

## Family Catechesis Advent & Christmas at Home



### REFLECTION: (for the Parent, other adults and teenagers in the family)

The Feast of Christ the King marks the end of the Church's Liturgical Year. Jesus has made us a promise: "I will come again and take you with me so that where I am, you may be there too. And you know the way to where I am going." (See John 14:1-6)

- God promised to restore all Creation to himself through the Messiah.
- God's people waited long for the Messiah to come.
- He has come in Jesus,
- The Feast of Christ the King reminds us that Jesus, the Messiah Jesus, has come among us in his birth as one of us in Bethlehem., and to be ready for the Final Coming of Jesus at the end of time.
- Throughout the coming Liturgical Year, we will, once again, recall the way to follow Jesus day by day and eventually be with him in heaven.
- We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving, the birth of Jesus among us at Christmas.
- We live in faith, and charity while looking forward in hope to the Second Coming of Jesus.

## The King is Coming



**Aim:** To help your child and your family to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Over the next 4 weeks we will prepare with the children to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We will do this by focusing on the figures in and round the Crib. All you will need for the sessions is either a crib set or a some Christmas Cards with the images of the Birth of Jesus in the Stable at Bethlehem. You can divide the sessions that follow over the next four weeks:

**Parent:** Welcome the child and other members of the family and gather them in a circle in the room.

Tell the family:

- Today we are going discover the meaning of the different figures in the Crib.
- Can you name some of them?
- Allow time for a brainstorming.



**Parent:** the following is a timetable for the next 4 weeks and Christmas Day beginning with the First Sunday of Advent:

Every figure in the crib or on the Christmas Cards has a meaning which points to who Jesus is.

Week	Figures in the Crib or on the Christmas Cards	Special Meanings Hold each figure for all to see. Members of the family can tell the meanings	Scripture Text Parent reads these Scripture texts
1	Mary and Joseph	Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus: She said "Yes" to God' plan. Her name means: "Loved by God" Joseph, the husband of Mary would be the foster father of Jesus and the one who would protect Jesus and Mary from Herod who wanted to kill the Child Jesus.	Luke 1:26-38  Matthew 2:15

2	<p><b>The Manger</b> <b>The Ox and Donkey</b></p>	<p><b>The Manger:</b> This was the place in the stable where the animals found food. Jesus was placed in the manger – He would say: “I am the Bread of Life”</p> <p><b>The Ox:</b> These animals were sacrificed in the Temple to ask God’s blessing and forgiveness. Jesus would be sacrificed on the Cross for us.</p> <p><b>The Donkey;</b> Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people would hail him as the Messiah.</p>	<p><b>Luke 2:1-7</b> <b>(John 6:35)</b></p>
3	<p><b>The Shepherds and</b> <b>Sheep</b></p>	<p><b>The Shepherds:</b> They remind us of the poor who were neglected. Jesus would say of himself: “I am the Good Shepherd”.</p> <p><b>The Sheep:</b> These are us- the ones like the sheep who listen to the voice of the Shepherd.</p>	<p><b>Luke 1:8-18</b> <b>(John 10:11-16)</b></p>
4	<p><b>The Angels</b> <b>The Star</b> <b>The 3 Kings</b></p>	<p><b>The Angels:</b> They adore God in heaven. Each one of us has a Guardian Angel to watch over us.</p> <p><b>The Star:</b> It guided the three Kings – Jesus is the Light of the world and guides us to heaven</p> <p><b>The gifts of the three kings:</b> They tell us who Jesus is: <b>GOLD</b> – Jesus is King over all <b>FRANKINCENSE</b> - A special sweet-smelling gum– Jesus is God <b>MYRRH</b> – A special ointment used when a person is buried – Jesus will die for us,</p>	<p><b>Matthew 2-1-12</b></p>
<p><b>Christ</b> <b>mas</b> <b>Day</b></p>	<p><b>Jesus in the Stable.</b></p>	<p><b>Gather round the crib at home</b> <b>The members of the family recall the story of the Birth of Jesus</b> <b>Complete the sentence: “I remember in the story of Bethlehem when... “</b> <b>Allow the story to simply fall into place at home.</b></p>	<p><b>All sing a</b> <b>Christmas Carol</b></p>

### Celebration

**Weeks 1-4** :Sing or say together:

**Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus! Or: O Come. O come, Emmanuel**

**Christmas Day:** All say

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel**  
**God who came on earth to dwell.**  
**Who can all the story tell?**  
**God with us, God with us!**  
**God with us, Emmanuel!**

Share some treats & cool juice.

