

THE BOLDNESS NEWSLETTER

"THE WICKED RUN AWAY WHEN NO ONE IS CHASING THEM, BUT THE GODLY ARE AS BOLD AS LIONS."
PROVERBS 28:1



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7

DECEMBER 2023 | LODI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

PRESENCE OVER PRESENTS

PERSPECTIVE BY
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Vinewood Church
Associate Pastor

The main reason we celebrate Christmas is Christ. I bet most of you would believe that statement to be true, but my question is whether or not we live that out in our celebration of Christmas in our lives? This year my hope is you would find more joy in the presence of Jesus instead of the presents of Christmas.

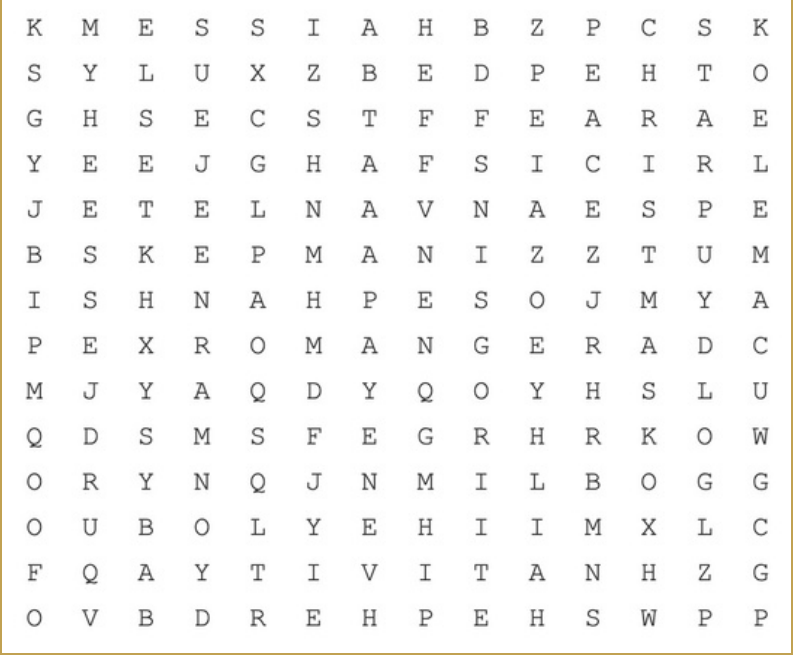
As a young boy, I always remember Christmas Eve as a very exciting time in our home. If we were lucky we would get to open one gift from under the tree after we attended Christmas Eve service, but I still went to bed with the anticipation of what would be under the tree the next morning. I cannot tell you most of the gifts I received each year but I will always recall the feeling of joy waking up each Christmas. The value for Christmas became presents and the presence of Jesus was a secondary thought. Fast forward to becoming a lead pastor and planning for Advent each week. Christmas became a job to play the right songs, read the appropriate verses or light the candles in the proper order. Even the church can forget to focus on the presence of Jesus and get caught up in how the world thinks we should celebrate.

How do we keep our focus on Jesus when we have concerts to attend (even at church), family dinners, Christmas programs, and the pressure to buy gifts for our family and friends? Find time for worship! Christmas traditions are amazing when we remember who we are celebrating. In Luke chapter 2, the first event is the angels coming to Mary "praising God." The angels had not even told her the good news and they were already worshipping. This Christmas, take time to worship Jesus first. Here are a few ways: read the story of Jesus' birth together, go caroling in your neighborhood to show others there is joy at Christmas, or ask your church how you can bless a family in need this Christmas. There are so many ways to worship at Christmas, find your "jam" and celebrate His presence.

There is a great example for us to sit in His presence found in Luke 10:38, when Jesus went to Mary and Martha's. Martha is running around worrying about the details of having guests in her home, but forgets to make sure to spend time with Jesus. Meanwhile, Mary, her sister, is sitting peacefully at the feet of Jesus, soaking in His presence. Martha eventually complains about it to Jesus. His response is our reminder for Christmas, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it...[it's ME.]" This year "discover" the joy of sitting in Jesus' presence without distractions.



NATIVITY WORD SEARCH



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|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ANGEL | BABY | BETHLEHEM |
| CAMEL | CHRISTMAS | DONKEY |
| GLORY | HAY | INN |
| JESUS | JOSEPH | MESSIAH |
| MANGER | MARY | SAVIOR |
| NATIVITY | PEACE | STAR |
| SHEEP | SHEPHERD | GOLD |

Roary's Corner

Dear Roary: Do you have any tips to teach my child how to be more grateful during the holiday season?

As the holidays are now upon us and we are busy with the hustle and bustle of decorating, shopping, parties, and family, we often forget about not only the true reason for **Christmas**, but also gratitude. Have you ever looked around and thought or even said to your child that they are spoiled or ungrateful for what they have? The question here is how do we teach them how to be more grateful? At our last parent fellowship night, Michele Silva with the 180 spoke on the subject and had some great insight. Here are her tips for teaching gratitude:

- Set an example - You are your child's greatest example
- Point out generosity
- Have a talk - What do we notice? What do we think about it? How do we feel?
- Share the love
- Put things in perspective
- Let kids choose
- Get involved - chores, volunteer, donate
- Make gratitude a daily routine
- Give kids credit

Studies show that grateful children tend to be happier, have better relationships, are more engaged with hobbies and schoolwork, and report greater satisfaction in general. Let's start this trend of gratitude this **Christmas** season. My hope is that it will continue into the new year and that the light of gratitude will be spread to others.

Merry Christmas, 🐾 Roary

How many times is the word Christmas mentioned in this newsletter? Email your answer to TheBoldness@lodichristianschool.org for a chance to win a gift card for your family.

PARENT FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

January 16th @ 6:15pm
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Renton Rathbun
 Dr. Rathbun is with BJU Press who supplies our curriculum for LCS. Please come see why Christian education is so important!
 Childcare is free for all ages.



Laughter is good medicine

Q: What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
 A. It's Christmas, Eve

Q: What do snowmen like most about school?
 A. Snow on Tell

Roary's Resources



Family Advent: Advent Blocks Traditions set- The King is Coming



Parenting Course: "Advent and Your Family" From Axis.org - Connecting Parents, Teens, & Jesus in a Disconnected world.

SCRIPTURE ON TRAINING AND TRADITIONS:

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him, Then they opened their treasure chest and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2:10-11

"And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35