

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY MEAL

THE CHRISTMAS STORY AROUND THE DINNER TABLE

## REJOICE THIS CHRISTMAS

Invite your friends and family to share a meal with you in your home. Prepare a space to eat together and journey through the Christmas story.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

For each section there is a reading, a question, a suggested activity/ game and a prayer.

Ask a few people to read during your time together, to ensure everyone is invited to play their part in this act of creative worship.



### **WHAT YOU'LL NEED:**

Blindfold, paper and pens.  
Crackers. Chocolate coins (or another small gift to hide around the room).



# ONE

Ask everyone to come into the room where you will eat together and have the lights off. Read:

**Reading:** *'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light (and turn the lights back on!)...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* Isaiah 9: 2, 6

**Question:** Would you rather see a sunrise, or a sunset?

**Game:** Blindfold Pictionary - Each person has a turn to be blindfolded and then draw a Christmas object on a sheet of paper. The person drawing must stay silent, and not draw any letters or numbers. Everyone else must try and guess what they are drawing. Suggested list of objects: cracker, Christmas tree, presents, stable, manger, Christmas pudding, turkey.

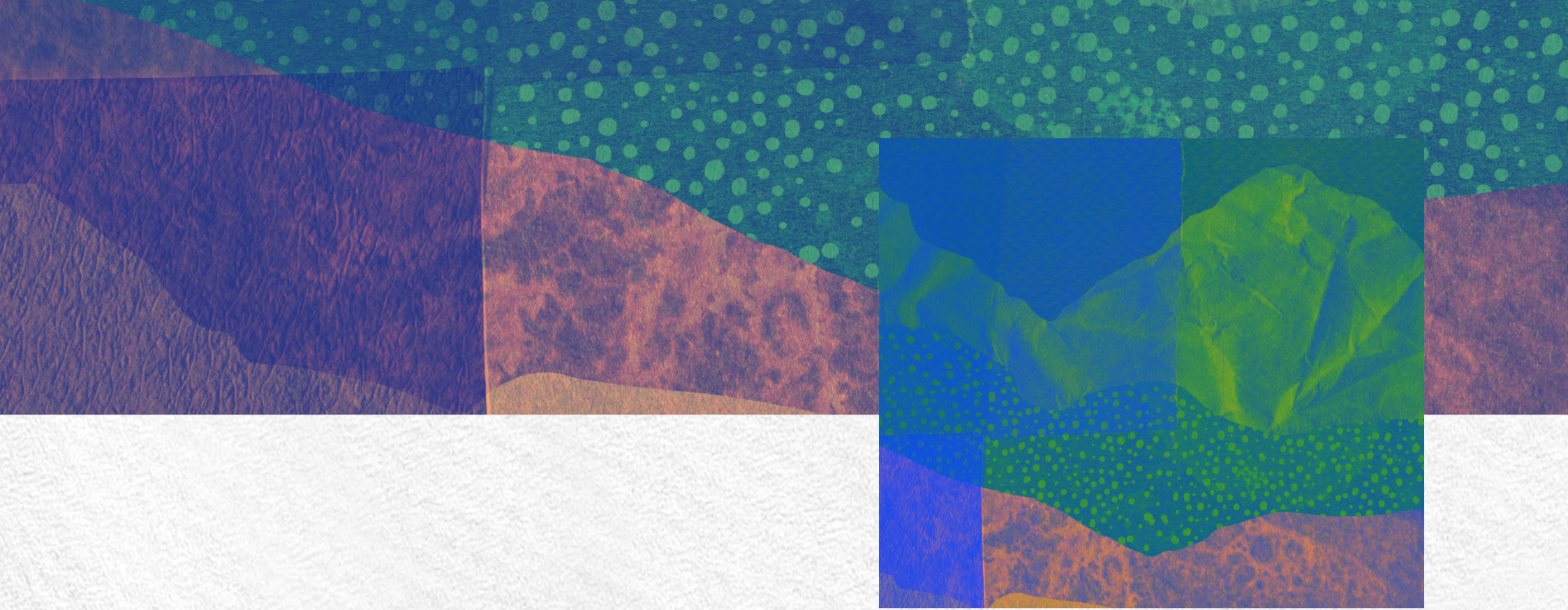
**Prayer:** Lord, thank you that today/tonight we can gather together, share food and hear the Christmas story. Would you bless this time of friendship and this food to our bodies. Amen



**Rejoice in the Lord  
always. I will say it  
again: rejoice!**

Philippians 4:4





# TWO

Prepare your plates with food, but don't eat quite yet!

**Reading:** *'In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.'*" Luke 1: 26-33

**Question:** When have you been surprised?

**Activity:** Pull crackers and find the surprise inside.

**Prayer:** As the angels surprised Mary, would we be surprised by you today/ tonight Lord, as we listen to your voice and hear the Christmas story. Amen



# THREE

Eat your dinner. Once you have finished:

**Reading:** *'In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...And everyone went to their own town to register. 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.'* Luke 2: 1, 3-7

**Question:** What is the best gift you have ever received?

**Game:** 'Find the gifts' treasure hunt around the room/a few rooms. You could hide chocolate coins or another small token for people to find.

**Prayer:** Thank you Jesus, for coming to this earth as the greatest gift we will ever receive. Thank you that you gave everything for us; love, freedom, peace, joy and everlasting life. Amen





# FOUR

Clear the table of your plates and then read:

**Reading:** *‘And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” 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.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.’ Luke 2: 8-16*

**Question:** Who would you tell first if you had just met Jesus?

**Game:** ‘The messenger game’. Someone think of a word or short phrase. They whisper the word/phrase into the ear of the person on their left. That person hears the word/phrase and passes it onto the person on their left, and so on around the table. The final person to hear the word/phrase should repeat it and see if it is the same as the original.

**Prayer:** Jesus, would we be like the Shepards and tell everyone we meet about you, your love and the gift you have given us. Amen





# FIVE

Eat your dessert and when everyone has finished:

**Reading:** *‘After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:*

*“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”’*

*Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.’ Matthew 2: 1-12*

**Question:** Imagine like the Magi you met Jesus. What would you say to Him or ask Him?



**Activity:** The Magi worshipped and gave thanks to Jesus. Go round the table and share something you would like to thank Jesus for today/tonight?

**Prayer:** Jesus, we thank you for all these things we have just shared. Thank you for our time together today/this evening hearing the story of your birth. Thank you Jesus that we celebrate Christmas because of you. Amen

