



# Talkabout Jesus, our Teacher





## Gather 'Round Winter 2011-12 Calendar



CHURCH STAFF  
Copy one calendar per family for each month.

**Dear families:** These calendar ideas coordinate with the Bible story children and youth explore each week. Each Sunday box has the weekly session title, scripture text, and prayer. Use the daily ideas to nurture faith at home together!

### November 27–December 24, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27 Restore us, O God</b> <b>Psalm 80</b> <i>God, our shepherd, you provide and care for us. Give us peace in a world where many live in conflict and despair.</i></p>	<p><b>28</b> Read Psalm 80:6–7. What happens when God's face shines in a bad situation?</p>	<p><b>29</b> Prepare an Advent wreath with three purple candles and one pink candle. Light the first candle each day this week.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Tell about a time when you prayed for God's help.</p>	<p><b>1</b> What can you use to fix or restore something? Find one household or garage item per person.</p>	<p><b>2</b> What is one situation you would like to have God restore?</p>	<p><b>3</b> The Greek word <i>Psalmoi</i> may have meant "song sung to a ____." </p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Harp.</small></p>
<p><b>4 John baptizes with water</b> <b>Matthew 3:1–12</b> <i>As we wait during Advent, light our way to hope, peace, joy, and love.</i></p>	<p><b>5</b> Read Matthew 3:1–3. John said, "One more powerful is coming." Who is John talking about?</p>	<p><b>6</b> Light two Advent candles each day. John called for changed lives. What can you change to make time for daily Advent prayers?</p>	<p><b>7</b> John ate locusts and wild honey. Share a snack of bread drizzled with honey.</p>	<p><b>8</b> John baptized people. Tell about a baptism you have seen or about your own baptism.</p>	<p><b>9</b> What December activity helps you follow God's path of peace?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Honeybees do a "waggle dance" in a figure eight to communicate to each other about where to find food. </p>
<p><b>11 The prophet brings good news</b> <b>Isaiah 61</b> <i>God, our world is waiting for good news. This Advent, fill us with hope because you comfort those who mourn.</i></p>	<p><b>12</b> Read Isaiah 61:1–2. Finish the sentence: God's good news is for ____.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Light two purple candles and a pink candle each day this week. Tell one thing that gives you hope.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Write the names of people who are sad. Pray for God's comfort to surround them in the midst of their tears.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Isaiah talks about release for prisoners. What type of prisoners would you release?</p>	<p><b>16</b> Isaiah 61:8 says, "I hate robbery and wrongdoing." Name some good actions to replace wrongdoing.</p>	<p><b>17</b> God's people will be "oaks of righteousness (Isaiah 61:3). How many species of oaks are there in the world? </p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>About 600.</small></p>
<p><b>18 The family of Jesus</b> <b>Matthew 1:1–25</b> <i>Loving God, you are with us as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Open our eyes to the miracles around us.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b> Read Matthew 1:20–23. Imagine meeting an angel in your sleep.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Light all four Advent candles in your wreath. Sing the familiar hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Matthew 1 names many generations. Name some of your family ancestors and tell what they did.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Emmanuel means "God is with us." Takes turns finishing the sentence, "God is with us when ____."</p>	<p><b>23</b> The appearance of an angel was an extraordinary event for Joseph. Make a game of hiding and finding a nativity scene angel.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Zadok, a name in Matthew's genealogy, shows up in what anthem sung when British royalty are crowned? </p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Handel's <i>Zadok the Priest</i>.</small></p>

# Talkabout Jesus, our Teacher

Gather 'Round Winter 2011-12 **Calendar** December 25, 2011-January 28, 2012



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>25 Jesus is born</b> <b>Luke 2:1-20</b> <i>God of great joy, with the shepherds we marvel at Jesus' coming.</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> Read Luke 2:15-20. What is the most amazing part of the shepherds' story?</p>	<p><b>27</b> Have children in the family act out the Christmas story using nativity figures.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Share a favorite Christmas memory.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Look through Christmas cards to see how many different drawings of baby Jesus you can find.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Sing a Christmas carol with the word <i>peace</i> in it.</p>	<p><b>31</b> What food is named after shepherds? </p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shepherd's pie.</p>
<p><b>1 A visit from the magi</b> <b>Matthew 2:1-12</b> <i>God of wonder, shine on us. Lead us on a journey of joy and wisdom.</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> Read Matthew 2:10-11. What does it mean to pay homage?</p>	<p><b>3</b> Go out and look at the stars. Imagine traveling at night following a star.</p>	<p><b>4</b> What is the best gift you can think of?</p>	<p><b>5</b> Frankincense was one of the magi's gifts. Burn incense or a scented candle.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Talk about ways we can give gifts to Jesus.</p>	<p><b>7</b> What country celebrates the coming of the magi with a special pastry called <i>rosca de reyes</i>? </p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mexico.</p>
<p><b>8 Escape to Egypt</b> <b>Matthew 2:13-23</b> <i>God, you walked with Joseph and Mary to keep their son from harm. Be with us today.</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> Read Matthew 2:13-15. Why did they travel at night?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Sing, "All Night, All Day" as a reminder of the angels' role in keeping Jesus safe.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Tell about a dangerous journey or hike you have taken (or would like to take).</p>	<p><b>12</b> Jesus and his family were refugees seeking safety in another land. Search news or the Internet to find out about refugees today.</p>	<p><b>13</b> What is the safest place you can think of?</p>	<p><b>14</b> What is the largest refugee settlement in the world? </p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dadaab, Kenya, with refugees from Somalia.</p>
<p><b>15 Jesus is baptized, then tempted</b> <b>Matthew 3:13-4:11</b> <i>God, help us to choose actions of love and peace.</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> Read Matthew 3:16-17. What do you think the voice from heaven sounded like?</p>	<p><b>17</b> Jesus was alone in the wilderness. When have you been alone?</p>	<p><b>18</b> Jesus refused to turn stones into bread. Eat bread, thanking God for people who worked hard to make it.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Tell about one thing you did this week to follow God's way.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Jesus quoted many verses from the Bible. Tell a favorite Bible verse.</p>	<p><b>21</b> The dry Judean wilderness supports only small plants, no trees or underbrush. </p>
<p><b>22 Jesus calls disciples</b> <b>Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13; 10:2-16</b> <i>God of fishermen and tax collectors, thank you for choosing us, too.</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> Read Matthew 9:9-12. Why did Jesus call a tax collector to be a disciple?</p>	<p><b>24</b> What actions do you think of as righteous (good)? What actions do you think are wrong?</p>	<p><b>25</b> Jesus called fishermen who immediately left their boats. Take turns giving simple instructions. Other family members can then immediately do what is asked.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." When have you seen God's love close at hand?</p>	<p><b>27</b> Go outside. Say, "God's peace to this house" as you come back in.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Which of these animals did Jesus mention? Sheep, wolves, tigers, serpents, doves. </p> <p style="text-align: right;">All but tigers.</p>

