

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



Journaling lines for the Christmas plans question.



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

Go to <https://bit.ly/PreteenSundaysatHome> and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

- 1. You liked:
- 2. You learned:
- 3. You'd like to know:

## Day 2

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

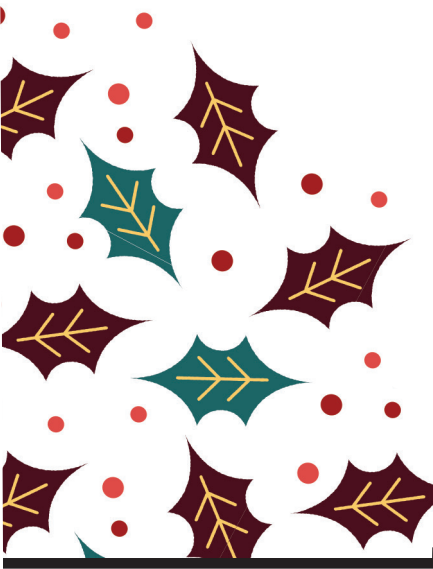
As you read Isaiah 9:6-7, circle all of the words that are descriptors of who the Savior would be. (Hint: Don't miss out on words like "child.")

Next, underline all of the phrases describing what the Savior would do.

It might have seemed crazy for God's people to hear that a child would be coming Who could fulfill all of these promises.

But the last line of this passage explains it all. *"The Lord's great love will make sure that happens."*

From the very beginning, God had a plan. All people would have the chance to be with God forever. God's love would make sure that happened! And it did through Jesus!



## Day 3

**In prayer, we can ask God for the desires of our heart while also recognizing God is in control and ultimately knows what's best.**

One of the best examples of this kind of prayer was actually a prayer Jesus prayed to His Father when Jesus was about to be crucified on a cross.

He prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."* Matthew 26:39, NIRV

Jesus was understandably not excited about what was to come, and He was honest with God that if there was any other way to save the world, He would prefer it not involve His death. But Jesus also acknowledged that God is in control, and that He would trust God's plan.

Is there something in your life that you wish God would take away? Go ahead and tell God about it! Remember that you can trust God no matter what! God knows what you're going through and will be with you. . . always.

## Day 4

God always has a plan.

Think about the best news you ever got, besides hearing about Jesus. What was the best news for you?

When you got that great news, how excited were you to tell others about it?

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For God's people, the best news they got was that God had a plan to send a Savior to rescue them! And that plan of God's is the best news any of us could receive!

Sometimes it's hard for us to share the good news about God's plan with others. It's understandable to be nervous since we don't know how people will respond, but we need to remember that it really is great news for everyone to hear.

Go and ask a parent or a trusted adult if you can practice talking with them about what God is doing in your life. It will become a lot easier talking to others about Jesus the more you practice!



## Day 5

What are your plans for Christmas?

Does your family have a plan for celebrating Jesus' birth this Christmas? One way some families celebrate is by creating an Advent calendar. In Advent season, we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, so an Advent calendar has specific ways to recognize each day's passing throughout the season as we wait. Some Advent calendars have verses to read or activities to do, and some just have chocolate or treats.

If your family already has a plan for Advent and Christmas, awesome! If you don't, now is a great time to make a plan that will help your family prepare your hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. You can focus on just Christmas Eve and Christmas Day—perhaps with plans to attend a church service, share a meal as a family, and read Luke 2 on Christmas morning before opening presents. Or your family might want to make a tradition of reading daily Scripture (there are great reading plans online) or doing simple and fun daily activities leading up to Christmas (like going to look at Christmas lights together, or sending out Christmas cards to friends and family).

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Write a few things you plan to do here, and then check them off as you make your plan happen!

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