

Curtis Family

CHRISTMAS

TIME

DEVOTIONS



MEREDITH CRUTIS

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DECEMBER 16:



"In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'

Zechariah asked the angel 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.'

The angel answered, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he

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had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 'The Lord has done this form me,' she said, 'In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.'," (Luke 1:5-25 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- What disgrace did Elizabeth experience? (**Hint:** think about the culture!)
- What could John the Baptist be entrusted to Elizabeth and Zechariah?
- What great things would John do for God?
- What disgrace would you like the Lord to remove from your life?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Let's Act out what happened to Zechariah
- Did God do what the angel promised?

SING: O Come All Ye Faithful (C.C. pg.2), Joy to the World (C.C. pg.3), Jingle Bells (Wee Sing pg.10).

DECEMBER 17:



"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'

'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her," (Luke 1:26-38 NIV)

DISCUSSION

- How was Mary's reaction different from Zechariah's reaction?
- Contrast her question to the angel with Zechariah's question to the angel.

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- Why does the angel mention that Elizabeth, her relative, is going to have a baby?
- What difficult circumstances might lie ahead for Mary?
- Describe Mary's heart toward God and His will?
- What does it mean for us today that "nothing is impossible with God"?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What do you think angels look like?
- Would you be scared if you suddenly saw a big shiny angel?
- What did the angel promise Mary?

SING: Angels We Have Heard on High (C.C. pg. 10), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (C.C. pg.10), Away in the Manger (C.C. pg.12).

DECEMBER 18:



"At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!'" (Luke 1:39-45 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Why would Mary go visit Elizabeth?
- How would Mary be a blessing to Elizabeth? (Note: Elizabeth was in her sixth month when Gabriel appears, Mary travels and stays about 3 months.)
- How would Elizabeth be a help to Mary? (See Titus 2:3-5)
- Inside Elizabeth's womb, John is already filled with the Holy Spirit. Why does He leap when he hears the sound of Mary's greeting?
- Elizabeth is then filled with the Holy Spirit and prophecies. What does the prophetic word mean?
- Why does Elizabeth call Mary, "the mother of my Lord"?
- What can we see about the role of the Holy Spirit in relationship to Jesus?

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- How can we be more filled with the Holy Spirit?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Baby John in Elizabeth's tummy was happy to hear baby Jesus' mommy's voice. Why do you think he was so happy?

SING: Angels From the Realms of Glory (C.C. pg.13), What Child is This? (C.C. pg.9), It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (C.C. pg.7)

DECEMBER 19:



"And Mary said:

'My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home," (Luke 1:46-56 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Mary bursts out with praise to God! List the character traits she proclaims about the Lord.

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- List the things God does in the earth.
- What similar things have you seen God do in your lifetime in a personal, church, national, or international level?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Mary sings a song to God about things that make her happy. Let's make up a song for God too—about Christmas things that make us happy.

SING: O Holy Night (A.M.C.C. pg.10), Mary's Christmas Song, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (C.C. pg.11), Deck the Halls (C.C. pg.14).

DECEMBER 20:



"When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'

They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.' Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him," (Luke 1:57-66 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- What evidence is there that Elizabeth and Zechariah are obedient to God?
- How does God reward their obedience?
- Why is this situation the subject of everyone's gossip and conversations?
- What did people wonder and ask about John?
- What evidence is there that the Lord's hand is with you?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Why did Zechariah name the baby John?
- How can you obey God in your life?

SING: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (C.C. pg.15), O Christmas Tree (Wee Sing pg.9), Here We Come A Caroling (Wee Sing pg.6)

DECEMBER 21:



"His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

`Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us--

to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.'

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel" (Luke 1:67-80 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied over his son. What will John's role be in the nation of Israel?
- How can John prepare for his future ministry?
- How can you prepare for your future ministry?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Zechariah sang a song for his son, John about all the great things God would do for his country through John. Make up a song or poem about how God will use you to teach people about Jesus.

SING: Silent Night (C.C. pg.1), The First Noel (C.C. pg.6), The Little Drummer Boy (Wee Sing pg.32).



DECEMBER 22:

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us.'

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home to be his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus," (Matthew 1:18-25 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Why was Joseph going to divorce Mary?
- Why did he want to do it quietly?
- How did a dream change Joseph's mind?
- Joseph had to be obedient to God so that "a virgin will give birth to a son." Describe Joseph and his walk with God.
- Where in your life do you need to grow in being obedient to the Lord?

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- How will your obedience affect other people?
- How will your disobedience affect other people?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What did God tell Joseph to do?
- What things does the Lord tell us to do that can be difficult or confusing?

