

Read through “The TRUE Christmas Story” Luke 2:1-20 ESV

Instructions:

1. Cut the following verses into individual strips of paper.
2. Have each participant keep choosing one until they are all taken.
3. Read each part in order, followed by the prayer.

1-3: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius *[ka -rin - ee - us]* was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. *[We continue with verse 4]*

4-5: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. *[We continue with verse 6]*

6-7: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. *[We continue with verse 8]*

8-9: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. *[We continue with verse 10]*

10-12: And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths *[strips of cloth, not clothes]* and lying in a manger.” *[We continue with verse 13]*

13-14: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” *[We continue with verse 15]*

15: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” *[We continue with verse 16]*

16-17: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. *[We continue with verse 18]*

18-19: And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. *[We continue with verse 20]*

20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *[We continue with verse 21]*

21: And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. *[We continue with the prayer]*

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, *You loved the world so much that You gave You only begotten Son to be our Savior!* We thank You for the true Christmas Story, *which is Your plan to save us.* Jesus lived in our place, received our sins and punishment, and laid down His life. So help us to recognize our sins, be sorry, trust in Jesus as our Savior, and have a blessed celebration of His birth. Amen!