



Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:12-16

When we first believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are filled with God's Holy Spirit. He seals us for eternal salvation and no one can snatch that promise away from us. It's called justification. Ephesians 1:13-14

In our flesh we can still be tempted and make mistakes from time to time, but the Spirit will help us walk in God's ways all the days of our life until we die or until Jesus comes back to redeem us! This life-long process is called sanctification.
Romans 7:13-20

It's important that we don't think that just because we believe in Jesus and know we are going to Heaven that it's ok to keep sinning – it's not! God wants us to help be a light to the whole world! So we must try our very best to walk in the ways of the Lord. Romans 6:1-2

There are nine fruits we can see in our lives when we walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Do you know what they are? (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. Galatians 5:22-23)

On this 23rd day of Advent, think of how you can develop the fruits of the Spirit in your life. When your parents ask you to do a chore that's not your favorite, instead of grumbling or complaining, how can you respond in a way that shows love, kindness, and self-control? When someone is annoying you, instead of arguing and fighting with them, how can you respond in a way that shows gentleness, patience, and goodness?

Jesus promises us that our eternal salvation is secured the moment we believe, but our place in the Kingdom of Heaven depends on how we follow Him after we believe.

“Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:19

We teach our children in this way:

Say I was going to take all of you to Chick-Fil-A at the end of our work day. Every one of you will be allowed to enter and sit at my table. But I will only give time on the playground to the ones who finish their chores, and I will only give a milkshake to those who have a good attitude throughout the day.

Everyone may enter, but not everyone will receive the same rewards.

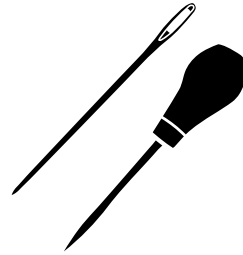
CRAFT!

PARENT NOTE: Be sure to gather your materials in advance!

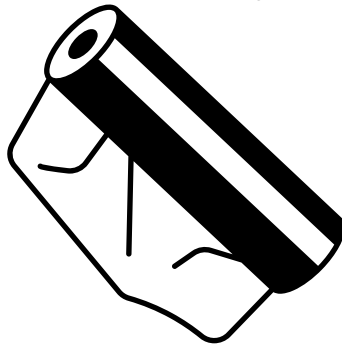
Starry Night in a Jar

Materials Needed:

Glass jar with lid
Small battery powered light
Stiff aluminum foil (or cardstock)
Needle (or an awl)
Scissors



*Dollar tree sells these
cute battery powered
tea lights!*



*An aluminum baking
pan will work if you
don't have a roll of
stiff foil or cardstock!*

Instructions:

1. Cut the foil to fit around the inside of the jar.
2. Use the needle or the awl to poke holes in the foil in your favorite pattern of stars or constellations.
3. Place the foil inside the jar up against the glass.
4. Turn on the small light and place it in the center of the jar.
5. Secure the lid and turn out the room lights and enjoy the beautiful lights!

