



LIFE OF CHRIST: THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

TOPIC: PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST DURING ADVENT, ON CHRISTMAS DAY, AND THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

GOALS

- Families will share their plans to proclaim the Kingdom of God during Advent and throughout the Christmas Season!
- Families will pray *Lectio Divina*, meditating and sharing on the Birth of Christ.
- Families will make Mangers for Baby Jesus and share about how they can make sacrifices out of their love for God and one another.
- Together families will celebrate!

MATERIALS

- Small Wooden box from a craft store (You could substitute a cardboard box, like one from Velveeta Cheese)
- Bible
- Brown Paint (acrylic)
- Paint Brush
- Old Fashioned clothes pin or peg
- Sharpie Marker
- Square piece of felt
- Shredded paper, Rafia, or Straw
- Christmas sweet treats!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and
ask for Your blessing and protection.
We love You Lord Jesus with all our
hearts and we ask that You help our
family become more like the Holy
Family. Help us to be kind, loving,
and patient with one another. Give
us all the grace we need to become
saints and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Caroling

Take turns as each person sings or hums his/her favorite Christmas Carol. The other family members guess the song title.



Ideas you may consider:

- Having a Christmas party/celebration with treats, Christmas carols, and games for the second half of your December Week 3 gathering.
- Doing a collection by asking families to bring in food or small gifts items for the homeless, elderly or children in need.



FAMILY SHARING

In the large group share about your family's plan to proclaim the Kingdom of God during Advent, celebrate the Birth of Christ on Christmas Day, and throughout the whole Christmas Season!

REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

Today we're going to learn about the Third Luminous Mystery, *The Proclaiming the Kingdom of God*, and about celebrating the Birth of Christ during Advent, on Christmas Day, and throughout the whole Christmas Season!

CONTENT

LECTIO DIVINA

Ask all the family members to find a comfortable place to sit.

Explain: Once again we are going to imagine that Jesus is showing us the cave where He was born (note: ancient tradition connects our Lord's birth to a cave, which is the site of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; caves were sometimes used in Jesus' time to shelter flocks and care for animals). We are turning back to the Joyful Mysteries for a moment and are going to reflect on the event of the Birth of Our Lord, which is the Third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

I am going to ask you to quietly relax as I say a prayer and then read the story of the Birth of Jesus to you from Sacred Scripture. When I have finished reading, we will sit in silence for a minute and think about what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through this story.

While I am reading, I would like you to use your imagination, like St. Ignatius of Loyola taught us, and to place yourself there in the story. Think about what you see, hear and even what you smell. This is a special way for us to pray and to meet God. When I have finished reading we will sit in silence for a minute and think about what God is saying to you through this story.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, as we read and think about the story of Your life, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to the hearts of all here, from the oldest to the youngest.

Calmly Read Luke 2:1-20.

Wait at least 30 seconds.

Explain: Now I am inviting each member of your family to share privately about what stood out to him/her in the Mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord that we just read and to identify who in the story proclaimed the Kingdom of God?



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Good Deeds and Sacrifices for Baby Jesus – Make an Empty Manger

Remember Jesus' words, *The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these:*

When we are poor in spirit, when we mourn, are meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, are clean of heart, are peacemakers, are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, or suffer for believing in Jesus, ours is the Kingdom of Heaven. Each time you love and sacrifice for others out of your love for God, place a straw in Baby Jesus' manger to show you are preparing your heart, your family, your home and your community for the Kingdom of God. This is how the Kingdom of God is alive within us and we share it with others! (Place your manger on your home altar.)



Celebrate! Make time for an Advent/Christmas party with sweet treats!

CLOSING PRAYER

(Gather everyone around the home altar/prayer space.)

God of Love, Heavenly Father,
Your Son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign and the very face of Your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for His coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Adapted from Loyola Press- Advent Family Prayer

REMIND

Remind families about the next
meeting date and time.

