

Christmas Family Worship Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

A little different format for our family worship sheet this week. During our morning service on Christmas Eve our Genesis Kids and Youth Ministries are leading us through their Christmas lesson from the Gospel Project. The lesson will look at the prophetic promise of a future King who would reign forever made by Isaiah about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. This promise prepared God's people for the coming of the Messiah. Matthew 1 tells the story of the birth of that King, Jesus our Savior in Bethlehem.

Meanwhile, our Christmas Eve (evening) service will also look at the birth of a baby in the story of Ruth. The beautiful love story comes to its conclusion (although we are going to backtrack and cover the entire marriage story from chapter 4 next Sunday). Ruth and Boaz have a baby, a sign of God's kindness and faithfulness to Naomi and Ruth. Yet, this baby is vitally important in the grand story of the Bible, as this miracle baby is called Naomi's redeemer. He is called this because the birth of this baby brought her back in to the place of blessing, included in God's promises, included in God's people, included in God's inheritance. But the baby is more than a grandson for Naomi. The story tells us that Obed is actually the grandfather of King David. And King David is the ruler to whom God first promised that a future descendant would be the Messiah King who would usher in God's Kingdom. In other words, a descendant of Obed will be the King promised by Isaiah in his prophecy. The story of Ruth and the promise of Isaiah are deeply tied together in God's great story. And both of them point us to Jesus, our True and Better King.

So our encouragement for you and your family is that on Christmas morning, after you have opened your presents, gather around the tree or a table and spend some time re-reading the passages, and discussing how God's love for Ruth and Naomi points us to God's love shown in Jesus. Talk about how the promised King in Isaiah helps us know that God is sovereign and has purpose in the world and in our lives. Look at how the genealogy started in the book of Ruth ends in Matthew. And think about the angel speaking to Joseph telling him that he will be the earthly father of the descendant of Obed and David who is the King of the Universe. Here is a possible order for a time of worship. If you click on the Family Worship link on Koinonia or the Genesis Blog we will upload videos for the three songs we have chosen for you.

Opening - If you have an advent candle, light each of the candles, and then light the Christ candle sharing that Jesus is the light of the world who came into the world to be our Savior.

Sing - *Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel* -

<https://youtu.be/Mzr0bAp-xq4?si=Hy2qAvNkbsAzskqG>

Read Ruth 9:2-7

*Ask your family how God showed His kindness to Ruth and Naomi in the story.

*Explain why Obed is so important in the story line of Jesus

Read Isaiah 9:2-7

*Ask what this passage promises and how it points to Jesus.

Sing - *Angels we Have Heard on High*

Read Matthew 1:16-25

*Explain how the birth of Jesus brought all of God's promises for us.

Pray - spend time praying over the list at the bottom of the page.

Sing - *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* - <https://youtu.be/eZu5LPf27cA?si=PS7D35kobhp9hzV8>

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 61	Psalm 62	Psalm 63	Psalm 64	Psalm 65	Psalm 66	Psalm 67

Reading from this past week: Ruth 4

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ruth 4

Family Worship

Song - *Angels we Have Heard on High*

<https://youtu.be/8V7sLV2uqls?si=FmLseJjZYrJ5rIhP>

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus is born

Story: Jesus forgave Peter

Big Picture Question: How do we know that God wants us to know Him?

Answer: We can know

that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.

Scripture: Isaiah 9

New City Catechism

Question #52: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

Answer: That we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be forever freed from all sin in a renewed, restored creation.

Verse: Revelation 12:1-4

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7, Ruth 4:13-22, Matthew 1:16-25

- How does God show his faithfulness to Naomi and Ruth? How is this story connected to the Christmas story?
- What are the promises made by God through the prophet Isaiah and how are do those promises point to the Christmas story?
- Why did we need God to send a King and Savior who was born for us in Bethlehem?

Prayer

*Rejoice, give thanks for the birth of our King and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Pray for that our people would be generous and give to the Advent Conspiracy Offering and that our gifts to the offering would lead to people hearing about Jesus all over the world.

*The final candle in Advent is the Christ Candle, to be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This candle reminds us that the wait is over, Christ is born, salvation has come.