

# Christmas Eve – Isaiah 11

*Families can follow along using the Jesus Storybook Bible on page 144 – “Operation No More Tears.”*

## READ IT IN

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Tonight, we stand on the threshold of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, yet the prophecy that announced His coming begins with an image of failure and decay: the “stump of Jesse.”

Jesse was the father of King David. By the time Jesus was born, David’s royal line had been cut down. The throne was gone, the glory was lost, and the family was reduced to being humble carpenters and laborers in a forgotten town called Nazareth. The tree of kings had fallen.

But here is the breathtaking miracle of Christmas Eve: God doesn’t need glory, wealth, or power to work. He chooses the stump, the barren, and the forgotten place to bring forth the most beautiful “shoot.” Jesus, the Messiah, was born into this obscurity, demonstrating that God’s greatest works often start in the quietest, most unexpected places.

As we gather tonight, many of us carry the weight of a difficult year. Perhaps the “stump” in your life represents hopes that have been cut down, promises that were broken, or a spirit that feels depleted and dry. The noise and lights of Christmas can sometimes make the inner darkness feel even deeper.

The prophecy of Isaiah 11 reminds us that the coming of Christ is about renewal, not replacement. The stump wasn’t thrown away; it became the anchor for the new life. This Christmas Eve, remember that the Holy Spirit, which rested perfectly on the infant King—the Spirit of wisdom and might—is a gift to you. No matter how cut down you feel, God is ready to grow new life, new hope, and new purpose right out of your most barren ground. The Christmas message is that even in the dead of winter, God can grow a King.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Gather around your Christmas tree or a small nativity scene. Have one person hold a small branch or twig. This Christmas, may we look past the tinsel and presents and find the quiet miracle of the Shoot—Jesus, our perfect King, who brings wisdom, peace, and new life to the world.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What grows from a stump? (Help them imagine a tiny green shoot/branch.)
- Have you ever felt like something didn’t go the way you hoped? How could Jess bring hope into that situation?
- Who is the special “shoot” that God promised? (Jesus)
- Family Prayer Time

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, the promised shoot from the stump of Jesse. When life feels hard, help us remember that You bring new hope. Help us see Jesus in the small and quiet moments this Christmas. Thank You for new life, new beginnings, and the gift of Your Son. Amen.

Spotify Playlist: [“Lifepoint Kids Devotional 2025”](#)

# Christmas Day – Luke 2:1-21

*Families can follow along using the Jesus Storybook Bible on page 176, “He’s Here.”*

## READ IT IN

Our story is continually being written by God, who is always preparing the path ahead of us, even before we are aware of it. Mary and Joseph were set to be married and had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the Census. It probably wasn't the most ideal time to travel a long way, Mary was very close to having her baby. But the Lord had a plan and Mary and Joseph needed to be in the City of David, or Bethlehem to fulfill it.

As evening approached, Mary and Joseph were looking for somewhere to spend the night in Bethlehem. Mary had her baby in a barn and wrapped him in cloth. There was nowhere to lay her baby except for a manger, normally used to feed livestock.

An angel from heaven appeared to a few shepherds in the fields nearby and told them that a savior had been born. The angel said to them “He is the Messiah!” The shepherds were told that they would find the savior in a manger. In awe of the miracle the angels spoke of, the shepherds travelled to Bethlehem to witness the sight for themselves. Finding the family, the shepherds shared what the angel from heaven had told them and everyone who heard it was amazed! What would you think if someone told you a tiny little baby would be the Savior of the world? The shepherds praised and glorified the Lord for all that they had seen and been told by the angel!

Much like our own hectic holidays, the first Christmas day was full of hustle and bustle, roadblocks and miracles. Amid the chaos of finding a place to stay, giving birth, and welcoming some (probably smelly) shepherds right after, Mary paused to reflect on and remember the miraculous thing that had just happened (v.19). Your day today might also be chaotic. You may have multiple Christmas gatherings to attend, food to cook, and family members you're not excited to see. Yet, in the midst of it, today, take time to reflect and remember the miracle of our Savior's birth.

## REFRAMING THE DAY

Amidst the hustle of the holiday, I want to challenge you as a family, to take some time to rest and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of Christ Jesus was the very first Christmas. His birth would later provide a way, the only way, for us to be washed of our sins.

