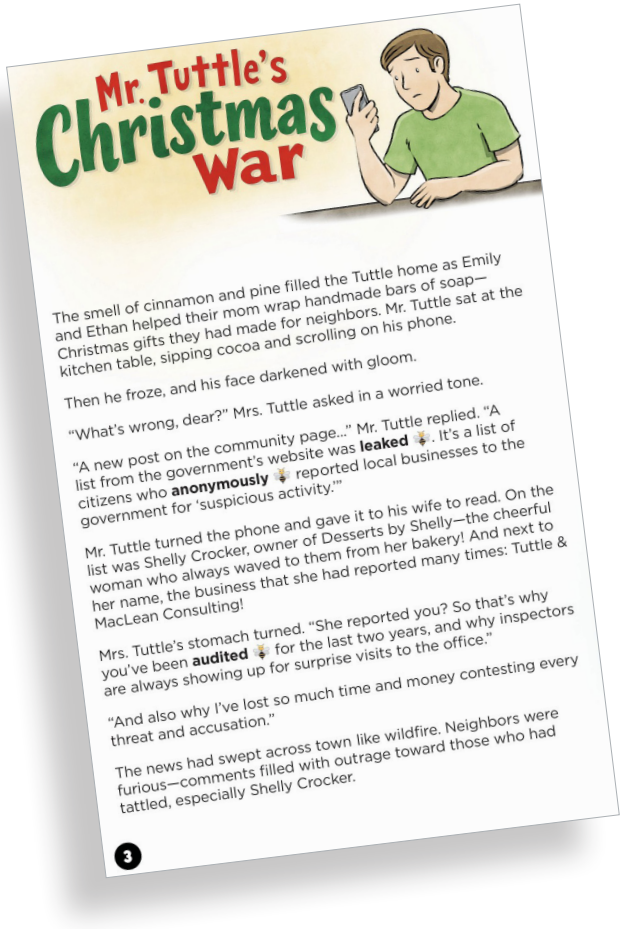
Article Overviews and Conversation Starters

This month, your kids will be reading several articles. Below you'll find summaries of each one along with suggested conversation starters. These discussions will help reinforce key concepts while also giving you, the parent, an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives on the topic.


Mr. Tuttle's Christmas War

The smell of cinnamon and pine filled the Tuttle home as Emily and Ethan helped their mom wrap handmade bars of soap—Christmas gifts they had made for neighbors. Mr. Tuttle sat at the kitchen table, sipping cocoa and scrolling on his phone.

Then he froze, and his face darkened with gloom.

"What's wrong, dear?" Mrs. Tuttle asked in a worried tone.

"A new post on the community page..." Mr. Tuttle replied. "A list from the government's website was **leaked**. It's a list of citizens who **anonymously** reported local businesses to the government for 'suspicious activity.'"

Mr. Tuttle turned the phone and gave it to his wife to read. On the list was Shelly Crocker, owner of Desserts by Shelly—the cheerful woman who always waved to them from her bakery! And next to her name, the business that she had reported many times: Tuttle & MacLean Consulting!

Mrs. Tuttle's stomach turned. "She reported you? So that's why you've been **audited** for the last two years, and why inspectors are always showing up for surprise visits to the office."

"And also why I've lost so much time and money contesting every threat and accusation."

The news had swept across town like wildfire. Neighbors were furious—comments filled with outrage toward those who had tattled, especially Shelly Crocker.

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Mr Tuttle's Christmas War

Emily and Ethan are excited for Christmas, but the season takes a sharp turn when Mr. Tuttle discovers that their friendly neighbor, Shelly Crocker, has secretly reported his business to the government for years. Hurt and angry, he feels betrayed—and ready to strike back.

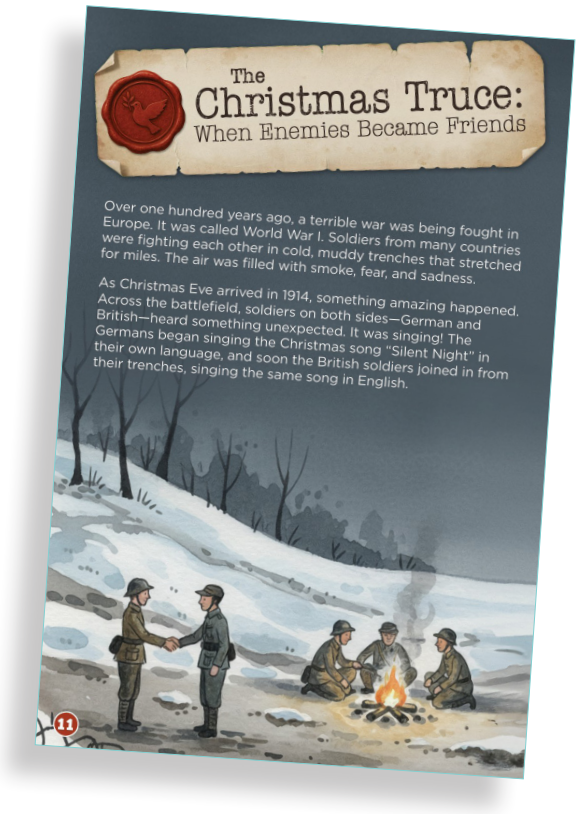
But during the town's Christmas nativity, Father MacGill reminds him of something far more powerful than revenge: the teachings of Jesus about loving your enemies, seeking peace, and offering grace. As Mr. Tuttle watches the town turn against Shelly online, he realizes that adding more hurt won't fix anything. By choosing forgiveness instead of a "Christmas war," the Tuttle family learns that grace can heal wounds, calm fear, and bring true peace—often in the moments we least expect.

