



Thank you for following the link to the answer sheet for **A Better Than Anything Christmas**. The answers for this family devotional are below. If you want to have more copies of this sheet, you can download the pdf from thegoodbook.com/betterthan-answers.pdf.

To find out more about this Advent devotional, go to thegoodbook.com/a-better-than-anything-christmas

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DECEMBER 1ST ALL GOD'S PROMISES

EXPLORE

What words are used to tell us about Mary? (verses 26-30)

Unmarried; pledged to be married to a man named Joseph; troubled and afraid with the angel's message; loved by God.

What promises from God did the angel give Mary? (verses 31-33)

Mary will have a baby boy and call him Jesus. Jesus will be king of a kingdom that never ends.

ENGAGE

(older) Why is God's promise of Jesus a "better than ever" promise?

God showed us his power to keep all his promises when he kept his promise to send Jesus. We can trust God to keep his word.

(younger) How do we know that God always keeps his promises?

God sent Jesus just as he said he would.

(older) What do God's promises mean for your life?

Through his fulfilled promises, God gives us hope and faith to trust him and live a happy hope-filled life in Christ. Specific answers will vary.

(younger) Where do we find God's promises?

We find God's promises in his word—the Bible.

DECEMBER 2ND THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

EXPLORE

How did the angel answer Mary's question? (verses 35-37)

The Holy Spirit would create, within Mary, God's Son, Jesus. Only God can do the impossible. Even Mary's older cousin Elizabeth would have a baby. God always does what he promises.

What was Mary's answer to the angel? (verse 38)

"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

ENGAGE

(older) What would you tell a friend who thinks "living for ourselves" is the purpose of life?

We cannot really know ourselves or how we should live without knowing the true God. We know ourselves by looking to God, not inward. People live best when living according to God's purpose for their life. People are created to enjoy God.

(younger) What was God's purpose for Mary?

Mary knew that her purpose in life was to be the Lord's servant and do whatever he wanted her to do. God wanted Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

(older) We know God, love him, and glorify him as we read God's word, pray, and live for him. How will you plan, this month, to know, love, and glorify God?

Responses will vary.

(younger) For what purpose did God make you?

The purpose of your life is to know, love and glorify God as your Father.

DECEMBER 3RD GOD'S AMAZING MERCY

EXPLORE

What did Mary know about herself? (verse 48)

Mary knew she did not deserve God's love and blessing.

What did Mary know about God? (verses 50-52)

Mary knew that God is merciful. He forgives all who, with wonder-filled fear, turn from sin and trust in Jesus. Proud people think they are good enough for God. But God rescues those who trust in Jesus.

ENGAGE

(older) Do you think God forgives us because we do something good to make up for the bad things we have done? Why/why not?

No one has perfect thoughts, feelings or actions. No one obeys God completely. On our own we can't escape sin's punishment, which is death. The fact that anyone is saved shows God's mercy (Romans 9 v 14-16).

(younger) What does it mean that God is merciful?

God does not give us what our sins deserve.

(older) Why is God's mercy such an amazing gift?

God's mercy is so different from the way we treat people who have sinned against us. We want people to pay for their sin against us. God in mercy paid for our sin through Jesus. We need the gift of Jesus's forgiveness.

(younger) Who did God send to take the punishment for our sin?

God sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve.

DECEMBER 4TH HUNGRY HEARTS

EXPLORE

What does God do for those who are hungry? (verse 53)

God fills the hungry with more than food. He fills their hearts with good things.

What happens to the rich (prideful)? (verse 53)

God sends the rich—who think they are full enough and don't need him—away empty.

ENGAGE

(older) In what way do people try to fill their hungry hearts? Now be honest with yourself... What hunger is in your life?

Many things like electronics, magazines, games, movies, food, etc. are helpful in moderate portions. But things can capture our time, money and desire without giving our hearts the lasting nourishment that can only come from a lifetime friendship with God through Jesus. (Adults, to encourage open sharing, talk about ways you fill yourself with empty things.)

(younger) Why does God give us hungry hearts?

God gives us hearts that hunger for him.

(older) A heart filled with Jesus overflows! How will you share the love of Jesus this Christmas?

Responses will vary.

(younger) How do we know that Jesus came to make our hearts his home?

Jesus said: "On that day you will realize that I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you" (John 14 v 20).

