

Joy To The World

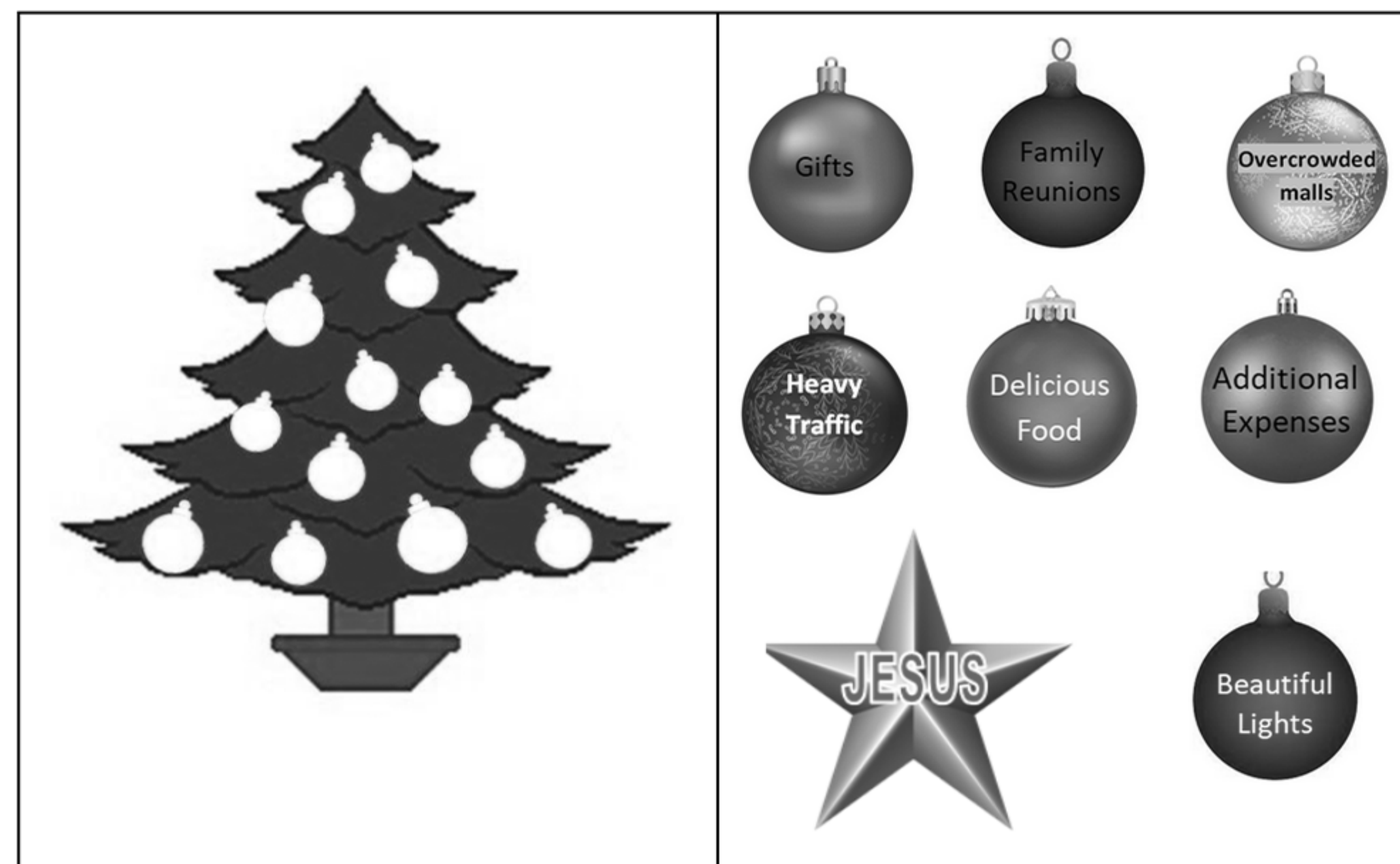


Connect

Let's Decorate the Christmas Tree!

We have here a "bare" Christmas tree. Plain and not yet decorated. On the right side we have colorful decors that we can use to bring life to our Christmas tree. These decors represent the different things that we can associate with Christmas. Some are the things that we like and some we don't. Now, choose which decors you would want to hang on the Christmas tree to transform it into a beautiful and colorful one. Color the white Christmas balls on the tree based on the color of the item you have chosen from the right box. (If you are doing this devotional online, just draw a tree on a piece of paper and use your creativity!)

Like how we made the choice in decorating the Christmas tree, we also have to choose what would matter to us this Christmas season. Surely, there are so many things that would draw our attention and might distract us from choosing the valuable ones. It is up to us if we will dwell on those "negative" things, or we will focus on what is the most important in our life - Jesus. He is the real reason for the Christmas season. Having Him alone is more than enough for us to have a joyful Christmas.



Read the Word

A very popular Christmas carol, "Joy To The World" speaks of the posture we all can have because Jesus, our Savior and King is born! Let's prepare our hearts and receive Him! In Luke 2:25-32, let's see how a man who had eagerly anticipated Jesus' birth received Him.

Luke 2:25-32 (ESV)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Before the birth of Jesus, the Jews were waiting for the birth of the Savior. Simon, a devout man of God was also waiting for it and he had a promise from the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Savior. The day he saw the child Jesus in the temple, Simon was all praise to God, finally receiving the gift that he had been promised.

Today, there are a lot of reasons why we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas. Some are excited about getting together with family and friends, others love to put up Christmas trees and dress up the home with Christmas ornaments. There are also some who anticipate receiving gifts and presents during this season. Regardless of our reasons, let us not forget that without Jesus' birth, there would be no Christmas. Truly, He is the reason for the season.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- What is the most unforgettable gift you received on Christmas?
- What made it so unforgettable?

7-12 years old

- What makes you excited about Christmas?
- Is there one gift that you have been wanting to receive this Christmas? What is it?
- What do you think has been the most important gift you have ever received for Christmas?

Kid to Parent

- What is one thing that we should never miss during Christmas? Why?

There could be a long list of these reasons but may we never miss the most precious gift that we could ever receive - JESUS.



Dear God, thank You for giving us Your only beloved son, Jesus Christ. We pray that You help us be reminded of the real essence of Christmas and not be distracted by so many things happening around us. We may not receive what we have in our wishlist for Christmas, still we are grateful that we have the best gift we can ever receive and that is Jesus. May everyone, no matter what their situation is, have a joyful Christmas as they receive Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of their lives. In Jesus' name, amen!



Do you want to know some secrets to help you become content?

- It is something you can learn. And today is the best day to start learning about it!
- It is about what's inside of you, not outside. This means that it is not about what you have but about what's in your heart.
- It has only one source - God!
- It can come easier when you have a grateful heart always.