

—Yay-Sa-Doe—  
**Iesodo**<sup>®</sup>

-The Way of Jesus-

JOY

*Family Discussion Guide*



# JOY

## *Celebrate the birth of Jesus*

### *A Note to Parents*

Can you feel the excitement? Can you sense the anticipation? Long before December 25th, children spend hours preparing wish lists that they hope will transform dreams into reality. Often, parents spend even more time stressing over ways to achieve “the perfect Christmas.” But the glittering kaleidoscope of the holiday can draw attention away from the real reason for the celebration.

Refocusing children’s attention on the birth of Jesus can be as simple as explaining, “We string lights on our Christmas tree to help us remember that Jesus was born to be the Light of the world.” Or, when your child belts out the first line to “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” casually mention, “That crowded little town was where Jesus was born.” Celebrating Christian traditions, like serving a Jesus birthday cake for dessert, places the emphasis on the birth of the Christ Child. For when we reflect on God’s blessed Son, our hearts overflow with the unspeakable **JOY** that comes from sharing the love of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.





## Let's Get Started

### INTRODUCTION

In "JOY," Rocky shares a gift from his heart -- the story about God's gift to the world. Spending time as a family to discuss this retelling of the first Christmas is a great way to help loved ones experience the wonder of the nativity story.

### THE STORY

Excitement is in the air as the flock prepares to celebrate lesodo's birthday. But when Craig's Official "Announce-clamation" cancels all parties, the flock gathers around Rocky, who shares his gift of telling the story of the first Christmas. Emperor Gus arrives in time to overrule Craig's decree and the flock begins a joy-filled celebration. "Happy birthday, lesodo!"

### WATCH THE DVD "JOY" AS A FAMILY

**While you're watching, how many doves can you count?**

**EXPLORE THE MEANING:**

**#1. In a popular Old Testament Story, Noah uses a specific kind of bird to bring him a message about the flood. What kind of bird was this? (Genesis 8:8-12)**

.....  
This bird symbolized to Noah that God keeps His promises. What else does a dove with an olive branch symbolize?  
.....

.....  
Read Luke 2:13-14. Why is peace something God wants to give us? What is the greatest gift.....  
God has given us that also brings us peace?  
.....

**#2. Maggie sings that she will give lesodo a “gift from my heart.”**

**What does that mean?**

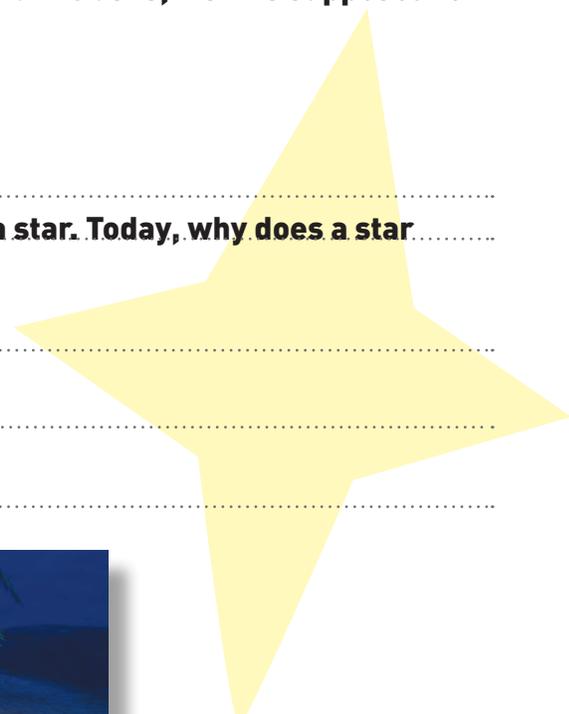
.....  
What gift could you give someone from your heart?  
.....

**#3 When Raven enters Rocky’s story, Tom is so confused that he asks, “Is this supposed to be a happy story or a sad one?”**

.....  
Why do you think Tom asked that question?  
.....

**#4 In this animated special, the three wise owls followed a star. Today, why does a star.....  
make a good Christmas-tree topper?**

.....  
What else could you use at the top of a tree?  
.....  
.....



EXPLORE THE MEANING:



**#5. Why didn't the wise owls trust King Harold?**

**#6. Molly sings of the dreams she has for her baby. Ask family members how they prepared for your birth.**

**#7. Maggie admired Molly for her bravery. There are many people who showed courage during the birth of Jesus. Read these verses and describe why each of these people were brave:**

Mary (Luke 1:26-38) .....

Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25) .....

Shepherds (Luke 2:8-17) .....

The Wise Men (Matthew 2:7-12) .....

Share a time when you have been brave. ....

Is there something that scares you? .....