DECEMBER 5TH FULLY FREE

EXPLORE

What did God do for his people? (verse 68)

God came to his people and redeemed them (rescued them from slavery) when he sent Jesus to live with us.

Who did God rescue us from and why? (verse 74)

God rescues us from the hand of our enemies and enables us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness all our life.

ENGAGE

(older) What freedom did we all lose after Adam and Eve's sin?

Freedom to be God's friends. People no longer have the enjoyment of obeying God. Now every person is bullied by the strength of Satan and sin.

(younger) Who tempted Adam and Eve?

Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God.

(older) How is the freedom that Jesus gives us better than free time?

Free time ends. Jesus's freedom never ends or disappoints. Our appreciation of Jesus's freedom grows the more we understand the hold of Satan's grip. Only in Jesus are we free to enjoy the most precious friendship ever with our Father God.

(younger) How can we be free from sin?

Jesus, our Redeemer, frees us. He says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8 v 36).

DECEMBER 6TH FULL FORGIVENESS

EXPLORE

What would Zechariah's son John tell the people? (verse 77)

John would tell the people how Jesus rescues God's children (salvation) through the forgiveness of their sins.

Why does God give his people forgiveness of their sins? (verse 78)

God forgives sins because of his mercy.

ENGAGE

(older) What makes God's gift of Jesus so amazing?

Sin ruins our hearts. We say to God, "I don't want your gifts or you!" If someone offended me, I might think they did not deserve my forgiveness. Yet, God doesn't take his gift of Jesus away.

(younger) What would Zechariah's son John tell people about Jesus?

Zechariah's son John would tell people that Jesus came to give us forgiveness ("salvation through the forgiveness of their sin").

(older) Sometimes we have a hard time asking for Jesus's forgiveness. Why do you think this is true?

Sin ruins our hearts. Sin makes us feel as if we are good enough just the way we are. We don't like to admit any wrong. But God asks us to do all sorts of impossible things. When we ask for Jesus's forgiveness, we find he is right there, rescuing us from empty evil ways of life.

(younger) Who did God send to forgive our sins?

God sent Jesus to forgive our sins.

DECEMBER 7TH

THE BABY WHO CAME TO SAVE

EXPLORE

What did the angel tell Joseph? (verses 20-21)

The angel told Joseph to get married, as he had planned. Mary's baby was God's Son.

Why was Joseph to give the baby the name of Jesus? (verse 21)

Because Jesus will save his people from their sins.

ENGAGE

(older) Why is Jesus the only Person who can save lost people?

Only the perfect sinless Jesus could take the punishment for sin we deserve. On the cross, Jesus took the full wrath of God against sin. He died to save us from sin, death and hell and take us safely to God. (Hebrews 2 v 7; Romans 5 v 9-10.

(younger) Who is the only One who could take our punishment for sin?

Jesus is the only one who could take our punishment for sin because he never sinned.

(older) In your own words explain why Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Sin hides our way to God. We don't even know we are lost—we don't know we need help! God didn't send Jesus to be strong enough to find our own way. God loves us so much that Jesus came down to find us and take us to God.

(younger) What gift does Jesus give to those he saves?

Jesus gives forever life with God to all he saves.

DECEMBER 8TH

GOOD NEWS

EXPLORE

What did the shepherds see and hear? (verses 8-10)

The shepherds saw the angel of the Lord. The angel had good news that would give people great joy.

What good news did the angel tell the shepherds? (verse 11)

The angel's good news was that the Messiah-King had been born in Bethlehem.

ENGAGE

(older) How is God's true Christmas story better than "once upon a time" stories?

Many stories are make-believe. Jesus is real. His story is not pretend. Faith in Jesus is not wishing everything turns out okay. Faith in Jesus is trusting truth. Today Jesus rules in the hearts of his children. We wait for the time when Jesus will come again. Then all people will bow to him (Philippians 2 v 9-11). At last the world will be as it should be!

(younger) How is Jesus different from other kings?

Jesus did not come as a king with jewels and palaces. Jesus came as a king to live in and rule our hearts—more precious to him than jewels.

(older) What is Jesus teaching you to love as he loves?

Responses will vary.

(younger) What does King Jesus teach his children?

King Jesus teaches his children to love what he loves.

DECEMBER 9TH

LOTS AND LOTS OF ANGELS

EXPLORE

What did the shepherds suddenly see and hear? (verses 13-14a)

The shepherds saw a large group of angels from heaven praising God. The angels said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!"

