

Epiphany Activity

The rush of Advent and Christmas Day has passed, but do not be so quick to put away your tree. Christmastide continues for 12 more days ending on Epiphany! The following is a wonderful activity to do with your youth for Epiphany.

What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is the traditional day in the church when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi at the manger, as told in Matthew 2:1-12. Traveling from distant lands with no certainty of where the star would lead, they trusted it would guide them to something extraordinary. And it did – the star led them to the Christ child. Just as the magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, we are also seeking Jesus, trusting that God uses many signs to guide us closer to the Divine.

Icebreaker Questions

Before we look forward, let us first reflect back:

- What is one of the best things that happened last year?
- What is something you are happy to leave behind?
- What is something you are really proud of from last year?
- Where did you feel God's presence last year?

Star Word Selection

Use the attached list of star words to print off individual words on small sheets of paper. Alternatively, write the words on cardboard stars or wooden stars to serve as keepsakes. Use each word only once, if possible. Print copies of the attached worksheet for the reflection time.

Place words face down on a table, then invite youth to select a word at random. No peeking or trading words. Part of the magic is trusting that God has chosen this word for YOU. It may not be clear now, but hopefully over time God's message will be made known. Explain that these words are gifts.

Worksheet Reflection

After choosing star words, pass out the worksheets for youth to spend time in quiet reflection. Provide copies of hymnals, Bibles, dictionaries (or they could use their phones) to help with completing the worksheet. This is not a time for discussion, but rather a time to sit with the gift God has given you and wonder what it could mean.

Like any other gift, star words can be embraced with joy or set aside and forgotten. You are encouraged to be intentional in your response to this star gift. Be open to wonder, not only today, but throughout the year. What is God trying to say to you?

Group Sharing

Invite youth to share their words with the group and what it might mean to them. Create a star wall where youth can write their names and words and use this as a check-in throughout the year. I wonder what new insights you've gained so far related to your word.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of Jesus and for his guiding presence in our lives. As we begin a new year, we ask for your continued patience as we seek to live according to your will. We thank you for the gift of these star words. Though we often mistake or ignore the many signs of your love, we ask that you open our hearts and minds to fully receive these star gifts. May we seek their meaning with wonder, trusting that the path will bring us closer to you. With gratitude for all you have given and all that is to come, we thank you God. Amen.



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Star Words

abundance
acceptance
accomplish
action
active
adventure
affirmation
alert
alive
amaze
angel
answer
anticipation
approval
assurance
astonish
attitude
authority
awake
awakening
aware
balance
beauty
beginning
belief
belonging

beloved
bloom
boldness
breathe
brightness
brilliant
build
calling
calm
captive
caring
carry
celebrate
center
challenge
change
character
cherish
choice
combine
comfort
coming
commitment
community
compassion
competence

complete
concern
confession
confident
connect
constant
contemplation
contentment
courage
create
creativity
creation
curiosity
daring
decision
dedicate
deliberate
delight
depth
determination
devotion
direction
discern
discipleship
discipline
distinction

dream
eager
ease
embracing
encouragement
endurance
energy
enjoy
enlightenment
enough
equality
esteem
eternal
everlasting
excellence
expand
expectation
experience
explore
express
faith
family
favor
feeling
fellowship
finding
fly
focus
forgiveness
foundation
freedom
friendship
fulfillment
fun
gathering
gentleness
gift
gladness

goodness
grace
gratitude
growing
guide
happiness
harmony
healing
hear
heart
heavenly
helpfulness
helping
holy
honesty
honor
hope
hospitality
humor
imagination
innocence
insight
inspiration
integrity
intent
interest
intuition
invitation
joy
justice
kindness
knowledge
language
laughter
leadership
light
listening
love

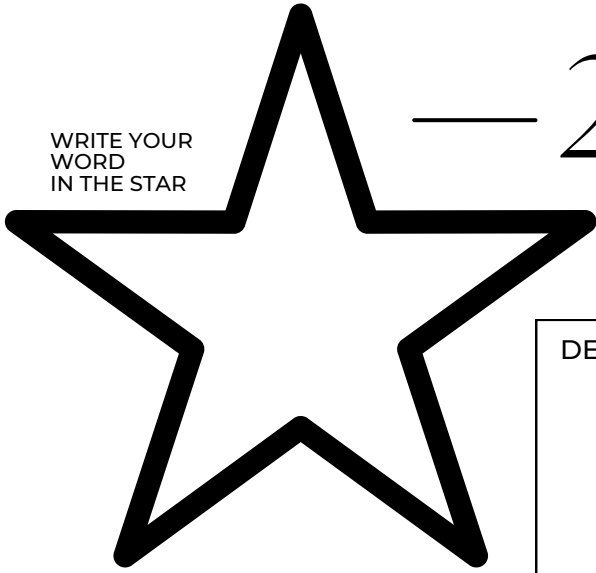
loyalty
meaning
mercy
mindful
ministry
miracle
music
mystery
nature
now
nurture
obedience
observe
open
opportunity
optimism
overflowing
participation
passion
patience
peace
perfection
persevere
persistence
perspective
plenty
possibility
power
praise
prayer
precious
preparation
present
process
profound
promise
prophecy
provide

pure
purpose
questioning
quiet
radiant
reach
ready
receive
recreate
recreation
redirect
refresh
refuel
rejoicing
relationship
release
remembrance
renewal
respect
responsibility
rest
revelation
ritual
Sabbath
sacred
sacrifice
salvation
seeing
seek
sensing

serene
servanthood
service
share
shine
silent
simple
sincerity
sing
soar
soft
song
sparkle
speech
spirit
splendid
splendor
start
steadfastness
stillness
strength
stretch
success
support
sure
surprise
surrender
teaching
tender
test

testimony
thanksgiving
think
thoughtful
together
transformation
transition
travel
treasure
triumph
trust
truth
understanding
unity
value
venture
victory
vision
waiting
welcome
whimsy
whole
will
wisdom
witness
wonder
worship
worth
yes
zeal
zest

WRITE YOUR
WORD
IN THE STAR



— 2025 GIFT —

YOUR NAME

DEFINITION/SYNONYMS

SCRIPTURE/HYMN/SONG



WHAT DOES THIS WORD MEAN TO YOU?
HOW CAN THIS WORD BE A GUIDE FOR YOU IN 2025?

WRITE A PRAYER