SING: Come On Ring Those Bells Angels We Have Heard on High (C.C. pg.10), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! (C.C. pg8)

DECEMBER 23:



"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," (Luke 2:1-7 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- A census. Taxes. Traveling. Poor accommodations. Inconvenient time to give birth. What lies from Satan could Mary have believed about her circumstances and God's care for her?
- How did the Lord use all these things to fulfill His prophetic words and grand purposes?
- Are there any situations in your life that can be looked at in a new way?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Do you like to travel?

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- What does your mommy pack when you travel?
- What do you think Joseph and Mary packed for their trip?
- How do you think they traveled?
- Would your mommy like to travel right before she is about to have a baby?

SING: O Little Town of Bethlehem (C.C. pg.5), Away in the Manger (C.C. pg.12),
O Holy Night (A.M.C.C. pg.10)

DECEMBER 24:



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made: without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known," (John 1:1-18 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Define Word.
- Define Light.
- Define Life.
- Define Witness
- Describe how Jesus is the Word, Light, and Life.
- How does one become a child of God?
- How does Jesus reveal God's glory to people?
- Think about word and actions in the life of Jesus. What do they reveal about God's nature?
- How can we be a witness to the light like John the Baptist?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How long has God been around?
- Jesus shows us all about God. What things do we know about God and what is He like?

SING: El Shadaai (I.V. pg.8), Joy to the World! (C.C.pg.3), Jesus Christ Has Come to Give us Liberty (I.V. pg.19), O Come All Ye Faithful (C.C. pg.2)

CELEBRATE: Traveling Dinner. We travel somewhere and eat dinner because Joseph and Mary were traveling Christmas Eve. Ideas for traveling—beach, parks, or someone's house. For more help with this tradition, purchase *Celebrate Christmas with a Traveling Dinner* at [Currclick](#) or [The Old Schoolhouse Store](#).



DECEMBER 25:



Open in prayer thanking Jesus and telling Him that we are here to worship Him!!

SING: Hark the Herald Angels Sing! (pg.8)

READ: "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David," (Luke 2:1-4 NIV).

SING: O Come All Ye Faithful (pg.2)

READ: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there the time came for the baby to be born," (Luke 2:5-6 NIV).

SING: O Little Town of Bethlehem (pg.5)

READ: "and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," (Luke 2:7 NIV).

SING: Away in the Manger (pg. 12)

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READ: "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night," (Luke 2:8 NIV).

SING: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night (pg.11)

READ: "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, `Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger," (Luke 2:9-12).

SING: Angels We Have Heard on High (pg. 10)

READ: "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, `Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests,'" (Luke 2:13-14 NIV).

SING: It Came upon a Midnight Clear (pg.7)

READ: "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, `Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger," (Luke 2:15-16 NIV).

SING: The First Noel (pg.6)

READ: "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," (Luke 2:17-19 NIV).

SING: Angels From the Realms of Glory (pg.13)

READ: "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told," (Luke 2:20 NIV).

SING: Joy to the World! (pg. 3)

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

SING: *Come on Ring Those Bells* (by Andrew Culverwell)

Everybody likes to take a holiday

Everybody likes to take a rest,

Spending time together with the family,

Sharing lots of love and happiness

Come on ring those bells!

Light the Christmas tree.

Jesus is the King, born for you and me.

Come on ring those bells!

Everybody say: "Jesus, we remember this, your birthday!"

Celebrations come because of something good,

Celebrations we love to recall.

Mary had a baby boy in Bethlehem,

The greatest celebration of them all!

SING: Happy Birthday and blow out candles in cinnamon rolls or cake.

PRAY: Thank God for His gift of Jesus and wish Him a Happy Birthday!

CELEBRATE: Eat breakfast. Pass out presents, open them, and pray to thank Jesus afterwards.

DECEMBER 26:



"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told," (Luke 2:8-10).

DISCUSSION

- What peace does Jesus bring? (see Ephesians 2:14-22)
- Is the angels' news report confirmed by what the shepherds see?

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

- What word do the shepherds spread?
- What are the people's response to their words?
- How can we imitate the shepherds?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- The shepherds hurried to see Jesus and then go tell everyone all about Him. Who can we talk to about Jesus?

SING: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (C.C. pg.11), Go Tell it on the Mountain (Wee Sing pg. 40), Angels From the Realms of Glory (C.C. pg.13).



DECEMBER 27:

"On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord) , and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons.' {Lev. 12:8}" (Luke 2:21-24 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- The sacrifice made reveals that Mary and Joseph were poor. Why does God entrust His Son to parents who are poor, rather than wealthy?
- What qualities do you see in Mary and Joseph throughout Scripture that are worth imitating?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus to the Lord. Look at pictures of when you were dedicated to the Lord. What things do your mommy and daddy do to help you know Jesus?

