

WeekEnders



The Birth of Jesus

WeekEnders are a simple and small guide for families to participate in worship together while they might be away from St. John's on Sunday. Families are invited to sing, pray, read and share with each other. One family member may lead the entire time or it is encouraged for different members to take turns reading, asking questions and leading. The WeekENDER can be done in stages throughout a weekend. For example: You may "pause" after a time of sharing on Friday night and then "continue" on Sunday morning. Many blessings as you worship our Lord together!

Read: Psalm 145:1-7

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Offer your own prayer or the suggested: *Lord God and King, we will praise you today and forever. Praise you for your mighty acts. Praise you for your abundant goodness. Praise you for your compassionate nature and rich love. Let our hearts praise you! Amen.*

Share with each other: What are some things that you would like to praise God for today?

Sing: How Great Is Our God

How Great Is Our God

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves
and Ed Cash

1 The splen - dor of the King, clothed in maj - es - ty;
(2. And) age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;

Let all the earth re - joice, all the earth re - joice. He wraps
Be - gin - ning and the End, Be - gin - ning and the End. The God -

Him - self in light, and dark - ness tries to hide,
head, three in one, Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

and trem - bles at His voice, and trem - bles at His voice. How great
the Li - on and the Lamb, the Li - on and the Lamb. How great

is our God! Sing with me. How great is our God!

And all will see how great, how great is our God! 2. And

Name a - bove all names, wor - thy of all praise

My heart will sing: How great is our God!

is our God! How great

is our God!

Read: Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Sharing: Jesus' family tree linked back to King David. The faith was passed along from one generation to the next all the way to Jesus. Jesus was raised knowing and learning the scriptures.

- What is your family tree like?
- How is faith passed on from one generation to the next in your family?
- How was it passed on to you?

Sharing: There was no room available for Mary, Joseph and Jesus. If the inn keepers would have known the King of the World was at their door they probably would have found some room, but they didn't.

- Is there room in your heart for Jesus?
- When was there a time you recall having a lot of room available for Jesus?
- What can you do to make room for Jesus?

Pray: One family member or all might participate in a time of prayer lifting up what was shared. Example: *Lord, help me to have room for you in my heart and life each day.*

Sing: What Can I Give Him?

What Can I Give Him

Words by Christina G. Rossetti
Music by Don Cason

Musical score for the song "What Can I Give Him" in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shep-herd I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise-man I would do my part: Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart."

Chords: B^b, Cm/B^b, B^b, E^b6, F, Dm/F, F7, B^b, E^b, F/E^b, B^b/D, B^b/C, C7, B^b/C, C7, F^{sus}, F, B^b, Cm/B^b, B^b, F/A, Gm, D/F#, Gm, E^bm6/G^b, B^b/F, E^b2(#4), E^b, Cm7, F7, B^b

Offertory: What is something you would like to offer to the Lord this weekend? What can you give?

Read: Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sharing: The shepherds were very common people and often considered to have a lowly job. It was to these shepherds the angels first chose to share this wonderful news of the Messiah. The shepherds, Mary, Joseph, the magi and so many others all have a part in this wonderful birth story. What is our place in the story?

Read the passage again and share with each other your thoughts, insights and reflections. You may share something that the Holy Spirit might be impressing on you.

Pray: Share a joy or concern about the upcoming week. Then take turns praying for each other. It can be a simple sentence prayer where you are talking to God on behalf of the other person. Praying for someone else, especially a family member, is a great and wonderful privilege.

Benediction: (One family member may say this to all the others.) We have worshipped together. We have prayed together, read the Word together, lifted our voices in song together, and shared with each other. Now may we go living for Jesus as a family by his grace, mercy and peace. Amen.

Closing Song: Joy to the World!

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love

WeekEnders - families worshipping together

Check out more WeekEnders each
month as they become available.

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