

Catholic Family Connections Bible – FAMILY ACTIVITY

Confirmation 1 ~ Complete By: December 2nd | Confirmation 2 ~ Complete By: December 9th

- Materials Needed:**
- Catholic Family Connections Bible
 - Christmas Carol lyrics (attached)
 - Three different colored hi-lighters, pens/pencils
 - Couple of sheets of paper
 - *For Families with Younger Children in the Home:* Play some or all of the attached Christmas carols in the background.
 - A camera – to email a photo of the family activity to crystal@sjeparish.com Photos will be gathered for a slide show at the end of the year but names will not be used.

1. **Read** *Matthew Chapter 2* aloud. Let family members take turns.
 - a. **CONFIRMATION STUDENT:** After reading the chapter aloud, have jot down all of the details you can find (ex. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes or the shepherds were in their fields). You don't have to do this from memory – use the Bible. Review details with the family.
 - b. Don't forget to read any articles/sidebars that appear in the chapter.
2. **Repeat** step #1 but read *Luke Chapter 2*.
3. **Assign** each Gospel a hi-lighter or pen/pencil. **Together**, review the lyrics to the Christmas carols hi-lighting or circling which verses echo Matthew's Gospel and which echo Luke's. With the 3rd color, underline which verses are not based on the Scriptures.
4. **Answer** the following questions:
 - a. Which Gospel version is most commonly used in these Christmas Carols?
 - b. Which Gospel version meant more to you? Why?
5. **PARENT** review the following details with your family in your own words:
 - a. Jesus' birth is only told in Matthew & Luke's Gospels and what has become so familiar to us is a combination of the two Gospels.
 - b. Technically, Jesus could not have been born in the winter. Shepherds are only in the fields in the spring and summer months. December 25th is near the winter solstice which was celebrated in Roman times by those who believed in other gods. Since the early Christians didn't know when Jesus was actually born used the "birth of the sun" to celebrate the "Birth of the Son."
 - c. Many other feast days center around December 25th such as the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25th when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary (nine months before Jesus' birth) and the Nativity of John the Baptist on June 24th – Jesus' cousin – six months before his birth.
 - d. The names of the Wise Men and even the idea that there were three of them come from tradition, not Scripture. The Magi were not kings but probably astrologers or astronomers. The point of this part of the story is to emphasize that Jesus is the Messiah our King (gold) whom we worship as the Son of God (frankincense) and who will die (myrrh) and rise to give us victory over death.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother
and Child Holy Infant so
tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the
sight Glories stream from
heaven afar Heavenly hosts
sing "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy
holy face With the dawn of
redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay

Close by me forever
And love me, I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there

THE FIRST NOEL

The First Noel the angel did
say Was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they
lay; In fields as they lay,
keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that
was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a
star Shining in the east
beyond them far, And to the
earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day
and night.

And by the light of that same
star Three wise men came
from country far; To seek for
a king was their intent, And
to follow the star wherever it
went.

This star drew nigh to the
northwest, O'er Bethlehem it
took it rest, And there it did
both stop and stay Right
over the place where Jesus
lay.

Then entered in those wise
men three Full reverently
upon their knee, and offered

there in his presence Their
gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.

Then let us all with one
accord Sing praises to our
heavenly Lord; That hath
made heaven and earth of
naught, And with his blood
mankind hath bought

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on
high Sweetly singing o'er the
plains, And the mountains in
reply Echoing their joyous
strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains
prolong? What the
gladsome tidings be Which
inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels
sing; Come, adore on
bended knee, Christ the
Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels
praise; Mary, Joseph, lend
your aid, While our hearts in
love we raise.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with
royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect
Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising.
Worship Him, God on high.

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.