# Talkabout Jesus, our Teacher

Gather 'Round Winter 2011–12 **Calendar** January 29–March 3, 2012



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29 Being salt and light</b> <b>Matthew 4:23–5:16</b> <i>God, our hands are ready to work for you. Our voices are ready to share good news.</i></p>	<p><b>30</b> Read Matthew 5:3–5. Read it again substituting the word <i>happy</i> for the word <i>blessed</i>.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Crowds followed Jesus because he healed sickness. Tell about a time of getting well after illness.</p>	<p><b>1</b> “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9). Name one way to be a peacemaker.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth.” Eat popcorn without salt; then add salt. Talk about the difference in taste.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Set a lighted candle near a window and briefly step outside. How far away did you see it shine?</p>	<p><b>4</b> What is the longest teaching of Jesus in the New Testament? </p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sermon on the Mount.</p>
<p><b>5 Giving, praying, fasting</b> <b>Matthew 6:1–18</b> <i>God, teach us to give and pray humbly. Teach us to love instead of being hard on others.</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> Read Matthew 6:5–6. Are there ways to pray humbly without “shutting the door”?</p>	<p><b>7</b> Walk across the room demonstrating a humble and quiet attitude; then show an “I’m better than other people” walk.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Have someone explain the practice of fasting.</p>	<p><b>9</b> We can give to people who don’t have enough. What can you give? To whom?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Repeat the Lord’s Prayer together each day at a specific time. (See Matthew 6:9–15 if needed.)</p>	<p><b>11</b> “Baba Yetu,” the theme song for the video game <i>Civilization IV</i>, is the Lord’s Prayer in Swahili. </p>
<p><b>12 Live truly</b> <b>Matthew 7:1–12</b> <i>God, you have promised that if we search we will find. We seek your wisdom.</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> Read Matthew 7:1–4. Why is it unwise to judge people?</p>	<p><b>14</b> Jesus talked about the good things parents do for their children. Tell what a family member gave or did for you recently.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Make a rap with the words of the golden rule. (See Matthew 7:12a.)</p>	<p><b>16</b> Read Matthew 7:4, then try removing a sticker from another person’s hand while wearing an oven mitt.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Who do you know who lives wisely?</p>	<p><b>18</b> One version of a Native American proverb says: Never criticize a man until you’ve walked a mile in his moccasins. </p>
<p><b>19 Jesus heals a servant</b> <b>Matthew 8:5–13</b> <i>God, hear our prayers. (Mention requests.) May the people we pray for feel your love.</i></p>	<p><b>20</b> Read Matthew 8:5–8. Why would the centurion think himself unworthy of Jesus’ visit?</p>	<p><b>21</b> Read aloud to appreciate the value of differences: <i>Swimmy</i> by Leo Lionni or <i>How My Parents Learned to Eat</i> by Ina Friedman.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Tell about a summer camp experience. Did you feel like an insider or an outsider?</p>	<p><b>23</b> Play an alternate version of musical chairs. Everyone fits into fewer and fewer chairs.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Do you know someone from another land? What have you learned from that person?</p>	<p><b>25</b> Centurions were commanders of one hundred soldiers in the Roman army. </p>
<p><b>26 Jesus walks on water</b> <b>Matthew 14:23–33</b> <i>God, be with us when we are in scary situations.</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> Read Matthew 14:26–27. Why did the disciples think Jesus was a ghost?</p>	<p><b>28</b> Draw a group picture of a stormy sea. Each person gets ten seconds to draw, and then the next person takes over.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Name some things you are afraid of or afraid to do.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Rub your hands together to make the sound of the wind or move your body as though you are in a great storm.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Share about a time you were in a storm.</p>	<p><b>3</b> What is another name for a sudden storm; often over a body of water? </p>