



CHRISTMAS

Blessings

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FAMILY READING AND REMEMBRANCE BASED ON LUKE 2:1 - 16

Introduction/Explanation:

Christmas morning is a special time with presents and surprises, but before you open the presents, take a few minutes to have a time of “Reading and Remembrance” of your family’s history and blessings!

Here is a helpful guide to go along with the reading of one of the traditional Christmas passages found in Luke. Each family member can take part in reading a section of the passage and then have a chance to share something related to the passage about your specific family, history, and experiences. It is a great opportunity to reflect in a new way on the Christmas story, while also connecting it to your personal family.

Dad

Reading (vs. 1-4) - *“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.”*

Sharing (Family Tree and History)

- Share one thing special about the family’s heritage and history.
- Who was someone that the family does not know much about that was a member of the family’s heritage or history?
- What is special about the family’s nationality or country/countries of origin?

Mom

Reading (vs. 5-7) - *“He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”*

Sharing (Marriage & Family Story)

- Share a memory and a picture from your wedding day. Talk about dating, being engaged, and getting married. * *Note for Divorced Families: while there may be personally negative feelings surrounding your former marriage, consider taking this opportunity to talk about the positives and good memories.*
- Share about how you found out that you were having a baby and any fun or happy stories that surrounded your pregnancy.

Older Child

Reading (vs. 8-12) - *“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

Sharing (Good News)

- Share your first memory of meeting your younger sibling(s).
- Share your favorite part of holding or playing with a new baby.
- Share a time you heard good news or were excited about something.
- Share something that gives you great joy or happiness.

Younger Child

Reading (13-15) - *“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

Sharing (Praise and Thanks)

- Share something you can praise God for about each family member.
- Share one way that God has blessed the family.
- Share one place you would love to go on a mission’s trip to share Jesus with others.

Child/Family Member

Reading (16-20) - *“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”*

All Sharing (Meeting Jesus)

- Each person share how they first met Jesus and invited Him into their life.
- Share additional testimonies and faith journey stories.

Family Prayer Time

Take a few moments as a family to take turns praying for each other and praising God for His son, Jesus, and the other blessings He has provided over the last year.

GO CRAZY AND OPEN PRESENTS!!!!