SING: Joy to the World! (C.C. pg.3), Silent Night (C.C. pg.1), The First Noel (C.C. pg.6).

DECEMBER 28:



"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too,’ " (Luke 2:25-35 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Why did a meeting with Jesus and his parents make Simeon ready to die?
- How has Simeon’s prophecy been fulfilled throughout the last 2000 years:
“Jesus will cause the falling and rising of many in Israel” “Jesus
will be a sign that will be spoken against” “Because of
Jesus, the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed” “A sword will
pierce Mary’s soul too”

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YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How did Simeon know that Jesus is a special baby?
- What makes you special to God and to your parents?

SING: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (C.C. pg.15), The Little Drummer Boy (Wee Sing pg.32), Away in the Manger (C.C. pg.12).



DECEMBER 29:

"There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him," (Luke 2:36-40 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- How many years was Anna a widow?
- What 3 things occupied her time?
- How did God use prophets/intercessors like Anna and Simeon in Jesus' life and ministry?
- How can God use you in the areas of fasting, prayer, and worship?

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YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- What did Anna do all day?
- Spend time praying for the people in your life.

SING: Angels We Have Heard on High (C.C. pg.10), What Child is This? (C.C. pg.9), The Twelve Days of Christmas (Wee Sing pg.12).

DECEMBER 30:



"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." '

Then Herod called the magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route," (Matthew 2:1-12)

DISCUSSION

- How did the wise men know about Jesus?

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- Why did everyone want to worship this baby?
- How did the magi find Jesus in the end and what did they do?
- How did God speak to them and thwart Herod's plan?
- How does God speak to you and give you direction?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- How was Herod acting mean and sneaky?
- How did God take care of Jesus?
- How does God protect you?

SING: We Three Kings of Orient Are (C.C. pg.4), Joy to the World! (C.C. pg.3), Here We Come A Caroling (Wee Sing pg.6).

DECEMBER 31:



"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.' "

--Matthew 2:13-18

DISCUSSION

- Why does Joseph leave for Egypt at night?
- What vicious plot does Herod enact?
- How is this similar to Moses' birth? And abortion today?
- God kept Jesus safe. When has God kept you safe from evil plots and circumstances? Thank Him!

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Jesus traveled to another country with his parents until the bad king was dead. What other country would be fun to live in?

SING: O Holy Night (A.M.C.C. pg.10), Deck the Halls (C.C. pg.14), Angels From the Realms of Glory (C.C.pg.13).

CELEBRATE: Hang out, have fun, play games, laugh, joke! Bring in the New Year with worship and communion.



JANUARY 1:

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: 'He will be called a Nazarene,' " (Matthew 2:19-23 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- God speaks to Joseph at least 4 times through dreams. What is Joseph's response each time?
- God leads the family to the right place by putting a bad ruler in wrong place. When has God led you through circumstances, negative or positive?

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

- Jesus moved again! What is it like to move to another home?
- Do you think Jesus liked traveling and moving?

SING: Good King Wenceslas (A.M.C.C. pg14), Away in the Manger (C.C. pg.12), O Come All Ye Faithful (C.C. pg.2).



JANUARY 2:

"Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

'Why were you searching for me?' He asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men," (Luke 2:41-52 NIV).

DISCUSSION

- Why was Jesus' understanding of the Law so amazing?
- Jesus was already beginning His practice of asking questions. What questions do you think He asked the teachers in the temple?
- Why is discussing the Word of God so valuable?
- What 4 areas did the child, Jesus, grow up in?

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

YOUNG CHILDREN DISCUSSION

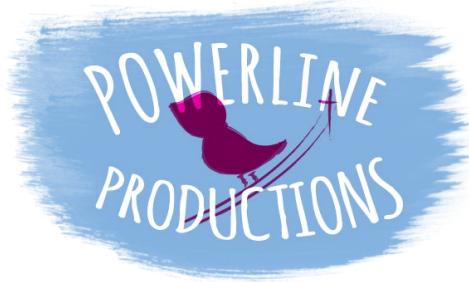
- What was Jesus talking about to the teachers?
- Why did Jesus know more than they did?
- Jesus went home with His parents and was obedient to them. How can you be obedient to your parents?

SING: Joy to the World! (C.C. pg.3), He's Everything to Me (I.V. pg.12), I am the Light of the World (I.V. pg.15).

MEREDITH CRUTIS

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Powerline Productions



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Raising World Changers!**

Powerline Productions exists to serve you! We want you to grow in your relationship with Jesus, experience joy and success in your homeschooling journey, and fulfill the Great Commission with your family in your home, church, and community. We offer Homeschooling books, unit studies, classes, high school curriculum, ladies Bible studies, God's Girls Bible studies, Real Men Bible studies, audios, and cookbooks just for you!

