



CAPITOL
ministries®

DECEMBER 18, 2023

VERSE OF THE WEEK..... 2

Luke 2:10-11

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES 4

Leading the Family Devotions at Christmas



As is my custom at Christmas, I am providing you with information on “Leading the Family Devotions at Christmas” with your family. I encourage you to perform this important ministry function during this joyous, wonderful time of the year.

As I’ve mentioned before, it is critical for you to lead your family spiritually for several reasons. First, spiritual leadership is incumbent upon the husband. Being obedient to Scripture in this regard not only inures personal blessings from above, but it helps assure that The Faith is passed down in your family. Christmas is a time you can build your family culture: *As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*, says Joshua in Joshua 24:15. This is also a time to confer with your family. You need your family to be 100 percent behind your (and their) huge familial sacrifice in order to serve our country. They must be on your team in order for you to remain effective—and our country desperately needs believers to remain effective!

Your leadership at Christmas represents a sacred time to *inure, assure, and confer* with your family. Danielle joins me in wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas! Read on, my friend!


Ralph Drollinger

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Governors: Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom

Former Cabinet Members / White House Senior Staff: Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom

Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

House Members: Thursdays 8am, AG Hearing Rm., Longworth 1302, hot breakfast served

- CURRENT AND FORMER GOVERNORS**
 Phil Bryant **MS**
 Mike Dunleavy **AK**
 Greg Gianforte **MT**
 Sarah Huckabee Sanders **AR**
 Sonny Perdue **GA**
 Rick Perry **TX**
 Jim Pillen **NE**
 Tate Reeves **MS**
 Kim Reynolds **IA**
 Kevin Stitt **OK**
 Scott Walker **WI**
 Glenn Youngkin **VA**
- SENATORS**
 Marsha Blackburn **TN**
 Mike Braun **IN**
 Katie Britt **AL**
 Ted Budd **NC**
 Bill Cassidy **LA**
 Kevin Cramer **ND**
 Steven Daines **MT**
 Joni Ernst **IA**
 William Hagerty **TN**
 Cindy Hyde-Smith **MS**
 James Lankford **OK**
 Markwayne Mullin **OK**
 Mike Rounds **SD**
 Tim Scott **SC**
 John Thune **SD**
- REPRESENTATIVES**
 Mark Alford **MO**
 Robert Aderholt **AL**
 Rick Allen **GA**
 Brian Babin **TX**
 Don Bacon **NE**
 Michael Bost **IL**
 Josh Brecheen **OK**
 Michael Conaway **TX**
 Rick Crawford **AR**
 Jake Ellzey **TX**
 Ron Estes **KS**
 Glenn Grothman **WI**
 Kevin Hern **OK**
 Richard Hudson **NC**
 Bill Huizenga **MI**
 Bill Johnson **OH**
 Dusty Johnson **SD**
 Jim Jordan **OH**
 Doug Lamborn **CO**
 Nathaniel Moran **TX**
 Kevin McCarthy **CA**
 Gary Palmer **AL**
 August Pfluger **TX**
 Bill Posey **FL**
 Cathy McMorris Rodgers **WA**
 David Rouzer **NC**
 John Rutherford **FL**
 Glenn Thompson **PA**
 Tim Walberg **MI**
 Randy Weber **TX**
 Daniel Webster **FL**
 Bruce Westerman **AR**
 Brandon Williams **NY**
 Roger Williams **TX**
 Joe Wilson **SC**
 Rob Wittman **VA**
 Steve Womack **AR**
 Rudy Yakym **IN**
 Ted Yoho **FL**

The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.





VERSE OF THE WEEK



Luke 2:10–11

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!



I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a suggested outline to help prepare you for leading and facilitating a meaningful and spiritually nourishing time of family devotions at Christmas. Be praying beforehand.

II. PREPARING FOR THE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

1. Announcing Devotions:

When you invite your family members and are informing them of the time to arrive and what time you will sit down at the table, mention the family devotion in the course of the conversation. This way people will not be surprised when you transition into this part of the day. It will serve to take pressure off of you when the time arrives to segue into the devotion.

