



# Bethlehem

**Bible Olympics  
Devotion One**



# Bethlehem

## Devotion One Overview

**Color of the Day** - **Blue** (wear this color today)

**Family Devotion** - The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

**Bible Memory Verse** - Luke 2:12

**Bible Story Flag** - Design a flag based on the Bible story

**Bible Olympics Game** - Relay Race

**Bible Olympics Craft** - Family Flag

**Bible Olympics Family Activity** - Jesus Loves You Letters

**Bible Olympics Rings** - Creating Olympic Rings that link you to God



# Family Devotion

## Luke 2:1-20

Did you know that Bethlehem is known as the city of David?

Bethlehem is known as the city of David because that is where David grew up and that is where he was anointed by Samuel to be king. (You can read all about David in the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles).

But in the New Testament we come to know the city of Bethlehem as something different. Can you guess what that is?

If you said that Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus, you are right!

When Mary was nearing the end of her pregnancy, the emperor declared that a census was to be taken. A census is where you count the number of people in your household. Back in Bible times, families had to journey to the hometown of the father. Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, but Joseph was originally from Bethlehem so he and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census.

While there it came time for Jesus to be born. But Jesus wasn't born in a hospital. He was born in a stable (which was like a cave where animals were kept). And after He was born He was placed in a manger for His bed (which was basically a feeding trough for the animals). And the shepherds and the wisemen came to visit Him while they were still in Bethlehem. They came to see the new King that had been born. They came to see the Savior of the world...God's Son...the One who would one day die for us. They came to see Jesus.

And now when you think of Bethlehem, you will probably first think of it as the birthplace of Jesus. This small town in Israel (located about 6 miles southwest of Jerusalem) was the setting for the best gift God could ever give us.

*Almighty God, thank You for the city of Bethlehem and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help me to always follow You, even when it seems hard. Give me wisdom and help me to trust in You. Amen.*





# Bible Memory Verse

"This will be a sign  
to you: You will  
find a baby  
wrapped in cloths  
and lying in a  
manger."

Luke 2:12



# Bible Story Flag

Using the template below (or creating your own), design a flag for the city of Bethlehem based on the Bible story of Jesus' birth.





# Bible Olympics Game

## Relay Race

**Supplies Needed:** baton (you can also use a paper towel roll or something easy to grip that you can pass off to others)

In our Bible story, the shepherds were told about the birth of Jesus by the angels. And as soon as they heard the news, they left the field quickly and told everyone they could about the Savior of the world.

In today's Bible Olympics Game, you will use your speed (just like the shepherds did), and have a relay race with your family.

In the Summer Olympic games, one of the track and field events is the relay race. Four runners race around a track and pass off the baton to their teammate who then runs to the next teammate and so on. The last runner crosses the finish line with their baton in hand.

The race can be done anywhere outside you have a large space to run: a local track, in your yard, or at a local park. Using the baton of your choice, you will line up your family members a good distance apart. Have someone yell, "On your mark, get set, go!" Run until you get to your first family member, pass off the baton, and shout out "Jesus is born!" That person runs to the next person...passes off the baton...and shouts the same thing. Continue until all family members have had a chance to run, pass off the baton, and shout "Jesus is born!" The last family member will cross the finish line and shout "Jesus is born!" For fun, you can time yourselves to see how long it takes you to run the race. Do the race again to see if you can get a faster time. At the end of the race, pray with your family asking God to help each of you share the love of Jesus with someone each day.



# Bible Olympics Craft

## Family Flag

**Supplies Needed:** white fabric flag (found on [Amazon](#)) or posterboard, sharpies and/or paint for fabric flag, markers and crayons for posterboard flag

In this activity you will be creating your own family team flag!

Using a white fabric flag or white posterboard, decorate your flag with your family name and any design of your family's choosing.

Display this flag in your home during Bible Olympics!





# Bible Olympics Family Activity

## Jesus Loves You Letters

**Supplies Needed:** Jesus Loves You letter template (see next page), markers or crayons, envelope, stamp

Today you will be helping spread the love of Jesus to others and telling others about Him....much like the shepherds did.

Write letters to friends or family members letting them know that Jesus loves them (and that you love them too)! You can use the letter template on the next page to get you started or you can write your own.

In your letter, you can draw pictures, write Bible verses, and tell them how much Jesus loves them.

Once you're finished, address the envelope, apply the stamp, and then place in your mailbox or mail at the Post Office. Say a prayer over this person before you mail their letter.

May you find joy in knowing that you are messengers of Jesus!



A decorative string of colorful beads in shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, pink, and red, arranged in a wavy pattern across the top of the page.

**JESUS**  
**loves you!**



# Bible Olympics Rings

**Bible Olympics Rings is an activity you will do everyday that will help you stay connected to God.**

**Supplies Needed:** blue, black, red, yellow, and green construction paper strips, stapler, marker or crayon

You will be creating Olympic rings (or chain links) each day. For every person in your family, give them one color of each strip (blue, black, red, yellow, green). Every person should have 5 strips each day.

Write the following on the 5 strips of paper:

1. A prayer to Jesus
2. The Bible Memory Verse for today
3. The name of one person you need to share Jesus with
4. A praise song you love
5. Something you are grateful for

Once all family members are finished, staple the rings together to make one long chain link. If you want to keep in line with the color of the rings, you can staple the rings in the order of their color: blue, black, red, yellow, green. You will add to this Olympics Rings link every day.