

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

COVENANTS AND SACRAMENTS

TOPIC: BECAUSE GOD IS FAITHFUL, HE SENT HIS ONLY SON, JESUS CHRIST, TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS.

GOAL(S):

- Families reflect on how Sacred Scripture shows God’s faithfulness to us
- Lead families through *Lectio Divina* on the Third Joyful Mystery, the Nativity of Our Lord

MATERIALS

- [God Is Faithful](#) cutout activity
- Rosaries
- Rosary for Children Pamphlet
- Christmas sweet treat

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.

IDEAS YOU MAY CONSIDER

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

ICE BREAKER

Christmas Past Game

Click on the image to download the game board.

Get the most initials and Win!



FAMILY SHARING

Each family shares a photo of themselves around their home altar or prayer space practicing their favorite Advent or Christmas tradition. Then they explain why it is their favorite tradition as well as how they will celebrate the Birth of Christ on Christmas Day and during the whole Christmas Season.

REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

God keeps his promises!

Content: So far this year, we have learned that in Genesis 3:15 God promised in the Garden of Eden that He would send us a savior. Then, in His covenant with Noah, God promised He would show mercy and forgiveness to mankind. Now, as we are preparing for Christmas, it is clear that God our Father is faithful and keeps his promises! At Christmas, we celebrate what God had told everyone that He would do. God the Father gave us His own Son, Jesus, who died so that our sins would be forgiven. The more we learn about God, the more we know that God has a plan for us, is faithful and keeps His promises. He loves us!

FAMILY SHARING

(Families share first among themselves. If time allows, open for large group sharing)

- When in your life have you experienced God's faithfulness, love and care for you?
- Name a time when you experienced God keeping His promises to you.

LECTIO DIVINA

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

Explain: 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.

Prayer: Dear Lord 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.



FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing Guidelines:

- a. Respectfully listening to each family member as he/she is sharing his/her reflection is very important.
- b. Avoid interrupting or even correcting what another is saying (we're looking to listen, not critique).
- c. When each family member has had an opportunity to share his/her reflections on the Birth of Jesus, signal by raising your hand.
- d. Please continue to sit quietly while we wait for the other families to finish.

Give families time to share privately.

PRAY

Pray: Use Rosaries and the Rosary for Children Pamphlet to lead families in one decade meditating on the Third Joyful Mystery, the Nativity of Our Lord.

Give: [*God is Faithful Cutout*](#) for families to do, perhaps while eating a special Christmas treat!



REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

