medium-low heat, whisking frequently, until warm (but not boiling). Add chocolate chips and whisk constantly until the chocolate chips melt and distribute evenly into the milk. Whisk in vanilla extract, and serve immediately.

On a charcuterie board or platter, add items like:

- Marshmallows (variety of sizes or shapes/colors)
- Peppermint sticks
- Miniature Chocolate Candies (Christmas Colors)
- Crushed Chocolate Mints
- Have whipped cream available
- Add a variety of Christmas cookies to munch on as an added treat!



CHRISTMAS A - Z

Instructions:

- Pair adults with children (or older kids with younger kids)
- Print off the "Christmas A-Z" game sheet (see below) - one for each pair that is playing. Give each pair a sheet and a pencil or pen.
- The goal is for each pair to identify words that describe Christmas - one for each letter of the alphabet.
- The first team to complete their sheet wins! (You could have a special prize for the winners, OR you could have the winners choose a Christmas carol for the other teams to sing to them... have fun with it!)
- Have each team share their words when they are done. Use it as an opportunity to reflect on what you are thankful for about this time and season with your family.



CHRISTMAS A - Z

- A _____
- B _____
- C _____
- D _____
- E _____
- F _____
- G _____
- H _____
- I _____
- J _____
- K _____
- L _____
- M _____
- N _____
- O _____
- P _____
- Q _____
- R _____
- S _____
- T _____
- U _____
- V _____
- W _____
- X _____
- Y _____
- Z _____