2. Dressing for Devotions

Give prior consideration as to how you will dress. Dress one step above your guests—but only one step above. Your dress should show warmth, love, nobility, and a sense of seriousness. Remember, how you dress should reflect the fact that in the coming moments you will be God’s spokesman to your family—don’t take that lightly.

3. Timing Devotions in the Day

It is best to have devotions after the main meal, during dessert, with warm beverages. Make sure the TV and background music are off and not competing for attention. Inform everyone kindly that they need to “turn off all electronic devices during takeoff and landing.” What you don’t want is your young ones sending text messages or playing games while you are sharing God’s Word.

Facilitate serving food and beverages during this time. Serving others helps to take the edge off, especially for those who might not be saved.

4. Transitioning into Devotions

As you circulate among your guests and invite them into the room (the one you have previously determined is best for this purpose), make appropriate edifying-only small talk as people settle in. You are starting to set the tone. Be extra sensitive to make your guests feel comfortable. Help with small tasks such as moving the chairs into the room and bringing coffee to your guests. Show a servant’s heart.

III. BEGINNING THE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

1. Introductory Remarks

Express your heart-felt gratitude that you could all be together during this wonderful time of the year.

2. Praise Your Wife

Nothing is more important in the formation and stability of your children and grandchildren than for them to see how much you cherish your mate. Follow the ACTS outline as you speak about your wife:

ADORATION

Several qualities you most like

CONFESSION

Your bad habits she puts up with

THANKSGIVING

Express gratefulness to her

SUPPLICATION

Mention that you pray for her

3. Honor Your Family Members

Speak personally and edifyingly into the lives of your family members in front of others. This will require forethought to most effectively build them up. Herein you are setting long-term tone and culture for what you expect of the interpersonal relationships among your clan.



IV. OPEN THE SCRIPTURES TOGETHER

Open your personal Bible to the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2.

1. Read the Passage

Assign your best readers to read through the verses and pass them your Bible. This isn't so much a time to exegete the passage verse by verse as it is to cozy-up and listen to one another read God's Word.

2. Explain the Passage

Once the reading is completed, be ready to share some of your insights into the passage of things that are self-evident. For instance, you could emphasize that Jesus is said to be **Lord** (Luke 2:11). Ask, "What does '**Lord**' mean?" *Kurios*, the Greek word for "**Lord**" is used 747 times in the New Testament (NT). In contrast, *Savior* only appears 22 times in the NT. Ask, "What is so significant about that?" Answer: Luke, herein, and the apostolic preaching of the first-century church, emphasized the need for us to come to know Jesus as our Lord, or "master"—not just know Him in terms of knowledge only, or as an eternal insurance policy who doesn't tangentially affect our lives today (cf. Romans 10:9–10).

V. SING A HYMN TOGETHER

I recommend "The First Noel." You can find the lyrics on the Internet. It is very appropriate for singing after reading Luke 2. If you are not a good singer, defer to someone who is. The word *noel*, is from the Latin word *natalis* meaning *birthday*. It is from the same root we derive the English adjective, *natal*, meaning, "to be born." If you have young children or grandchildren, you might want to add that this is a song about Jesus' first birthday!

VI. SHARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

An effective testimony includes the following three irreducible minimums. Prepare beforehand your personal conversion story along these lines below. Hold your testimony to under three minutes, no long recitations of every detail of your life, please. I can personally help to sort through, outline, and codify this with you if you like:

- *Your life before receiving Christ*
- *Specifically, how you received Christ*
- *Life changes since you received Christ*

Your main objective is to model for your family how they too can receive Christ if they haven't already. So edit your comments with this in mind.

VII. SHARE THE GOSPEL

There is nothing more important that you can accomplish as a husband and father than to lead your kids to Christ—now is a good time! Here is how to transition into that:

1. Apply the Passage

It is fitting at this point, having read Scripture, sung a hymn, and having listened to your testimony, for you to return to the passage and apply it to their lives.

Ask your family members (if they haven't already) to invite the Lord Jesus into their hearts, just like you did. Take advantage of the special warmth people feel at Christmas time, the power of having read the Word of God, and your personal testimony: these are pillars to support your very-personalized quest for their salvation. Don't preach; rather, emphasize personal warmth and gentleness while being very courageous in your inner person.

