

Christmas Karaoke

Family Devotion

Week 2 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Read Luke 2:8-20

I want you to close your eyes and sit in silence. As you are quietly sitting, I want you to imagine what the city of Bethlehem might have been like the night Jesus was born. Do you picture a busy city? Are people out in the streets talking with their neighbors, going to stores, or are they getting ready for bed? Are kids getting a bedtime story read to them by their parents or are they still up playing games? Just sit and picture what the night of Jesus' birth might have been like.

In the Christmas hymn, **O Little Town of Bethlehem**, we are given a glimpse of what the city of Bethlehem might have been like. The first verse to the song says:

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

I believe Bethlehem might have been just like this song...peaceful and quiet. I can picture families getting ready for bed, children saying their bedtime prayers with their parents. No one is roaming around the city, but they are all tucked away in their homes ready to go to sleep for the night.

Little did the people of Bethlehem know that on that night the Savior of the world would be born. Little did they know that God's Son would be

born on this earth. Little did they know that their little town would forever be remembered as the birthplace of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

As the people are sleeping, the stars are shining, and the streets are dark and quiet. But in the darkness of the streets, shines an everlasting Light. The Light of the World has come and has been born. And on that night, all the hopes they have had for God to send a Savior has been born. All the fears they have had over the years are taken away. All this because God sent His Son, our Savior, to take on all the sins of the world and to be born on this earth. Thank You, God!

Heavenly Father, thank You for this beautiful song to remind us of the birthplace of our Savior. I am so thankful that Jesus was born to save me. Help me to live my life as a follower of You each and every day. Amen.

Karaoke Time!

Write out the lyrics to this Christmas song on a separate sheet of paper. Then search the internet for your favorite version of this song. **My favorite version of O Little Town of Bethlehem is by Kari Jobe.** Play the song and sing together as a family! Or if your family doesn't want to sing, just listen and enjoy the music.

Prayers & Pics

As you close out your family devotion time, do these two things. First, write down any prayer requests or praises for today. Then pray together as a family for these specific requests. Second, have kids draw pictures of the Christmas song for the day. Have them draw out what happens in the song.

Family Game

Week 2 – Census Activity Page

Supplies Needed: *census activity page, pen or pencil*

Mary and Joseph traveled to the town of Bethlehem to be counted in the census. A census is a count of all the people in the land. Back in Bible times, people had to return to their hometown to be counted. So, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census (because that was Joseph's hometown).

For today's activity, you will fill out your own family census, but with an added twist. There are statements and then a blank next to it. You are to fill in the blank with the name of a person in your immediate family who fits that description.

For example, for "Laughs the Loudest", you will fill in the blank with the name of a person in your family that has the loudest laugh.

Make enough copies of the census activity page for each person in your family to fill out one. Have each person fill it out on their own. Then come back and compare your answers with the rest of your family members.

Family Craft

Week 2 – Nativity Story Stones

Supplies Needed: *stones, paint, small paintbrushes*

The birth of Jesus took place in the town of Bethlehem. Our tradition says that He was born in a stable, but actually it was a type of cave. Caves are natural formations in the side of rocks or hills. In Bible times, this is where animals were usually kept.

Today you will re-create the story of the birth of Jesus by using stones. You will paint the characters onto stones. Then you will use the character stones to tell the Bible story of the birth of Jesus to others.

First, you will need to search outside your home for some stones to use (they need to be large enough to paint on). If you don't have any around your home, search a nearby river or creek, or you can even purchase some from a home improvement store.

Next, paint these characters onto stones (1 character per stone): Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in a manger, animals, angel, shepherds, wisemen.

Once you finish painting, let them dry. Then place in your home to remind you of the birth of Jesus. And you can also use them to share the story of the birth of Jesus with others!

Christmas Cookie

Week 2 – No Bake Oreo Truffles

1 package Double Stuff Oreos

4 oz cream cheese, softened

1 package almond bark (vanilla)

Crush or chop Oreos to fine, small pieces. Put aside some of the Oreos to use as a topping at the end. Using your hands, combine cream cheese and crushed Oreos until well blended.

Place wax paper onto a cookie sheet. Roll dough into 1" balls and place on cookie sheet. Freeze the Oreo balls for 15 minutes.

While balls are in freezer, melt the almond bark according to the directions on the package. Then, take balls out of freezer and dip them into the melted almond bark. Sprinkle the remaining crushed Oreos on top. Let almond bark harden and then enjoy!