What did the angels say would be given to God's children? (verse 14b)

The angels said God gives peace to his children.

ENGAGE

(older) How is Jesus's peace better than trying to ignore God?

The truth of our Holy God's rightful anger with our sin cannot be ignored. Sin ruins the beautiful relationship God intended with us. But God's love is so great. Jesus's perfect life and sacrifice bring God's children into personal friendship with God (Romans 5 v 10; Colossians 1 v 19-20).

(younger) What is God's gift to all who turn from sin and trust in Jesus?

Peace with God.

(older) What can you tell a friend who thinks that being good means they have peace with God?

Without Jesus, no one is good. The good things we do are stained by sin, like a beautiful painting splattered with mud. God is not pleased when people pretend they are not sinful. But even when we were not friends with God, he sent Jesus to live the perfect life we could not live and die on the cross for our sin. Jesus's forgiveness brings us peace with God. One of our delightful duties as God's children is to tell others how to have peace with God through Jesus. (Romans 5 v 10; 2 Corinthians 5 v 18-19).

(younger) What good news does Jesus give us to tell others?

The good news of peace with God through Jesus.

DECEMBER 10TH THE GREATEST TREASURE

EXPLORE

What did the shepherds do after the angels left? (verses 15-18)

The shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see what the Lord had told them about. They hurried to the place and found Mary, Joseph and Jesus, who was in the manger. The shepherds told Mary everything the angel had said about Jesus.

What did Mary do with all she heard about her child, Jesus? (verse 19)

Mary thought more and more about everything the shepherds told her about Jesus. Mary loved thinking about Jesus. Jesus was Mary's greatest treasure.

ENGAGE

(older) What are today's common treasures? How do we know what a person treasures the most?

Responses will vary. How do we know what someone treasures the most? We can ask ourselves, "What do I love most?", "Where do I spend most of my money?", "What do I spend most of my time doing?"

(younger) What gift did God give to Mary?

God gave Mary the gift of Jesus, a treasure money cannot buy.

(older) What sweet truths about Jesus are like a treasure chest to you?

Responses will vary.

(younger) Who is God's best gift to us?

Jesus is our best-ever gift from God.

DECEMBER 11TH CLEAN CLOTHES

EXPLORE

What did the Law say Mary and Joseph must do with Jesus? (verses 22-23)

As the Law of the Lord said, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord. Even before he could actively obey, Jesus's parents responsibly saw that Jesus lived in obedience to the Law.

Why did Joseph and Mary also offer a sacrifice? (verse 24)

Joseph and Mary also offered a sacrifice in keeping with the Law from Leviticus 12 v 8.

ENGAGE

(older) Why do you think obedience to parents, teachers and God is hard?

We may try but we do not always love to obey. Even when others think we obey, sin stains our thoughts.

(younger) What did Jesus do right?

Jesus did everything right.

(older) How can Jesus's perfect "right-ness" be your own?

When we trust Jesus as our Messiah-King, God counts Jesus's perfect "right-ness" as our own. Jesus's righteousness covers our sin-stained hearts. In Jesus, God welcomes us just as he welcomes his sinless Son.

(younger) What does God cover sin with?

God covers our sin-stained hearts with Jesus's righteousness.

DECEMBER 12TH SIMEON SEES THE SAVIOR

EXPLORE

What did Simeon know would happen before he died? (verse 26)

Simeon knew he would see Jesus—God's Messiah-King—before he died.

Why did Simeon praise God when he saw Jesus? (verse 30)

The Holy Spirit gave Simeon eyes to see that the baby Jesus was the Messiah-King.

ENGAGE

(older) Why is knowing God different than knowing a subject in school?

We do not know God on our own. We don't know a subject in school on our own either—a teacher helps us know. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, God gives us his Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we hear, understand and love God's Word. With the Holy Spirit's help, we live to please God.

(younger) What did Simeon know when he saw Mary's baby?

Simeon knew Mary's baby was the one he'd been waiting to see, the Messiah-King.

(older) What do you think it means that "our minds are too small to know God"?

No matter how smart or wise we become, on our own, we do not know God. But when we trust Jesus, we are reborn into God's family. God gives his children the Holy Spirit. As we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to love God, know truth about God, and find life in his Son Jesus.

(younger) What does God give all his children so they know God's truth?

God gives all his children his Holy Spirit.

