

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospels: Luke 2:1-14 and Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas celebrates God's becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling but loving family. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word that means "manifestation," celebrates how Jesus was revealed as far more than the king of the Jews. He is revealed as God's Son. Matthew's story of the visit of the Magi from the East makes it clear that Jesus came to all people who seek God.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your young child is happy because Christmas is finally here. The cover of their lesson for the week is a picture of the whole Nativity story. Display the picture where everyone can see it. Take time to let your young child tell the story to the whole family.

Promise (Grades K-1): Christmas has arrived. Use this week's lesson booklet to connect the classroom with your home. Have your child show you the picture drawn of baby Jesus in the manger on page 1. Your youngster also learned about the Magi and helped them find their way through a maze puzzle. Ask your child what message can we all share at Christmas. Sing "Silent Night" together—or some other familiar carol.

Good News (Grades 2-3): The lesson booklet your child brings home this week contains a simple and beautiful rendering of the Christmas story. Before one of the family meals during the Christmas feast, take time as a family to share the story together. Talk together about why this story never gets old. Share, too, why this story shows just how much God loves you and cares for you.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Because Christmas can be busy and even a bit stressful, it may be difficult to find time to share as a family. Make an extra effort to talk about the Christmas story as a family. Be sure that your child understands that Jesus Christ is the whole reason there is a Christmas feast. Your child also spent some time in class looking ahead to 2019. How can your family make the new year one filled with little "epiphanies" that help you learn more about your faith and help you share your faith with others?

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week in class, your son or daughter studied all the feasts that are part of the celebration of Christmas. Ask him or her to share with the family what these feasts are. The Epiphany feast celebrates Jesus' revealing himself to all nations as a Savior for all people. Talk together about the journey of the Magi, and why it is such an important part of the Christmas narrative. Ask your young person to share the picture of the Magi by the Chinese artist He Qi (Woo Chee). Talk about how the artist gives a clear vision of the event.

Pray Together

Pick one of the feast days during the season to attend Mass together as a family. Use the opportunity to pay a visit to the manger scene at your parish church and pray together in your own words that God will help you always trust in his promises and care for those in need. In that way your family will keep the Christmas spirit alive all year long.