

# INVITING CHRIST'S PRESENCE



We know Christ is the center of this celebration—the reason for the season. Yet it is easy to get distracted. Even when we attend Christmas services we can leave Him at church, while we take our celebration to our homes. Tonight, unlike Bethlehem, *make room* for Jesus in your home. Sit around your tree surrounded by presents and invite His presence into your home and family.

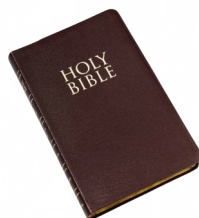
Your house may be filled with family and friends, or it may just be yourself (or you may be the only willing to participate). But no one is alone. Christ joins you. Tonight celebrate the gift of His coming and presence. I have written these words for my family, feel free to change for your own situation.

**Make Preparations:** Find a place near your Christmas tree where there is enough space. Inside the bag you will find what you need, but you may want to add a few optional items:

**Included:** A page of scripture passages and communion elements (bread and grape juice).



**Optional:** Your preferred Bible translation and cup(s) for communion juice.



*(Please Read or Put into your own words.)*

Tonight we gather as a family in our home. We sit by the tree surrounded by presents. In a house decorated for the season. Each of these are signs of Christmas. Tonight let us pause to remember the reason for all these signs. Together we read His story and the creation of Christmas:

**Read Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-12**

*(Please Read or Put into your own words.)*

Jesus was born to fulfill the promises of God. Which meant He was born with a very specific purpose. He was born to die. We should not separate Baby Jesus from Adult Jesus, nor the Manger from the Cross. They are linked. Just as His coming is linked to our salvation. Take a moment to ponder the sacrifice of Christmas. Ponder Mary and Joseph. Ponder the baby, born to die.

Now let this home celebrate Holy Communion. Let us remember God's sacrifice and commit ourselves and this Christmas to Him.

**Read: Luke 22:14-15, 19**

Take the small roll. Break a piece for yourself. Pass it to the next person. When all have been given a piece, say, "His body broken for you. Take and Eat." (You may pause for a moment of reflection.)

**Read: Luke 22:20**

Take the juice. If everyone has their own cup, say, "His blood shed for you. Take and drink." Or pass the cup, repeating the phrase over each person. (You may pause for a moment of reflection.)

**Closing Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we invite your presence into our home this Christmas. We not only make room for you, we invite you in as our Savior and King. Your presence is our gift this season. Amen.

Have a Merry Christmas.