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Powerline Productions
251 Brightview Drive Lake Mary, FL 32746

Celebrate! Series

God created us to enjoy Him and celebrate the good things He has done for us! These celebrations are “holy days” or holidays! They are special days set apart to remember God, who He is, and what He has done for us!

Though the world tries to secularize holy days to keep our eyes off of Jesus, we can celebrate with our families in a way that draws us all closer to God! We don’t have to walk in the ways of the world, but can transform each and every holiday so that it is pleasing and honoring to God!

How, What, and Why to Celebrate!

God, Himself, instituted holy days and celebrations in the Old Testament to His people as they moved out of slavery into the Promised Land. Here is a list of the celebrations of the Jewish people.

- Shabbat/Sabbath (seventh day of each week—day of rest)
- Purim (Adar—Esther saved her people!)
- Passover/Pesach (Nisan for one day—Passover in Exodus)
- Feast of Unleavened Bread/Hag HaMatzah (Nisan for seven days—eating unleavened bread, like Israelites did on the way to the Promised Land)
- Feast of First Fruits/Yom HaBikkurim (Nisan—offerings)
- Feast of Weeks/Feast of Harvest/Pentecost/Shavuot (Sivan—Thankful for Harvest, offerings)
- Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (Tishri—blowing trumpets, offerings)
- Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur (Tishri—fasting, repentance)

Feast of Tabernacles/Feast of Booths/Feast of Ingathering (Tishri seven days—camping!)

The early church began to celebrate its own set of holidays and feast days to remember the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church also began to celebrate Christian heroes who had made an impact on other believers with their life and ministry. These are called “saints days.” Here is a list of the church year celebrations.

- Advent (December—four weeks before Christmas)
- Christmas (December 25 Birth of Jesus)
- Candlemas (January 2—Presentation of Jesus at the temple)
- Epiphany (January 5—Wise Men)
- Christmastide (Sunday after Epiphany—Jesus’ baptism)

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

- Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent—reminder that we are “ashes to ashes; dust to dust”)
- Lent (40 Days before Easter –Christ fasting in the wilderness)
- Holy Week: Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter—Jesus triumphal procession into Jerusalem)
- Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (Thursday before Easter—foot washing)
- Holy Week: Good Friday (Friday before Easter—Jesus’ death on the cross)
- Easter/Resurrection Day (spring date set according to Jewish Passover—Jesus Resurrection from the dead!)
- Pentecost
- All Saints Day (November 1—celebrating the saints!)

We can celebrate holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions with our own family traditions, giving us a unique identity as a family. Family traditions provide happy memories and security for our children, but they also give us an opportunity to instill values in our children’s hearts and lives. As we cast aside empty traditions and patterns of the world, we can embrace holy and joyful celebrations of God’s goodness to us.

Here is a list of holidays that we celebrate in our house.

- New Year’s Day
- St. Valentine’s Day
- Palm Sunday
- Last Supper during Holy Week
- Good Friday
- Resurrection Day
- Mother’s Day
- Father’s Day
- Fourth of July
- Reformation Day or All Saints’ Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Graduations
- Weddings

For each holiday, there is something to celebrate, values to instill, and traditions to try in your home. As you pray and seek God, He will show you creative ideas that will work for your family and home! Happy Celebrating!

Here are some titles in the Celebrate! Series:

MEREDITH CRUTIS

Celebrate Christmas
Celebrate Easter
Celebrate Thanksgiving
Celebrate our Christian Heroes
Celebrate Christmas in Colonial America! Unit Study
Celebrate Christmas with Cookies Unit Study
Celebrate Christmas with Anne of Green Gables Unit Study

Here are two one-credit God's Girls high school courses that cover the topic:

God's Girls 105: Homemaking
God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations

And...a Bible study workbook that covers this topic also:

