

A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!



The goal of this activity is to bring Jesus' birth to the heart of your home on Christmas Eve.

You Will Need

- › Empty cardboard boxes and a white sheet
- › A nativity scene (you can use the manger from the Sacrifice Activity)
- › Old Christmas cards
- › Party decorations
- › Cake mix and frosting
- › Blank paper and markers
- › Cardboard and/or foil for crowns

How to Prepare

On the first Sunday of Advent, set up your manger scene:

- › Set up your manger scene in the spot near where your Christmas tree will be.
- › Take empty cardboard boxes and stack them to look like a mountain or steps leading up to the manger. Cover them with a white sheet. You may want to display the three kings on their way up the mountain.
- › Don't place Jesus in the manger.

During the second week of Advent:

- › Purchase small nativity figurines to be placed on the cake. These can be found at craft or cake decorating stores.
- › Make invitations out of construction paper and decorate them with pictures of the Holy Family cut from old Christmas cards.
- › Have your children send these invitations to their godparents, family, and friends.

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On the morning of December 24, prepare for the party:

- › The children help bake and decorate a cake. Set up the nativity scene on top.
- › Decorate the house as you would for other birthday parties. For example, put up balloons, happy birthday vinyl cling stickers, and crepe-paper streamers.
- › Have the party on the afternoon of Christmas Eve.

The Party

- › As people arrive, give them a sheet of paper to write 1) what they've brought as a present to Jesus, and 2) what they're especially thankful to Jesus for giving them this Christmas.
- › They may also draw a symbol for their present to Jesus, such as: an open heart, a peaceful spirit, a song (they may want to sing), or anything else they wish to share.
- › Make homemade crowns with construction paper or foil to represent that we are children of the King.
- › Sing *Silent Night* as the children lead a procession through the house to your manger, carrying the baby Jesus and your gifts to Him. This would be a great time to invite any children who play an instrument to play an accompaniment.
- › One by one, bring your gifts to Jesus and lay them in the manger.
- › Turn on the Christmas tree lights and celebrate the Light of the World having come into our lives, our hearts, and our home!