

Read the Christmas Story with your family or friends from work.

Children automatically sense the excitement of Christmas. But we tend lose that with age. Regain the magic and mystery of the wonderful events of the Christmas Story, which you thought you had lost forever. *Becoming part of the Christmas story*. God invites you to join the Christmas story yourself. It's an ancient story. It actually begins before Christmas. And the original Christmas story is still not finished. It is changing lives and shaping history yet today. We will find that the people who took part in the original Christmas story are just like those who participate in today's Christmas Story. And we will discover that God has us cast as part of His continuing Christmas story.

Here is a reading and discussion plan as you make ready for your greatest Christmas in years. Maybe read these with your family around the dinner table or before bed. "as you lie down" Deuteronomy 6.7.

Maybe read it out of The Message Bible if you can. (Available through 'youversion' – (sign up at bible.com for your smart phone or computer), on your Kindle, or purchased in town.

Week of November 29 – December 5

Read Luke 1.5 – 23; and 1.39 – 80 (you can read the whole chapter) J

1. Place yourself in Zechariah's shoes. What may have gone through his mind?
2. What might Elizabeth have thought during her 5 months alone?
3. What might John the Baptist's parents have imagined as he is born, and they talk to town's people?

Week of December 6 – 12

Read Luke 2.1 – 40 throughout the week

1. Doesn't it seem odd that Joseph's town of origin – Bethlehem, failed to take in the young couple? No relatives took them in, they were on their own. How would that clarify God's role of providing?
2. What could you or your family do to emulate the shepherds?
3. Discuss Simeon and Anna. How do they inspire your life?

Week of December 13 – 19

Read Matthew 1.18 – 25 and chapter 2.1 – 23

1. What did Joseph do that wrote his name down in history? What did he do that most people fail to do?
2. Why did God know, from Joseph's character, that he would make a perfect father to raise Jesus?
3. What might have been the reasons for all of Jerusalem being terrified at the news of a new king of the Jews?
4. Joseph obeys the voice of God through many trials. What are those trials and what does that inspire in you?

Week of December 20 – 25

Read 1 Peter 1.10-12 and 18-20. Ephesians 1.4

1. Discuss when Jesus began to make plans to come as the baby to be the Savior.
2. Find other Old Testament prophecies that talk about the arrival of Jesus. Find a bible that has cross-references (like Acts 2.23) and google Messianic Prophecies for more.