DECEMBER 13TH TAKE HEART

EXPLORE

What did Simeon know about Jesus? (verse 34)

God had shown Simeon that Jesus would cause many people in Israel to fall away from God or rise to live with God forever. Many people would speak against Jesus.

What did Simeon say that Jesus knows about our hearts? (verse 35)

Jesus knows the truth about our hearts. Jesus reveals, or shows people, what they really believe about him.

ENGAGE

(older) What truth about your heart is God showing you?

Responses will vary.

(younger) What does God know about us?

God knows all things. He knows our thoughts and feelings.

(older) In your own words describe why it is good to know the truth about our hearts.

Without God's help in showing us the truth, our hearts would only know the sour taste of sin. But when we turn to Jesus and trust him, he fills us with his Spirit—forgiveness, courage and comfort. Psalm 119 v 103 says that when we hear or read the Bible, the Holy Spirit makes God's word sweet to us.

(younger) What truths about Jesus help you?

Responses will vary.

DECEMBER 14TH

RESCUE WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED

EXPLORE

What are at least three things God tells us about Anna? (verses 36-37)

God tells us Anna was a prophet and a daughter. She was very old. Anna lived alone, after her husband's death, for many years. She never left the temple of God but worshiped night and day, praying and even going without food.

What did Anna do after she thanked God for Jesus? (verse 38)

Anna spoke about Jesus to all who were waiting for God to send his Messiah-King. The Messiah-King would redeem (rescue from the punishment and power of sin) all who trust in him.

ENGAGE

(older) What struggle with temptation and sin tries to hurt your Christmas?

Let this be a time for honest talk about recent struggles with temptation and sin.

(younger) What is Jesus ready to do with our sin?

Jesus is ready to redeem us: meaning to rescue us so we no longer have to sin. Jesus

(older) What truths about Jesus keep the true fun in Christmas?

Jesus is our Redeemer. He rescues us from the power of sin. When Christmas fun turns into temptation to sin, we can turn to Jesus. We can ask for help! He will give us power to say no to our selfishness. When temptation turns to sin, we can confess to Jesus who forgives. With Jesus's forgiveness, we are free to forgive one another—true fun!

(younger) What can we do when we are tempted to sin?

Like Anna we can pray. Jesus answers his children's prayers with the desire and strength to obey God.

DECEMBER 15TH GOD WITH US

EXPLORE

What did the Lord say through the prophet? (verses 22-23)

Call the son Immanuel.

What does Immanuel mean? (verse 23)

Immanuel means "God with us"

ENGAGE

(older) What truths about Jesus help you when you feel lonely?

Loneliness comes when we feel as if no one listens or understands. A person may even feel lonely in a room full of people. Perhaps you feel like everyone has a friend to

talk to or a party to go to, except you. God sent Jesus to make his home with you. He loves you. You can ask him to forgive you and live with you.

(younger) Who became a real human baby to bring us to God?

Jesus

(older) Have you experienced what it's like to be far away from God and then be close to him? What is it like?

Responses will vary.

(younger) What did Jesus do so that we may be with God?

Jesus suffered the forever separation from God that our sin deserves. Now God is with all who trust in Jesus.

DECEMBER 16TH KING OF KINGS

EXPLORE

Why did the Magi come to Jerusalem? (verses 1-2)

The Magi traveled all the way to Jerusalem to see Jesus—the one born king of the Jews—and to worship him.

How did King Herod feel about the Magi's news? (verse 3)

King Herod was disturbed to hear the news about Jesus... and all the people in Jerusalem were disturbed to hear this news too.

ENGAGE

(older) How would you describe someone who wants everyone's attention and praise?

Answers might include proud, arrogant, self-seeking, or full of themselves.

(younger) What did King Herod want?

King Herod wanted people to praise him.

(older) Why do you think Jesus is worthy of all our praise?

Jesus is the King above all other rulers and authorities. As the King of the universe, Jesus humbled himself to come and gave his life to us. He fills our hearts with true joy as we praise him for who he is. To give our lives to him is our highest honor and privilege.

(younger) Who is the King worthy of our praise?

Jesus

DECEMBER 17TH GIFTS FOR THE KING

EXPLORE

What did the Magi do first when they saw Jesus with Mary? (verse 11)

When the Magi saw the child with his mother Mary, they bowed down and worshiped him.

What gifts did the Magi give Jesus? (verse 11)

The Magi gave Jesus their best—gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

ENGAGE

(older) What truths about Jesus make you want to love him and live for him?