Jesus is the only way that we may have a relationship with God. If we accept the Lord as our savior and follow him faithfully, we may receive a gift far better than any under the tree this year- salvation!

Take time today to reflect on the idea that Jesus will one day return. Be mindful that though Christmas is filled with presents to open, family to visit, and cookies to eat, that is not why we are celebrating. We are glorifying the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus! Spend the day with those who matter most and praise the Lord for the gift he has so graciously given.

Amidst the excitement of the day, let's intentionally slow down and create space to wonder at the person who makes this day worth celebrating. True joy is found not in what we do or receive, but in who has come.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where was Jesus born?
- Why do you think God chose Jesus to be born in manger instead of a palace?
- How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the angels?
- The shepherds praised God after seeing Jesus; what's one way YOU can praise God today?

## FAMILY PRAYER TIME

You can have one person read it, or take turns repeating line-by-line.

*Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus to us. Thank You for knowing the plan long before we did. Help us slow down and remember what Christmas is really about. Help us worship You with joy and remember how much You love us. We celebrate Jesus today and always. Amen.*

Spotify Playlist: [“Lifepoint Kids Devotional 2025”](#)

# December 26th – Revelation 21:1-5

*Families can follow along using the Jesus Storybook Bible on page 342, “A Dream of Heaven.”*

## READ IT IN

Have you ever experienced the “Post Christmas Blues?” For many of us, the excitement of Christmas begins the moment November arrives. We spend time, money, and energy preparing for the best Christmas possible. Maybe Christmas Day was everything you dreamed of, with perfect moments, perfect gifts, and perfect meals. Perhaps you even took part in an Advent tradition that prepared your heart for the joy of Christmas—the celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth. Yet the day after Christmas can bring a sense of melancholy. The day we eagerly anticipated is over, and now we face months of cold, grey winter. What could we possibly look forward to next?

Imagine the Apostle John writing Revelation while exiled on an island. John had witnessed Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection firsthand. He was called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 20:2) and watched Jesus ascend into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). John had seen God’s promises fulfilled through the Messiah, yet he found himself isolated, imprisoned, and unable to share the Gospel freely.

Like John, we have received the greatest gift in Christ, yet we live in this in-between. In Revelation 21:1-5, God gives John a vision of what is still to come: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride for her new husband” (Rev. 21:1-2). The greatest promise of Christmas is not just the past—it’s ahead. We are promised an eternal home, a redeemed earth, no more tears, pain, or death, and best of all, eternal life with King Jesus.

In the New Kingdom, there will be no “Post Christmas Blues.” Our hearts’ deepest longings will be fulfilled through the restoration of a perfect union with Christ. So today, as we wait for the New Kingdom, let us find hope in joy of what is to come.

After the excitement of Christmas fades, many of us feel a quiet emptiness settle in. But like John, who received a vision of what is still to come, we’re reminded that our deepest joy isn’t found in a single day but in the promise of Christ’s return. True hope rests not in what has passed, but in the future God is preparing: a new heaven, a new earth, and life forever with Jesus. As we wait, we can find joy in knowing the best is still ahead.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you feel when Christmas is over?
- What part of the “new heaven and new earth” sounds the best to you? (No tears? No pain? Being with Jesus forever?)
- How can we remind ourselves that Jesus is our hope—not just Christmas day?
- What is one way we can look forward to Jesus coming back?

## FAMILY PRAYER TIME

Pray back God’s word as a family:

Parent: God will make everything new!

**Kids: God will make everything new! (stretch arms wide, spin around)**

Parent: He will wipe away each tear.

**Kids: He will wipe away each tear! (pretend to wipe eyes)**

Parent: No more sadness, no more pain!

**Kids: No more sadness, no more pain! (shake head ‘no’ and smile)**

Parent: Jesus is with us forever!

**Kids: Jesus is with us forever! (point up, then hug self)**

Parent: Jesus is the Beginning and the End!

**Kids: Jesus is the Beginning and the End! (make a big circle with arms)**

Parent: Thank You, God, for this happy promise!

**Kids: Thank You, God, for this happy promise! (clap hands and cheer)**

Spotify Playlist: [“Lifepoint Kids Devotional 2025”](#)