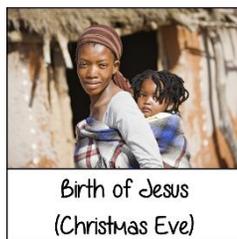


God's Story Our Story



December 25, 2015

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Heaven Born on Earth, we are somewhat less than wise, but we are seeking you out just the same. Hold fast. Shine for us so we can see the light and set our path by it. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from today's reading.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:13-14)

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

After Jesus' birth, magi came from the East to worship him. The local powers in Jerusalem, including King Herod, were ill at ease. A so-called infant "king" needed to be dealt with, and swiftly. With the help of an angelic dream, the magi saw right through Herod, and kept Jesus' location secret until he was old enough to travel

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Luke 1:5-13 (57-80), *Zechariah's Song*
Monday, Luke 1:1-4, *Dedication to Theophilus*
Tuesday, Luke 1:14-25, *Zechariah's Encounter*
Wednesday, Luke 1:26-38, *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*
Thursday, Luke 2:1-14 (15-20), *The Birth of Jesus*
Friday, Luke 2:8-20, *Shepherds Visit*
Saturday, Matthew 2:1-12, *The Magi*

How are John's birth announcement and Jesus' birth announcement similar? How are they different?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Who in your community is in need of extra care and attention this season? What could you do to bring joy into their lives?

Have you ever experienced a message from God in an unusual way? What happened? How did you know it was God speaking?

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Spend Christmas morning serving food at a local shelter. During your household's Christmas meal, share what you are grateful for.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you with all the joy and fullness of Christ's birth.

Amen.