Record these truths in the journal space. A future blessing awaits when, in the future, you re-read your journal entries!

(younger) What did the Magi do when they saw Jesus?

The Magi bowed down and worshipped Jesus as the King worthy of their best.

(older) Jesus came to give you forever joy. Have you told him, "Jesus I trust you, please give me a new heart to love you and live for you"? If you have, then thank him for your new heart. If you haven't, would you like to pray that prayer now?

Help your child to write a prayer in the journal space provided.

(younger) What does God give to all who trust Jesus?

To all who trust him, Jesus gives a new heart that will praise him joyfully forever.

DECEMBER 18TH ESCAPE TO EGYPT

EXPLORE

Why did the angel tell Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt? (verse 13)

The angel told Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt because Herod wanted to search for the child and kill him.

Why was King Herod so angry? (verse 16)

Herod became furious when he realized the Magi were not coming back. Herod did not plan to worship Jesus. He only wanted to use the Magi to help him get rid of Jesus.

ENGAGE

(older) How does evil try to get rid of Jesus today?

Evil tells us lies such as: Jesus is make-believe; Life is all about me; God only loves good people; Science is more true than the Bible; If God cared there would not be evil; True happiness comes by what we have and do; etc.

(younger) Who did Herod try to get rid of?

Herod tried to kill Jesus. Instead of giving his life to God's great King, he let the sin in his heart rule. Herod's awful sin tried to kill Jesus.

(older) From what evil has Jesus delivered you?

Through his death on the cross, Jesus rescues us from sin and death. Now we can love him most of all. God promises his children that he will use every bad thing for our good (Romans 8 v 28-32). And at his judgment throne, he will right every wrong (Romans 2 v 5-6).

(younger) How did Jesus beat sin and death?

Herod did not kill Jesus. Instead, at just the right moment and because it was his will, Jesus gave his life to rescue us from sin and death.

DECEMBER 19TH NEW LIFE WITH GOD FOREVER

EXPLORE

Jesus is “the Word” in verse 1. Where was Jesus in the beginning? (verse 2)

In the beginning, Jesus was with God.

What is in Jesus that he gives to us? (verse 4)

In Jesus is the life we need.

ENGAGE

(older) How did Jesus win new life for all God’s children?

When Jesus died it seemed as if death had won. But three days later Jesus was alive again. When we believe in him, he gives us his gift of life that never ends (John 3 v 16). When we close our eyes in death, we will wake up in heaven and see Jesus forever (John 14 v 2-3).

(younger) What did Jesus win for all God’s children?

Jesus won new life with God forever.

(older) Are you sure you are God’s child? Jesus invites you to ask him for life that lasts forever. Will you write a prayer and ask God for faith to trust Jesus (for the first time), or to keep on trusting Jesus (if you’re already God’s child)? You might enjoy reading your prayer aloud to him.

Help your child to write a prayer in the journal space provided.

(younger) How long do God’s children live?

God’s children enjoy life with Jesus now, life with Jesus in heaven after their body dies, and with Jesus in his kingdom forever.

DECEMBER 20TH THE LIGHT IN JESUS

EXPLORE

What is Jesus’s life to all mankind? (verse 4)

Jesus’s life is the light of all mankind.

Is the darkness able to put out the light of Jesus? (verse 5)

No! Jesus’s light is always stronger than the darkness.

ENGAGE

(older) Describe the difference between “darkness” and “the light of life.”

Darkness is the sin and death that came to God’s perfect world ever since Adam and Eve’s sin. People who believe Satan’s lies do not love or trust Jesus. They stay in darkness. Jesus’s light shows us the sin in our heart. We admit our sin to God and turn to him. Jesus gives us light to see God’s Word as truth. We don’t have to believe Satan’s lies anymore.

(younger) What happened to God’s perfect world when Adam and Eve sinned?

Darkness fell on God’s perfect world and in our hearts.

(older) How have you seen Jesus as light in your life?

Responses will vary.

(younger) How did Jesus rescue God’s children from darkness?

Jesus rose from death. Through his Spirit and word, he shines his life-giving light into our minds and hearts.

DECEMBER 21ST THE TRUE STORY

EXPLORE

Why did God send John? (verses 6-7)

God sent John to tell people about Jesus—so they might believe and have life in their hearts.

Was John the light? (verses 8-9)

John was not the light; he came only to tell people about the light—Jesus.