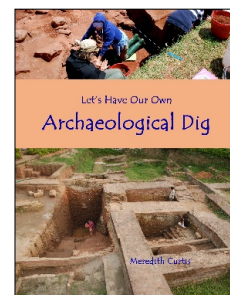
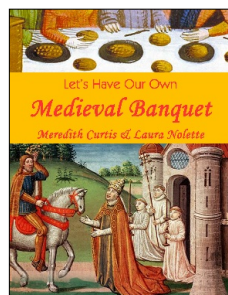
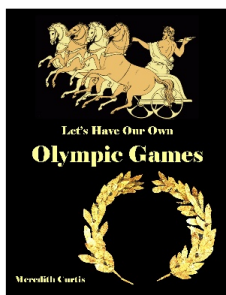
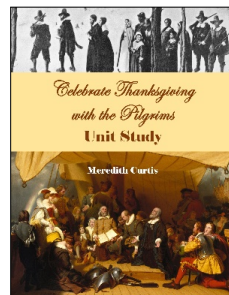
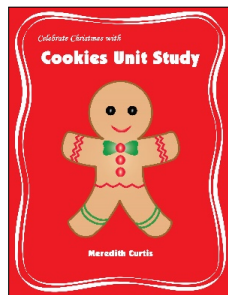
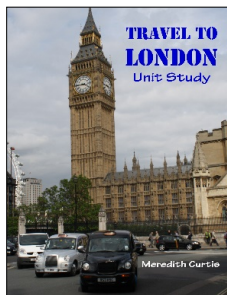
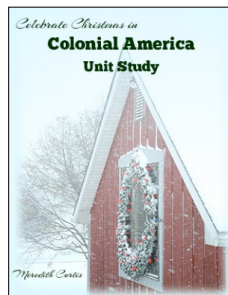
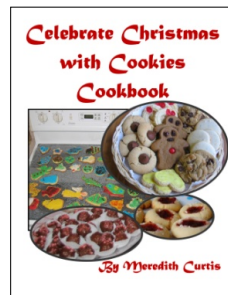
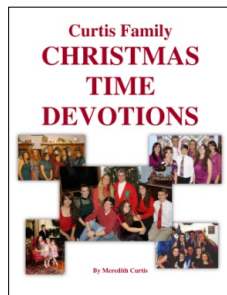
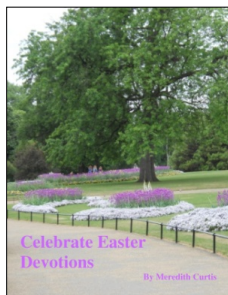
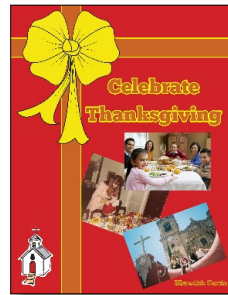
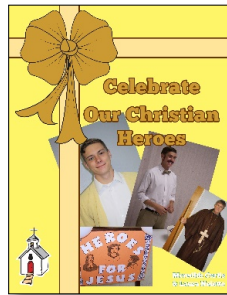
Jesus, Fill my Heart and Home: Making Yourselves at Home in the Presence of God and Bringing His Presence into our Homes

God Bless you as you celebrate.

Meredith Ludwig Curtis

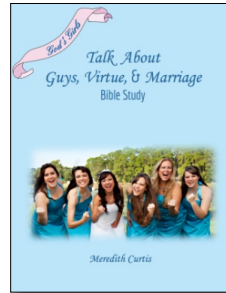
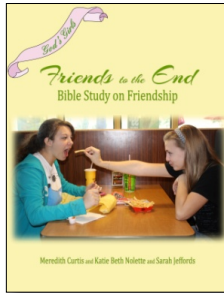
CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Books from Powerline Productions

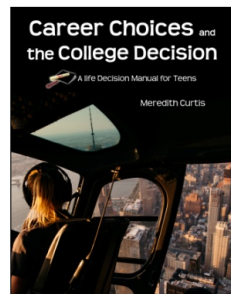
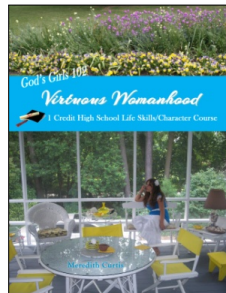


MEREDITH CRUTIS

God's Girls Bible Studies



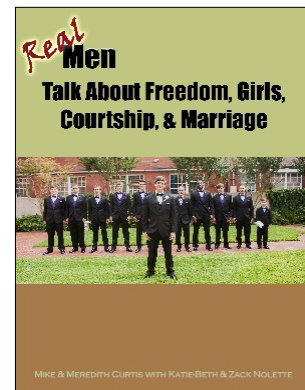
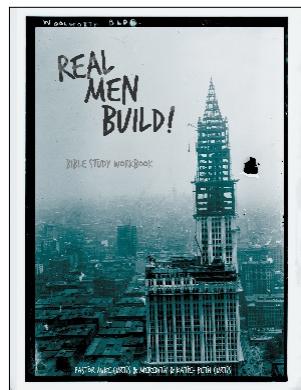
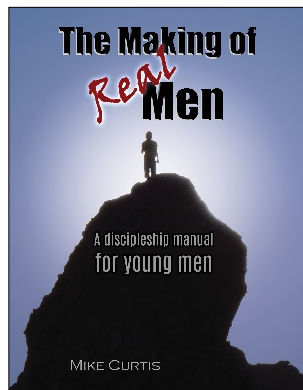
God's Girls Classes



CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Real Men Discipleship Manuals

God calls fathers to impart life to their sons, passing the baton in the race of faith. These Bible studies were created for fathers (or mentors) to go through this material with their sons. Pastor Mike Curtis used these materials to mentor his own son and other young men in the church. These manuals cover tough issues that fathers and sons need to talk about and live out in their lives.

