



# IN THE LOOP

Congratulations to Sarah Lefotu and her family on the birth of their son Isaiah. He was born at 8:00am on October 10th weighing 8lbs, 2 oz and 20.5 inches long. Also, congratulations to Kimbrah and her family on the birth of their son Miguel John. He was born at 11:23pm on November 28th weighing 7lbs, 8 oz. and was 21 inches long.

The birth of sweet little baby boys like Isaiah and Miguel remind us of our Savior Jesus Christ. A precious little baby sent from Heaven to be born here on Earth as a sacrifice for our sins. What an awesome gift. The gift of Jesus Christ. Take the time this Christmas to think about what Christmas is really about, Jesus' birth. There are many ways that you can share the story with your children. I've listed a few ideas below. These ideas can be placed on the back of your star (see Glenna's family tradition on page 4).

- Make a birthday cake for Jesus.
- Act out the Christmas story with your family.
- Read about Jesus birth directly from the Bible (Luke 2:1-20).
- Read a Christmas story.
- Make Christmas tree cookies with your children and tell them the legend of the Christmas tree. The three corners of the tree represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The lights on the tree are there to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world. Many years ago people decorated the tree with apples and twists of bread to tell the story of the tree in the Garden of Eden. Over the years people started adding more decorations to represent the story of Jesus' birth.
- Make a baby Jesus in the manger ornament out of clay (recipe on page 4). Make a manger by placing your thumb into the center of a 2 inch ball of baking clay. Make a baby by rolling a 1 inch ball into a cylinder shape. Pinch clay 1/3 from end forming neck. Use a toothpick to add facial features. Roll out tiny pieces for the arms and legs. Grate some of the clay to sprinkle on top of the manger to represent the hay.
- Make a stable out of popsicle sticks and glue. Draw pictures of Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, the 3 wise men and the animals too if you want. You can either cut them out and glue it all on paper with the stable you made or glue your pictures of the people onto popsicle sticks and your child can tell their own story with their home-made puppets.

*Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children.*  
Lamentations 2:19

**God tells us to pray for our children.** It doesn't have to be long and drawn out or formal or fancy in anyway. But it does need to be specific. It's ok to be short and simple. Here's a few ideas.

**Perseverance:** Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to "run with patience the race that is set before them". Hebrews 12:1

**A willingness and ability to work hard:** Teach my children, Lord to value work and to work hard at everything they do, "as to the Lord, and not unto men."

**Responsibility:** Grant that my children may learn responsibility, "for every man shall bear his own burden." Galatians 6:5