

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Saturday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds
Monday	Psalms 96	Let the earth be glad
Tuesday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Wednesday	Hebrews 1:1-9	God's firstborn has come
Thursday	Isaiah 9:6-7	For us a child is born
Friday	Revelation 21:1-5	God is making everything new
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men from the East

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Opening of Gifts: Lord God, we gather today as a household to celebrate the gift of your son, Jesus. Be with us as we give gifts to one another. Draw us closer to you and one another, and fill this home with love, peace and joy. Amen.

Christmas Mealtime Prayer: God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings great as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

A Christmas Blessing to Give: May God's gift of Jesus bring peace and joy to you. May Jesus come into your heart this Christmas. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Remember a time when you received some good news. Share your memories.
- What was the “good news” that the angel of the Lord brought to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem? (see Luke 2:10-12).
- Is the birth of Jesus “good news” for you? Why?

DEVOTIONS:

Before you open your Christmas gifts have a household member read the Christmas story from Luke 2 or from a Bible storybook. Ask each person to share his or her favorite part of the story. Then, say together the “Prayer for the Opening of Gifts” on the other side of this page.

SERVICE:

Write the names of your household members on slips of paper and randomly distribute (make sure no one gets their own name!). Ask each person to perform a “gift of service” for the person named on his or her slip as part of your household Christmas gift-giving.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

As a Christmas Day activity, act out the Christmas story from Luke 2. Gather various items to serve as costumes and props and assign one person as narrator. Take video or photos of your impromptu performance.

Traditions draw people closer together and create meaningful memories. Consider adopting or adapting some of these tradition ideas to help your household celebrate Christmas together.

- Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus on Christmas Day.
- Drive around looking at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day evening.
- Invite a person or family to come for “shared leftovers” on Christmas Day evening.
- Watch a DVD of the Christmas story on Christmas Day (e.g. “The Nativity” movie).
- Look through the Christmas cards you have received and choose a number of people to phone on Christmas Day.