2. Gospel Verses to Use

Look up the following passages prior to the devotion and mark them in your Bible. Don't read from this outline. These Scriptures will aid you in sharing the Gospel in a succinct and thoughtful way. These verses progress through the plan of salvation; make appropriate transitions to achieve this same idea of progression.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1–2).

3. Invite Others to Ask Jesus Into Their Hearts

Publicly pray the following prayer, inviting anyone who would like to ask Jesus into his or her heart to pray along with you silently as you pray out loud:

"Lord Jesus, I need you. I realize that I have sinned and fall short of Your standard of perfection and am in need of not only a Savior, but also a Lord who will always lead me in the right direction. I



open the door of my life today and ask you to come in and begin to change my life for good and your glory. Amen!"

Be sure to follow up with your family members afterwards (not necessarily right then and there) and ask them if they prayed with you to receive Christ. Minister to each accordingly in your follow up.

VIII. CLOSING THE FAMILY DEVOTION

From the bottom of your heart, express to your family how important this time has been to you personally—and how you hope and pray it has been meaningful to them as well.

- 1. Close with the Same Hymn: encourage everyone to sing the hymn once again from the heart.
2. Close with Prayer: choose someone else in the family who has a strong walk with Christ to close in prayer.
3. Close with Appreciation: you are the head of the household. Once again take this opportunity to set a tone of love, mercy, graciousness, compassion, longsuffering, and care.

IX. SUMMARY

May God richly bless you as you lay hold of your spiritual leadership responsibilities in your household. This is what God has called you to, and you need serve your family with the same level of passion and attentiveness as you give to the nation.

Merry Christmas from our home to yours!

Ralph and Danielle

ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES

- UNITED STATES
Albany New York
Annapolis Maryland
Atlanta Georgia
Augusta Maine
Austin Texas
Bismarck North Dakota
Boise Idaho
Boston Massachusetts
Denver Colorado
Dover Delaware
Carson City Nevada
Charleston West Virginia
Cheyenne Wyoming
Columbia South Carolina
Columbus Ohio
Concord New Hampshire
Des Moines Iowa
Hartford Connecticut
Harrisburg Pennsylvania
Helena Montana
Honolulu Hawaii
Jefferson City Missouri
Juneau Alaska
Lansing Michigan
Lincoln Nebraska
Little Rock Arkansas
Madison Wisconsin
Montgomery Alabama
Montpelier Vermont
Nashville Tennessee
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
Olympia Washington
Phoenix Arizona
Providence Rhode Island
Raleigh North Carolina
Richmond Virginia
Sacramento California
Salem Oregon
Santa Fe New Mexico
Springfield Illinois
Topeka Kansas
Trenton New Jersey

INTERNATIONAL

- Brussels Belgium
Porto Novo Benin
Brasilia Brazil
Ouagadougou Burkina Faso
Gitega Burundi
Yaounde Cameroon
Bangui Central African Republic
San Jose Costa Rica
Yamoussoukro Cote d'Ivoire
Kinshasa Democratic Republic of the Congo
Quito Ecuador
Malabo Equatorial Guinea
Mbabane Eswatini
Addis Ababa Ethiopia
Brussels European Parliament
Suva Fiji
Libreville Gabon
Accra Ghana
Conakry Guinea
Tegucigalpa Honduras
Rome Italy
Nairobi Kenya
Monrovia Liberia
Antananarivo Madagascar
Lilongwe Malawi
Mexico City Mexico
Chisinau Moldova
Maputo Mozambique
Nauru
Abuja Nigeria
Port Moresby Papua New Guinea
Brazzaville Republic of the Congo
Freetown Sierra Leone
Honiara Solomon Islands
Pretoria South Africa
Dodoma Tanzania
Nuku'alofa Tonga
Kyiv Ukraine
Washington, D.C. USA
Montevideo Uruguay
Port Vila Vanuatu
Lusaka Zambia
Harare Zimbabwe



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.

Capitol Ministries
Mail Processing Center
Post Office 30994
Phoenix, AZ 85046
661.288.2622
capmin.org

© 2023 Capitol Ministries®
All rights reserved.



/capitolministries