

FAMILY WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY - GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

This year Christmas is on a Sunday. That created a little tension, since generally our church meets on Sunday. As we considered our options, we wanted to do what was best for families. We would like to encourage your family to join in our church's worship on Christmas morning. We will gather at 10 AM (or whatever time works for you), after presents are opened and kids have burned off the morning energy with their new toys. But we want to encourage you to spend a few minutes thanking Jesus and looking to Him. To do this we have included some Christmas carols to be sung. In this document we have links to videos on *Youtube* that have fairly common and easy to sing Christmas carol music with the lyrics on the screen. We will also post these links on the Genesis blog at www.blog.genesiseureka.com so you can just click and go. You will need to either gather around your computer, or if you can, hook the computer up to your TV so it can be seen by everyone. We also have a family activity, a family prayer time, and some Scripture, and some thoughts to consider as a family. The one thing you will need to do in advance is wrap an empty box, something big enough to put some tags on. You will also need to make copies of the gift card and cut them, on colored or construction paper if that is possible. Have this ready before you begin your worship time. All these are designed to have you worship Jesus, the newborn King. God bless, and have a merry Christmas!

Opening

*Ask everyone in the family to go get their favorite gift and hold it. Ask them to share why they like this gift. Remind everyone to say thank you to the people who gave them presents for Christmas.

*Tell your family that you are going to spend some time worshipping Jesus and thinking about the greatest gift that God ever gave. Ask them to start thinking about what that gift might be.

- Have someone read John 3:16
- Have someone read Romans 6:23

Song - Joy to the World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzAdqksJf6g> - Joy to the World

Prayer

Ask someone in your family to lead your family in a prayer of praise for Christmas. A prayer of praise is a prayer that honors God and rejoices in who He is and what He has done. So the prayer should thank and worship Jesus for coming to save us and for being righteous and wonderful.

Song - Angels we Have Heard on High

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K17zGHFrKU> - Angels we have heard on high

Project - Part 1

Take the wrapped present out, and show it to the family. If you want to be really creative, have the family wrap the present together as part of the project. Be sure to

have some tape on hand and copies of the gift card that are attached. Give each person a gift card, a marker, crayon, or pen. Tell them that Jesus is the best gift God has ever given. God sent His Son to live and die for us, and as a result, we have so many other good gifts in our lives. Ask each person to think about the other gifts we have because of Jesus. Then tell them to use the card to write this, or they can draw a picture instead. Tape the card on the wrapped box.

Prayer - Thanksgiving

Asks each person to say a prayer of thanks for the thing they wrote on the card. End the thanksgiving prayer by having someone give thanks for Jesus coming to earth as our Savior.

Scripture - The Magi

Have someone read the story in Matthew 2:1-12. If you have the *Jesus Storybook Bible* and younger kids you can read the story titled *The King of All Kings* on page 192, or you can use this animated version of the story from Saddleback Kids - <https://youtu.be/22SMUUMsx0o> . Explain that these men were probably astrologers who watched the star. God used the star to show them that a great King had been born. As they came, they worshiped Jesus, and gave him gifts. Share with your family that each gift is very valuable, so it provided for Joseph and Mary, but it also symbolized something about Jesus.

- Gold - demonstrates Jesus royalty, the fact that he is a king
- Frankincense - Incense used in the Temple as a way to picture prayers going up to God, showing us that this little baby is God of the universe.
- Myrrh - A spice used for burying bodies. This is a weird gift for a baby, but it shows us that Jesus' purpose for coming was to die on the cross.

Explain that they saw Jesus and realized that God had given the greatest gift. When they experienced this gift, they responded by giving Jesus gifts as an act of worship and honor. Explain that part of the reason we give gifts at Christmas is to demonstrate love to each other, but it also reminds us that God is the greatest giver and Jesus is the greatest gift.

Song - Silent Night

https://youtu.be/fiQTy_Uf2e8

Project - part 2

Give each person a copy of the second gift tag, which you have copied and cut out. Tell everyone that we need to remember that this morning is the celebration of Jesus' birthday, so while we got great gifts, we also need to think about how we can honor and worship Him. Share that our real response is to give Jesus everything, our whole life. But there are also ways we can show this. Ask each person to think about a specific thing they could do as a gift to Jesus for Christmas. It might be giving money to Advent Conspiracy, or telling a friend about Jesus, or serving someone who is needy, or forgiving someone who sinned against you. Tell them to write or draw a picture of this on the card. After everyone is done, tape these to the box too. After everyone has put their

card on the box, tell the family that you will put the box on the table or in another prominent place in the house so everyone will see it during the day and be reminded of the great gifts God has given through Jesus and of the gifts we will give back to Him out of love for Him.

Missionary Story

Share with your family that you are going to show the story of a missionary that is supported by our gifts to Advent Conspiracy. The video does not show the girl's face because she is in a country where it is not legal to tell others about Jesus. Remind your family that we are part of a church that wants the good news of Christmas to be shared all over the world.

<https://vimeo.com/181352654>

Prayer of surrender

Ask each person to voice a prayer asking God to give power to follow through on the gift they have offered this morning. Have someone close this time in prayer asking God to help the family love Jesus and follow Him.

Song - O Come All Ye Faithful

<https://youtu.be/FArWwaBcFAk>

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