

# Christmas@Home Guide

Let's just be honest, the way we are celebrating Christmas is different, but could it be that this is how God wants to connect with you and your family this year? Could it be that the disruption of our normal is exactly what God is going to use to draw us closer to Him?

Have this guide, your candles, a lighter and your communion ready before you attend a Christmas Eve service.

This guide is meant to give you and/ or your family an opportunity to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a special way in the comfort of your own home. After you have attended a Christmas Eve service together, use this guide to help you and your family draw closer to Jesus.

## **The Prophecy**

Read **Isaiah 9:6**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.

These names prophesied about Jesus 700 years before his birth were not just clever names for him, but Jesus himself lived the meaning of each name and still does today in the hearts of all who call Jesus their Lord. Jesus came to not only fulfill the prophecy about himself, but to fill humanity with hope, peace, grace and mercy.

## **The Visit**

Read **Luke 1:26-38**

Mary's news that she was going to give birth to the Messiah, the Savior of the world had to be shocking news. News that would have changed everything she thought about whether life was going to be like.

- Discuss how do you think you would have handled the news? Maybe that is hard to think of... let's put it into a little different perspective. How have you handled the surprises that 2020 has presented?
- Read verse 38 again, *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."*
  - What is Mary's response to this unexpected news? (*she surrendered to God's will.*)

2020 might have been a great shock to you and your family, from experiencing the inconvenience of quarantine to the tragedy and great hurt. But remember **"the most significant thing you can do in this life is to allow Jesus Christ, the Wonderful Counselor to love you and minister to you."**

## **The Journey**

Read **Luke 2:1-5**

That journey on a donkey while nine months pregnant does not sound very peaceful nor pleasant but knowing Mary's faith obedience and surrender to God's will, she and Joseph were willing to do whatever they had to live. But when the time came, there was no room for them, their journey led to a place they did not expect.

- Have you experienced something like this before? If so, share or remember that time you experienced something unexpected.
- What problems or struggles have made it difficult for you to find peace recently?
- What are some ways you can lean on God and trust what He's doing in the middle of your journey?

**Christmas is not cancelled!**

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**“Peace is not the removal of the unexpected from your life, but rather found in the presence of Jesus. “**

## **The Birth**

Read **Luke 2:6-7**

Isaiah’s prophecy is so complex if you think about it. He writes “a child is born”, yet in the same breath, he writes “a Son is given...”. God knew what was needed to save the world from our sin and the best way was to send Jesus to earth as one of us, to ultimately pay our debt of sin. Jesus would eventually grow up into a man and would share with the world His great love for us on the cross. Through His birth, He enters into the world and comes to seek and save the lost, but to also bring us victory through His resurrection.

**“Jesus is our Eternal Hero.”**

## **The Announcement**

Read **Luke 2:8-21**

Jesus, the Savior has come, to save the world. Just like any good father would, God makes a way for you and I, the world, to be in union with God again through Jesus.

- Discuss briefly what do you think the shepherds were thinking the moment that the angel left them.

Jesus came into this world in the most unconventional way through a virgin birth, in a stable and from a teenage girl, but ultimately came to seek and save the lost and to provide a way for you to experience the Father’s love and compassion for His creation.

**“Jesus is the only one who can display God's fatherly characteristics to us.”**

## **Communion**

At this time of Communion, take the elements of communion and then reflect on Jesus’ entrance into the world and the impact that He would make because of His irrational love for you, His creation. Pray boldly and with power as you come to Him now worshipping God the Father for the gift of His Son Jesus.

## **Before Bed**

Before you go to bed, share with your family or reflect on a favorite Christmas memory and then thank God for that memory you have.

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