ENGAGE

(older) What did John know about Jesus that gave him courage to tell others the gospel truth?

John knew that Jesus is the light who shows us our sin and our need for forgiveness. He knew Jesus was God’s way for forgiveness.

(younger) Who did God send to help people get ready for Jesus?

God sent a man named John.

(older) What truth can you share with a friend who does not yet believe in Jesus?

The best news we will ever hear is the truth of the gospel! God forgives our sin through Jesus’s life, death and resurrection. We can admit to God the wrong things we think, say and do. We can ask Jesus to give us faith to turn and trust in him.

(younger) What truth about Jesus do you want to tell your friend?

Responses will vary.

DECEMBER 22ND

THE BEST-EVER FAMILY

EXPLORE

What did Jesus give to all who believed in his name? (verse 12)

Jesus gave the right to become a child in God's forever family to all who believe in him as their Rescuer and King.

How are God's children born into his family? (verse 13)

Children are born into their earthly family by their mother and father. Children are born into God's family by God.

ENGAGE

(older) What truths about Jesus's family help you to love him even more?

Responses will vary.

(younger) Does everyone receive God's gift of a forever family through Jesus?

Sadly, not everyone believes and receives Jesus.

(older) What could you say to a friend who is not sure they are God's child?

All who believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for us and came alive again for us are God's children. God's children are promised forever life (as children of the resurrection) with God and Jesus (1 Corinthians 15 v 1-4). We can be sure that Jesus will do what he says (1 John 3 v 1). He is our strong Rescuer who holds onto us (1 John 5 v 11-13).

(younger) Who is welcomed as God's child?

All those who believe in Jesus.

DECEMBER 23RD

GOD'S BEAUTY

EXPLORE

What do we see in Jesus? (verse 14)

In Jesus we see God's glory—the fullness of God's beauty.

Where did Jesus come from? (verse 14)

Jesus came from God the Father. He became a human to live with us and show us God's glory—God's beauty.

ENGAGE

(older) What truths about God's beauty make you want to live for him?

The purpose of our life is to show Jesus's beauty to others. As we show Jesus off to our friends and family, God's pleasure with us gives our hearts joy.

(younger) How does God show us his beauty every day?

God shows his beauty through the world and the people he made.

(older) How do God's children show Jesus's beauty to others?

Others see Jesus's beauty in us as we depend on him. Doing the right thing even when it is hard, being kind even when we don't get our way, patience with a younger brother or sister—all show Jesus's beauty.

(younger) Who unwraps God's beauty for us to see?

Jesus

DECEMBER 24TH

FROM MOSES TO JESUS

EXPLORE

Who gave us God's law? (verse 17)

God gave the law to us through Moses.

What did God give us through Jesus Christ? (verse 17)

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ENGAGE

(older) How does knowing that Jesus paid for God's gift to us help you to love him even more?

Knowing that we would continue to live as rule-breaking children, God sent Jesus to be our rule-keeping Rescuer. We love Jesus more as we know how he paid for God's gift of grace to his children with his life and death (Ephesians 2 v 8). What a gift!

(younger) Who gave us God's good rules?

Moses

(older) How do you see Jesus's truth and grace changing the way you speak and act?

On my own I will continue to break all the rules. As God's child, his Spirit gives me the desire and strength to obey. In my daily dependence on God, the desire and strength to obey grows.

(younger) Who gave us God's grace and truth?

Jesus

DECEMBER 25TH

JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANYTHING!

EXPLORE

Who has seen God? (verse 18a)

No one has ever seen God, except Jesus.

What kind of relationship does Jesus have with God? (verse 18b)

Jesus is in the closest relationship with God the Father.

ENGAGE

(older) In Jesus, God invites you to a better-than-best friendship forever! Will you receive his invitation?

Jesus is not like an imaginary friend who you pretend is with you. Jesus is real. You can talk to him and he really hears you. You can ask him to help you and he really will help. You can ask him to take away your fear and loneliness—he really does! As a person, God speaks to us through his word, the Bible, and invites us to speak to him. This is prayer. Talk to him now. You can tell him what you think. You can ask him to help you know and love him as your better-than-best forever friend.

(younger) What does God know about us?

Everything—and yet he loves us.

(older) Christmas says Jesus came to give us _____.
Fill in the blank with as many gifts as you remember.

Responses will vary.

(younger) What invitation does Jesus give to God's children?

Jesus invites us to have a better than anything life as God's friend.