Why can you be courageous in spite of your fear? .....

**#8. The name lesodo means "the way of Jesus." Why is that an appropriate name for him?**





## Connect to the Story

Select one or two activities to do together as a family.

1. At the beginning of this animated special, the flock is preparing for lesodo's party. Some of their decorations link to legends, which relate to the birth of Jesus or represent Christian truths. For example, Maggie's ever-green boughs remind us of trees that live through the harshest winters, just as we depend on our faith in Jesus to get us through difficult times. The red berries reflect the blood Jesus shed on the cross. Barry's fruits represent the twelve Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Search online to discover the story and history behind the decorations in your house.
2. We read in the Bible, that Jesus came into this world as a baby, just like everyone else (Galatians 4:4). Pantomime – show without using words – something Jesus (or you!) probably did as a baby.
3. The bright lights of Christmas remind us that Jesus called himself the Light of the World (John 8:12). In a darkened room, read Luke 2:1-20, asking each person to read one verse with a flashlight before passing the light and Bible to the next person.
4. In this animated special, the flock celebrates lesodo's birthday by singing their own version of "Happy Birthday." Hum your favorite Christmas music and see if others can guess the song.
5. The characters experience moments of joy not only at the end of the story but also throughout this video. Before you watch the movie again, grab some bells. Then shake the bells each time you or the character on the screen feel a sense of joy.



## Reflect the Message

Select an activity that best fits your family.

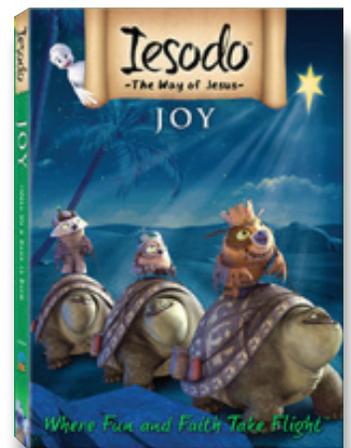
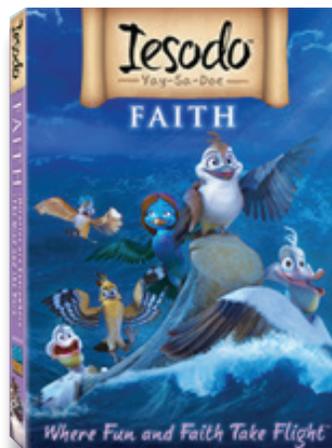
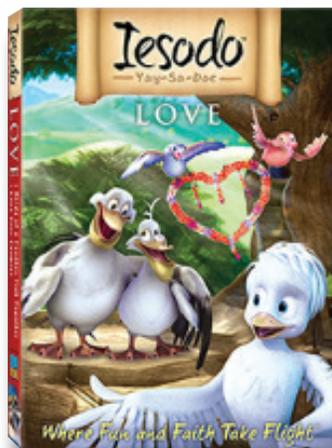
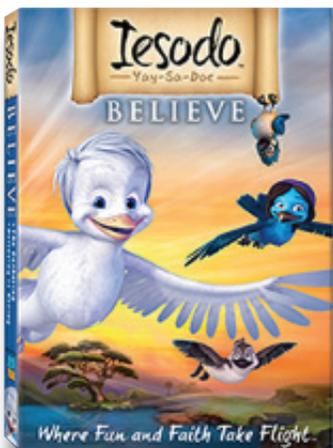
1. With your parents' help, make your own crèche figures using inedible dough: 2 Cups cornstarch, 1/3 Cup vegetable oil and iridescent white glitter. Add a bit more oil, if needed, so the dough is soft but crumbly. The stable was possibly a cave where animals were kept, so cut out the center on the long side of a shoebox; cut out a "window" at each end. Turn over the box. Decorate with paint or markers (or glue on Styrofoam peanuts). Retell the Christmas story using the figures.
2. Songs of the season reflect the joy we feel at Christmas, which is why six different songs are included in the animated special. Call or Skype someone who lives far away and sing your favorite carol together. Or, email friends or relatives a video of your family singing a Christmas song.
3. In this animated special, Rocky shared the Christmas story with the flock. With whom could you share the story of Jesus' birth? Visit [iesodo.com](http://iesodo.com) to download a Christmas card to send to a friend or family member.
4. Long before the first Christmas, an Old Testament prophet wrote that Jesus would be called the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Used today as a symbol of peace, the white dove has become a popular holiday decoration. Try making your own origami dove ornaments to decorate your Christmas tree or wreath, or string multiple doves into a garland.

Go to [iesodo.com](http://iesodo.com) to download origami dove instructions.

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Written by Dr. Mary Manz Simon

