

HTXCHRISTMAS.COM

HOW TO HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AT HOME:

- Commit to a time to gather as a family and watch church online.
- Have fun deciding how you'll dress for worship at home.
Pajamas? Casual? Dressy?
- Prepare snacks, beverages, etc. and get comfortable
around a large television or computer to stream the service.

FOR THE ADULTS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

With so many distractions in our daily lives, we tend to overlook the small but significant moments such as the checkout line at the grocery store, fast food drive-thru, or paying for gas at the gas station - can you think of a time in this last year when God was trying to show you something significant in an otherwise insignificant and routine part of your week?

What is something in your life that started out very small and ordinary that God worked into something beyond your expectations?

What small area in your life do you hope to see God transform into something much more than you ever imagined? It could be a relationship, a health issue, career, etc.

Is there a person God has placed in your life that could use the hope and encouragement we find in this profound story with small beginnings? Prayerfully consider with whom you can share the hope of Christmas in the year ahead.

As you think about parts of life that seem to be "small" and struggling, what hopes and dreams do you have for that person or situation?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, each December we come to this wonderful season of Advent and celebrate the hope and help that came down in the form of a precious baby. As we reflect on the small and simple details of this supernatural and historical birth, renew our excitement and adoration for Your son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Sharpen our awareness of the ways in which you work in the mundane and simple details of our lives to reveal yourself to us each and every day. Thank you for all that you have done, are doing and will continue to do in the days and weeks ahead! In Jesus name, Amen.

FOR THE FAMILIES

DURING THE SERVICE

Which tiny instrument was the funniest? Which would you want to play?

Is there a particular Christmas song that you love? If we sing a favorite during the service, let others that you're watching with know!

Jesus was wrapped in a swaddling cloth, to keep him protected from itchy hay! What was/is your favorite blanket or item from when you were a baby?

AFTER THE SERVICE

If it was your door that Mary & Joseph knocked on for help, how would you help them prepare for Jesus to be born?

Jesus' birth is such a humble and beautiful story. Retell the stories of your children's birth/arrival into the family!

It's said, "good things come in small packages." What is your smallest but most valuable possession?

Everyone has a favorite blanket/outfit/comfort item..take turns sharing your favorites!

How would you feel if you lost your favorite blanket/outfit/shoes?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:4-7

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

You, too, are swaddled in warmth and safety, and in the care of One who loves you more than you can possibly imagine. You are warm, secure, and safe in the love of Jesus Christ.

FAMILY FUN

Christmas Comforts - Encourage family members to choose their favorite Christmas item and bring it to the family room or table to share. Examples could be a favorite shirt/outfit, pajamas, blanket, stuffed animal, ornament, toy, etc. Give everyone a chance to share why this item has special meaning.

Stocking Guessing Game - Gather rolls of toilet paper, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. Split the family into teams and choose a "Snowman" and "dressers." Have teams race to see who can create a human snowman the fastest, wrapping the person in toilet paper roll and adding appropriate accessories.

PRAY TOGETHER

Pick someone's favorite comfort item (plush stuffed animal, pillow or soft ornament for example) and have a family member hold it while opening in prayer. That person then chooses the next person and tosses the item for them to catch and continue the prayer, until everyone has had the chance to pray. The last person catches the item and closes in prayer for the group.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Join us again on Christmas Day at HTXChristmas.com
for a brief video devotion streaming all day long.