**Family Reflection: Mortimer's Christmas Manger**

What happened when Mortimer encounters Jesus/"statue-baby-Jesus" for the first time?

Mortimer then had a second encounter with Jesus. This time he overhears the family reading the Christmas story. He learns who Jesus is and he learns what Jesus came to do. This changes everything...for Mortimer. What does Mortimer do?

Do you ever “kick” Jesus out of your Christmas? What does that look like?

How can we be like Mortimer and put our focus on Jesus this Christmas?

Can you think of a Bible story that sounds just like this one? Read Luke 2:1-10

**Finding Jesus in your Christmas Traditions - The Christmas Tree**

Trees are a symbol of life. The Christmas tree is a beautiful reminder of why Jesus was born in the first place. Jesus came to take our sins on himself (on a tree/cross) so we can enjoy everlasting life with our Father in heaven.

As you look at your Christmas tree notice how the branches spread out like the arms of Jesus and how the tree point to heaven just as Jesus did with his teachings drawing our attention to our Heavenly Father who loves us.

As you decorate your tree this year step back and notice how the symbol of your tree can constantly remind you of God’s love for you and how you can share that with others.

- **Evergreen** = Pine and fir trees are evergreen and reminds us of the everlasting life we share with God through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- **Evergreen Tree** = The Christmas tree itself reminds us of the tree of life we read about in Genesis during creation. Jesus is the new tree of life and the source of everlasting life.
- **Christmas Lights** = Candles and lights on trees remind us that Jesus is the light of the world especially during the long dark days of winter.
- **Ornaments** = Many years ago people decorated their trees with red apples and for many Christians this was a further reminder of the fruit of the Tree of Life in the story of Adam and Eve. Ornaments come in all designs today and each one can hold a special memory for you and your family.
- **Star** = Stars are often placed on the top of Christmas trees as a reminder of the Star of Bethlehem that led the three Wise Men to find Jesus in the stable.
- **Angel** = An angel is sometimes placed on the top of the tree rather than a star as a reminder of the angels in the fields who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

As you focus on Jesus this season let His love spread through you touching others.