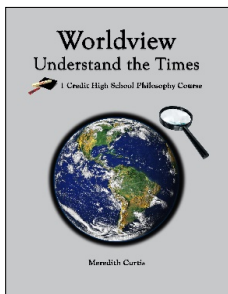
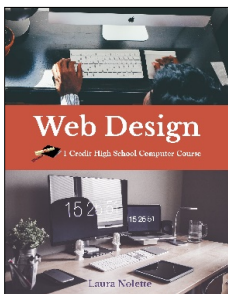
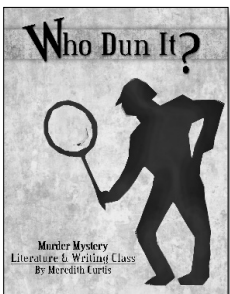
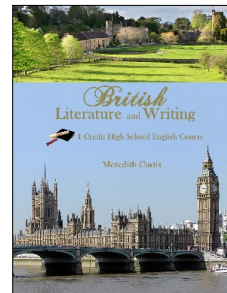
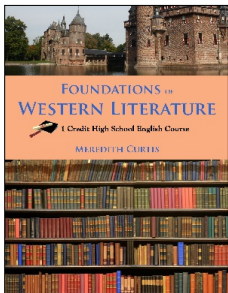
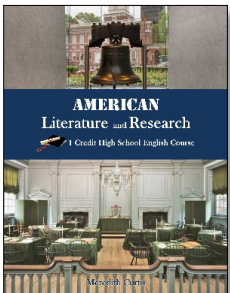
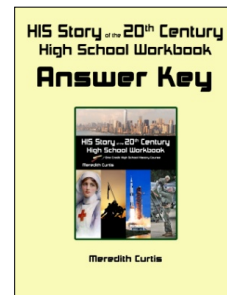
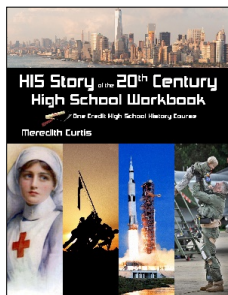
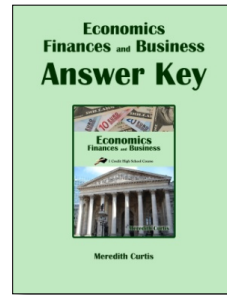
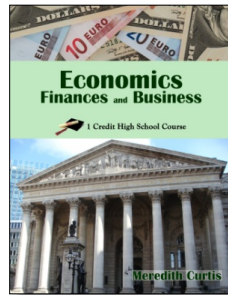
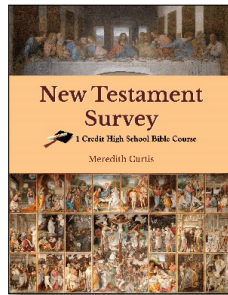
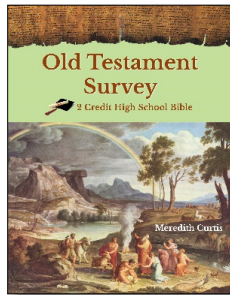


Real Men Classes

Do you want to prepare your sons to become godly husbands, fathers, church leaders, and pillars in their communities? These one-credit high school life skills classes build character and prepare young men for the future. Using living books, Scripture, and practical assignments, young men will learn to become the man God has called them to be.