Conversation Starters

- Why do you think Shelly Crocker believed reporting Mr. Tuttle was the "right thing to do"? What might she have been feeling or afraid of?
- Have you ever felt angry because someone treated you unfairly?
- Do you think forgiveness can spread from one person to another?

The Christmas Truce: When Enemies Became Friends

Over a hundred years ago, during the bitter winter of World War I, soldiers on opposite sides faced each other from muddy trenches filled with fear and loneliness. But on Christmas Eve, something remarkable happened. The Germans began singing "Silent Night," and soon the British soldiers joined in from across the battlefield.



One by one, men from both sides climbed out of their trenches and met in the open, not as enemies, but as ordinary people longing for peace. They shared food, shook hands, exchanged small gifts, and even played a friendly game of soccer. For a brief moment, the war paused—not because rulers ordered it, but because regular people chose connection over conflict. The Christmas Truce reminds us that peace often begins when we see the humanity in those we're told to fear.

Conversation Starters

- Why do simple actions—like singing or sharing food—create peace?
- Can you think of a small "truce" you could offer to someone in your own life?

The Gift Only You Can Give.

Christmas is a season of giving, but some of the most meaningful gifts can't be wrapped. Every day, we have chances to calm worries, settle arguments, and bring people together. Taking the first step toward peace—whether by offering forgiveness or kindness—creates a powerful ripple that touches everyone around us. In a season filled with light and generosity, becoming a peacemaker might be the most important gift you give all year.

Christmas: Celebrating the Prince of Peace

Long ago in a humble desert village, a baby named Yeshua—known today as Jesus—was born. His life and teachings would change the world in extraordinary ways. Instead of teaching people how to conquer others, Jesus showed a new path: humility, forgiveness, compassion, and loving even those who hurt you.

These ideas were radical in ancient times, yet they slowly transformed entire societies, helping people see each other as neighbors instead of enemies. Today, Christians and non-Christians alike admire the wisdom of the Prince of Peace. His teachings remind us that real strength comes from serving others, calming conflict, and choosing love over revenge—lessons that still guide and inspire people everywhere during the Christmas season.



Conversation Starters

- Why do you think humility—putting others first—can make friendships and communities stronger?
- Why do you think these teachings continue to inspire people thousands of years later, even those who aren't religious?

Latest Buzz:

The Ukraine War-Makers

Ukraine is a country made up of people with different histories and cultures. Some feel close to Europe, and others feel close to Russia. After the old Soviet Union broke apart, Russia and a group of countries called NATO agreed that Ukraine should stay neutral so everyone could feel safe.

But in 2014, Ukraine's government changed suddenly, and people in the eastern part of the country felt threatened by the new direction. Fighting began, and Russia stepped in. Later, Ukraine's new president wanted to join NATO, which made Russia feel even more unsafe, and the conflict grew into a full war. The United States sent large amounts of money and weapons to help Ukraine fight. Today, many people around the world wish the leaders would stop the fighting and choose negotiation instead.


THE LATEST BUZZ

THE UKRAINE WAR-MAKERS

Ukraine is a country with two different groups of people. In the west most people speak Ukrainian and feel close to Europe. In the east, most people speak Russian and feel close to Russia. Long ago, the old empire called the Soviet Union put them together inside the same borders.

After the Soviet Union ended, the old enemies, Russia and a team of countries called NATO (which includes the United States), made an agreement that Ukraine (which was a country in the middle) would stay **neutral**. This helped everyone feel safer and kept peace for a long time.

But in 2014, the Obama/Biden administration helped overthrow Ukraine's president, and installed a new pro-NATO government. Many people in the east liked the old president. They thought the new government would be bad for them, so they voted to start a new country for themselves.

Ukraine's new government said no and sent the army to stop the **separatists**. The Russian military stepped in to stop the Ukrainian army.

Later, President Volodymyr Zelensky had a plan to get the Russians out of the way. He wanted Ukraine to join NATO. If Ukraine joined it would force all the NATO countries into a big war with Russia.

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Conversation Starters

- Why is it sometimes harder to negotiate and make peace than it is to keep fighting?
- Why do you think different groups of people in the same country might see the world so

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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