The Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Read the clues below and then find the best answer and take a selfie of your group with it. Email the photos to [INSERT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS]. After dinner, we'll view all the photos. Our judges will choose the best photo for each clue. There will be prizes for each clue and an overall prize for the most fun pictures.

1. Mary was just a young pre-earliteen girl when Gabriel showed up and told her that she would be the mother of the Messiah. She was surprised that God had even noticed her—yet Gabriel said she “found favor” with God. Really? Wow! It was a huge task and Mary didn’t know what it was really going to be like, but she said yes. 
   **Take a selfie with something “girlie”—something a earliteen girl would enjoy.**

2. Joseph was a good man who didn’t want to hurt Mary or make a scene when he found out she was pregnant but knew he couldn’t marry her. Until an angel spoke to him in a dream and told him that the child was God’s and he needed to go ahead and marry her. Joseph immediately got up from the dream and married Mary.
   **Joseph was a hardworking, kind and God-worshiping carpenter. Take a selfie with something that reminds you of a carpenter.**

3. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem before Jesus was born for a census. Many Christmas pictures show Mary riding on a donkey. But she probably walked the 3-4 day trip. If they could afford a donkey, it was used for carrying their supplies, not riding.
   **Take a selfie showing how you’d like to get to Bethlehem.**

4. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the city was overflowing with people. Everyone who was a descendant of David was in town to be counted. They may have lived in shelters or caves, but there wasn’t any room in a house or inn. When Jesus was born, they swaddled him with strips of cloths and laid in a manger—a feed trip, to keep him warmer and safe from being stepped on.
   **Take a selfie in front of a closed door somewhere. (Remember coolest door will win the prize!)**

5. Shepherds were outside the city, watching their flocks. Probably gathered around a fire telling stories and keeping warm. People in town looked down on shepherds. Did you know that a shepherd couldn’t be called as a witness in court at that time because people didn’t trust them to tell the true story. But God did. And He gave them the most important, exciting and best story to tell ever! Jesus was born! He sent angels to announce the news and send them to find the babe.
   **Take a selfie of something that reminds you of a shepherd.**

6. The shepherds immediately went in search of the baby in Bethlehem—remember that Bethlehem was a busy, crowded city. How do you find a baby in a multitude like that? The angels had given them a clue. So they knew to only look in barns and animal pens. They found the baby and not only told Mary and Joseph what had just happened, but as they went back to their fields, the Bible says they told EVERYONE they could. People probably didn’t believe them because they were shepherds, but God doesn’t care what other people think about us. He knows what He thinks about us. And it’s good. He trusts us to tell others His great news.
   **Take a selfie with someone you don’t know. Might earn more points the more people you don’t know who are in the picture.**
7. When Jesus was 8 days old, Mary and Joseph took him to the temple along with an offering. While there, two people who had been praying and waiting to see the Messiah saw this very poor couple (we can tell they were poor because of the offering they brought) and immediately knew THIS baby was the Messiah. They each went to Mary and Joseph separately and said so. That must have encouraged this young couple. Both Simeon and Anna praised God for letting them be a part of His story even though they were old and had waited a long time.

*Take a selfie at a church.*

8. Mary and Joseph eventually moved into a house in Bethlehem. Jesus grew into a toddler. (We know because in the original Greek, the word for “child” used in this part of the story specifically means a young child and not a baby.) That’s when wise men “from the east” showed up to worship Him. They were not Jews. They were outsiders. But they had been watching the skies and knew what the Old Testament had prophesied for the Jews. When they saw the star, they believed it was God. So even though they weren’t a part of “the group”, they set out on a journey that took them 3-4 months. When they got to Jerusalem, they were probably surprised to learn that no one had noticed the star or the baby and didn’t really care either. But they did. They kept searching and when they found Jesus, they worshiped Him and brought Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. It’s because they brought three gifts that people think there were three kings, but really we don’t know how many, though some theologians think it may have been 14.

*Take a selfie with a gift. Or gifts... you know... best photo gets the prize.*

9. So that’s the Christmas story basically. Pretty cool that God chose people no one else would have and gave them an important role to play in His story. That’s the kind of God He is. A God who sees us in ways that no one else does. Believes in us in ways we don’t even believe in ourselves. And choose us to be His. He loves us more than we can ever comprehend.

*Take a selfie with a nativity. Can be indoors, outdoors, somewhere... again, best photo gets the prize...*

10. Because it always seems best to have an even number of photos, I’m adding number ten. But the Christmas story is pretty much told. So this is a “selfie choice.” You guys decide a place and thing to take a photo of yourselves that speaks something about Christmas to you.