

Prayers for Missionary Families Preparing for Christmas *Blessing the Crèche*

Gather as a family to set up your family crèche. If you do not have a crèche, consider taking a family outing to purchase one or gather craft supplies to make one. Take some time together to focus on the birth of Christ, born to us in a lowly manger.

Ideas to consider for this Blessing

- † Tell or read the Christmas story [see Luke 2:1-14]. Share the Blessing *below* over each of the statues of people and animals placed in the manger.
- † Discuss what each person found in the manger scene might have been thinking or feeling the night of Jesus' birth.
- † Talk about what it might be like to be born in a stable. Talk about the various places where families live. Emphasize the simple accommodations that most families live in, especially families in poor communities and countries throughout the world.
- † Pray a blessing over the crèche. You can create your own or use the one provided below:

God of Mary and Joseph, and Jesus,
God of ox, lamb and all manger animals,
God of angels, stars, and wise men,
Bless our family crèche.
Bless all who gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

We ask that you fill our home with the joy of Christ.
We ask that you fill our home with the love of Christ.
We ask that you fill our home with the peace of Christ.
We ask that you fill our home with the hope of Christ.

Help us to always share the joy of Christ with others.
Help us to offer the love of Christ to those in need.
Help us to bring the peace of Christ to all we meet.
Help us to share the hope of Christ,
each and every day of our lives.



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