

# THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## Birth of a King

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**Scripture:** Luke 1:30–33; 2:1; John 1:14; Matthew 2:1–5, 7–8

**Idea:** On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a king, not merely a forgiver of sin and a conscience cleanser. Jesus didn't come primarily to forgive. He came to be followed.

### Introduction

*[I imagine that you have a Christmas tradition or two. Maybe it's a certain food you like to eat, or it's a certain person who prepares that special dish. Maybe your traditions are linked to who shows up, where you get together, or when. For us, it's Pajama Night. Sandra started this with our kids when they were young. She would give them new pajamas on Christmas Eve, so they would wear them and have their pictures taken in them the next day.]*

*[Our kids started another tradition when they were younger. They started taking things out of each other's rooms, wrapping them, and putting them under the Christmas tree to be opened Christmas morning. One year, the boys took it to a new level. Here's a picture of Allie opening her portrait that hung in our dining room.]*

**Visual:** Picture of Allie Stanley holding an unwrapped portrait of herself on Christmas morning

*[Do you have any day-after-Christmas traditions?]*

### Day-After-Christmas Tradition

*[For years, the girls in our family would go to the mall to return or exchange things. Online shopping took the fun out of that. Now, we just gather around to print return labels and search for original packaging.]*

*[While we thoroughly enjoy Christmas, afterward, we're ready to get back to normal. Anybody here ready to take your tree down the day after Christmas?]*

*[That brings us to what we're going to talk about for the next few weeks. The day after the first Christmas, everybody was ready to get back to normal. In an effort to update the tax base, Caesar Augustus decreed a census should be taken.]*

**Luke 2:1**