



This series of ten family devotions is a guide to thinking and talking about the people involved in the Christmas story in a new way.

Before the first devotion, place a large empty basket, bowl, or tray in the center of your table or another prominent place. At the end of each devotion, you will add an item to represent part of the story. Have the item ready before you begin each devotion. You might also want to review the previous items added during each subsequent devotion. As you share these devotions, you will create a different sort of "nativity scene," inviting you to see this wonderful, true story with new eyes. If you don't know some of the suggested songs, you might want to listen to them online. You may also select songs that you know to sing instead.

Each devotion encourages you to pray together as you reflect on a specific truth about the Father or the Son, or with a specific mindset that relates to the Christmas story.

We pray these devotions will give your family an opportunity to praise God together this Christmas for His most wonderful Gift!



Rend: Discuss: Luke 1:26-38

What was Gabriel's message?

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Sing: Pray: Reflect on this truth: Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

Add to the basket: A Bible, to represent how God told us the good news about Jesus coming to earth

Elizabeth: Filled With the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:39-45

Rend: Discuss: What did Elizabeth know about the baby in Mary's womb?

Sing: "Joy to the World"

Prayi Reflect on this truth: There is fulfillment of what is spoken from the Lord (Luke 1:45).

Add to the basket: A drawing of Mary and Elizabeth together



Rend: Discuss: Luke 1:46-56

How does Mary's song express what is in her heart?

Sing: Pray: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

God's mercy is for those who fear him, from generation to generation (Luke 1:50).

Add to the basket: White cloths (or towel, pillowcase, etc.) to represent the swaddling clothes Mary used to care for her baby



Rend: Discuss: Matthew 1:18-25

What does the Bible tell us about the man God chose for the earthly father of Jesus?

Sing: Pray: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

Reflect on this truth: God is with us (Matthew 1:23).

Add to the basket: A piece of wood to represent Joseph, the righteous carpenter



Rend: Discuss: Luke 2:1-5

How did God use the Roman rulers in this story?

Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Pray: Reflect on this truth: All rulers and authorities were created by Christ and for Christ (Colossians 1:13-20).

Add to the basket: A rolled piece of paper tied with a ribbon to represent Caesar's decree

Shepherds: Keeping Wortch Over Their Flock

Luke 2:8-20

Rend: Discuss: Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of Jesus to these shepherds?

Sing: "The First Noel"

Pray Praise God for all you have heard and seen (Luke 2:20).

Add to the basket: A shepherd's crook, cut from brown paper

The Angel and a Multitude of the Heavenly Host: Bringing Good News

Pend: Luke 2:8-15

Discuss: What do you think this scene really looked like?

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Give glory to God in the highest (Luke 2:14).

Have each family member trace his or her hand. Color the hands, using for each one a different shade of skin color that God gives people around the world. Cut the hands out.

The hands represent the truth that the good news of great joy is for all people.



Matthew 2

Rend: Discuss: Why was Herod afraid of a baby?

Sing: "Coventry Carol"

Pray: Reflect on this truth: He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of humble estate (Luke 1:52).

Add to the basket: A crumpled paper crown, to represent the mighty who are brought low

Wise Men: Fell Down and Worshiped Him

Matthew 2:1-12

Rend: Discuss: What did the wise men do when they saw the star? What did they do when they saw Jesus?

Sing: "O Come. All Ye Faithful"

Pray Worship Him (Matthew 2:2, 11).

Add to the basket: A small wrapped gift to represent the treasures that the wise men opened and offered to Jesus

Jesus: Became Flesh and Lived Among Us

John 1:1-14 and Luke 2:6-7

Rend: Discuss: Why did Jesus come into the world?

Sing: "Go, Tell it On the Mountain!"

Proy Reflect on this truth: He came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Add to the basket: A cross, because "... you will call Him Jesus, and He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