High School Classes

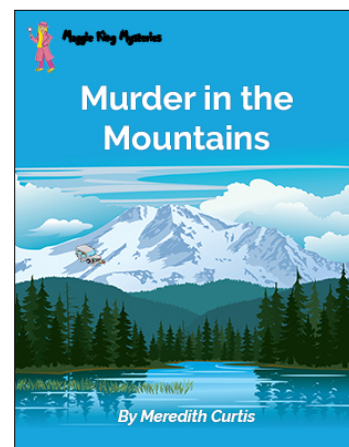
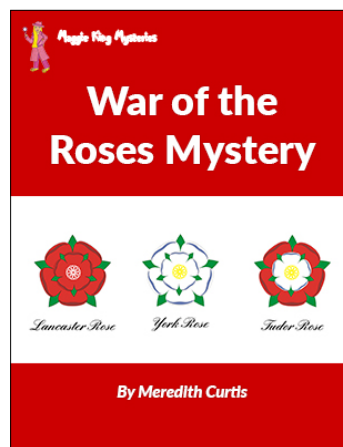
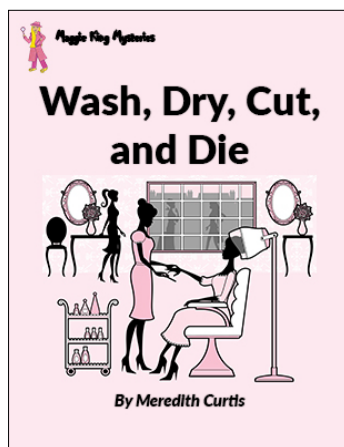
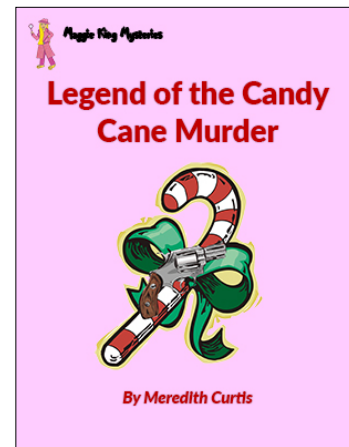
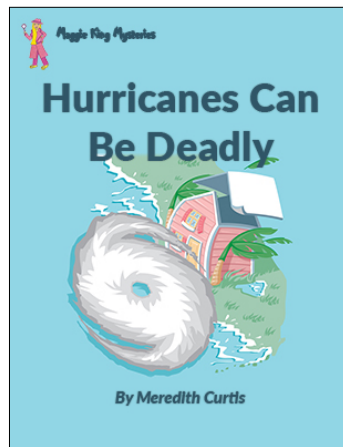
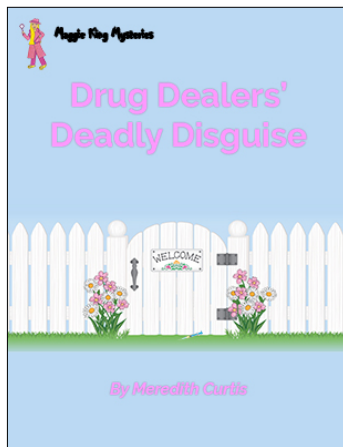


CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS



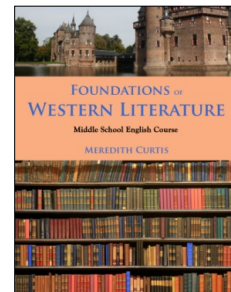
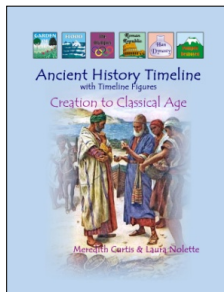
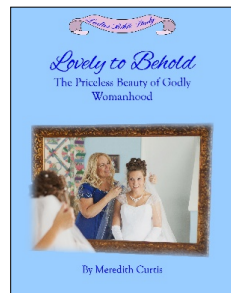
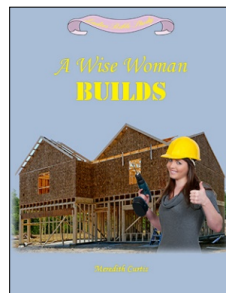
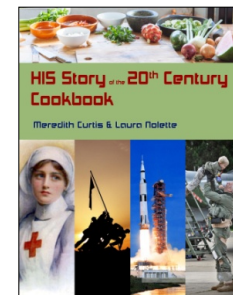
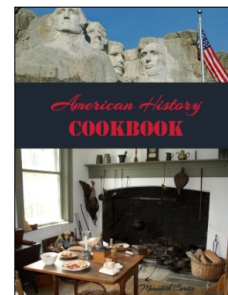
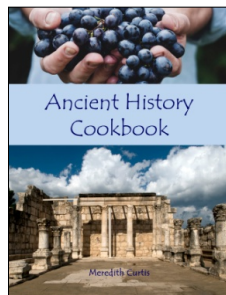
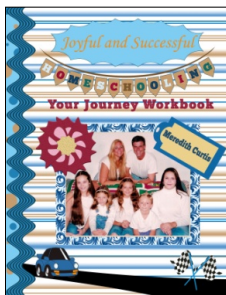
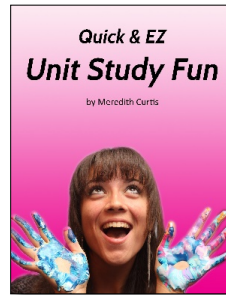
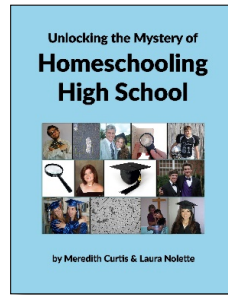
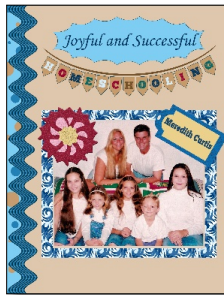
Maggie King Mysteries

If you like cozy mysteries, you will love this series! Meet Maggie King, a pastor's wife and homeschool mom who keeps stumbling across dead bodies. With her sidekicks, Sophia and Mary-Kate and her curious children, Maggie is on one adventure after another.



MEREDITH CRUTIS

More Books from Powerline Productions



About the Author



Meredith Curtis, a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom of five children, leads worship, mentors ladies, and, sometimes, even cooks dinner. Her passion is to equip people to love Jesus, raise godly children, and change the world around them with the power of the Gospel. "Lives are changed in the context of relationships," Meredith often says, as well as, "Be a world changer! Raise world changers!" She enjoys speaking to small and large groups. All inquiries can be made to the author, Meredith Curtis, through email:

Meredith@powerlinecc.com or contact her through her websites:

powerlineprod.com/

meredithcurtis.com/

finishwellcon.com/

joyfulandsuccessfulhomeschooling.com/

Meredith is the author of several books.

Joyful and Successful Homeschooling

Seven R's of Homeschooling

Quick & EZ Unit Study Fun

Unlocking the Mysteries of Homeschooling High School (with Laura Nolette)

Celebrate Thanksgiving

Celebrate Our Christian Heroes

HIS Story of the 20th Century

Meredith is the author of several cozy mysteries: The Maggie King Mysteries series.

Drug Dealers Deadly Disguise

Hurricanes Can Be Deadly

Legend of the Candy Cane Murder

Wash, Dry, Cut, & Die

War of the Roses Mystery

Murder in the Mountains

Meredith is the author of several Bible studies.

Lovely to Behold

A Wise Woman Builds

Jesus, Fill My Heart & Home

Welcome Inn: Practicing the Art of Hospitality in Jesus' Name

Friends to the End

God's Girls Beauty Secrets (with Sarah Jeffords)

God's Girls Friends to the End (with Katie-Beth Nolette & Sarah Jeffords)

God's Girls Talk about Boys, Dating, Courtship, & Marriage

Meredith is the author of several unit studies, timelines, and cookbooks.

MEREDITH CRUTIS

Travel God's World Geography
Celebrate Christmas in Colonial America
Celebrate Christmas with Cookies
Travel to London
Celebrate Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims
American History Cookbook
Ancient History Cookbook
20th Century Cookbook (with Laura Nolette)
20th Century Timeline (with Laura Nolette)
HIS Story of the 20th Century High School Workbook
HIS Story of the 20th Century Middle School Workbook
HIS Story of the 20th Century High School & Middle School Workbook Answer Keys
American History Timeline (with Laura Nolette)
Ancient History Timeline (with Laura Nolette)

Meredith is the author of several “History should be Fun!” books.

Let's Have Our Own Medieval Banquet
Let's Have Our Own Archaeological Dig
Let's Have Our Own Ancient Greek Olympic Games
Let's Have Our Own Passover Feast

Meredith is the author of several high school courses.

American Literature and Research
British Literature and Writing
Who Dun It: Murder Mystery Literature & Writing
Communication 101: Essays and Speeches
Foundations of Western Literature
Economics, Finances, and Business
Economics, Finances, and Business Answer Key
Worldview 101: Understand the Times
New Testament Survey
Old Testament Survey
Great Commission
Real Men 101: Godly Manhood
Real Men 102: Freedom, Courtship, Marriage, & Family
Real Men 103: Leadership
Real Men 104: Pass the Torch
God's Girls 101: Grow in Christ
God's Girls 102: Virtuous Womanhood
God's Girls 103: Courtship, Marriage, & The Christian Family
God's Girls 104: Motherhood
God's Girls 105: Homemaking
God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations
God's Girls 107: How-To-Homeschool

CURTIS FAMILY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS

Here are the devotions we use every Christmas in our home! We hope that you will enjoy them too. God bless you & Merry Christmas!



Meredith Curtis is a pastor's wife and homeschooling mother of five wonderful children. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 1984 with a BS degree in Nursing, worked as a RN for two years, and has been a homemaker since the birth of her first child in 1986. Currently she is leading worship and mentoring ladies at Powerline Church. She is the author of Joyful and Successful Homeschooling, and several other books, unit studies, high school classes, Ladies & God's Girls Bible Study Workbooks! God, in His kindness, has given her a joyful home, good friends and children who love Jesus! As much as she enjoys ministry and all her blessings, her delight is spending time in the Presence of her first love, Jesus!



Meredith's websites & blogs:

[.meredithcurtis.com/](http://meredithcurtis.com/)
joyfulandsuccessfulhomeschooling.com/
finishwellcon.com/

powerlineprod.com/