

THE CHAPEL FAMILY BIBLE READING PROGRAM – DECEMBER 21-26
“CHRISTMAS IS REplete WITH SYMBOLS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE LOST
THEIR SYMBOLISM IN A SECULAR WORLD.” THIS WEEK YOU FIND THE CHRISTIAN
MEANING OF CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS.

MONDAY: Matthew 27:27-31

KEY VERSE: Matthew 27:29

OBSERVATION: The **holly bush** represents immortality, a trait that God has given to each human being. We are destined to live forever, either with the Lord or separated from Him. The **sharp-toothed edge** of the holly reminds Christians of the **crown of thorns** with which the soldiers mocked our Lord during His crucifixion. They laughingly hailed Him as king, never realizing that **He is, indeed, King of the Universe**. As a **Christmas symbol**, the red **holly berry** represents **Jesus' blood** shed for all people including those who reject Him.

TUESDAY: Matthew 2:1-12

KEY VERSE: Matthew 2:11

OBSERVATION: For many, **gifts** define Christmas. They focus on the giving and the receiving of gifts instead of on the **Greatest Gift Jesus** who **Gave Himself** to us at Christmas. The wise men who brought their gifts to honor the infant king in Bethlehem have inspired the concept of gift giving at Christmas.

WEDNESDAY: Galatians 5:22-26

KEY VERSE: Galatians 5:22-23

OBSERVATION: People give **fruit baskets** as gifts at Christmas time. As a Christmas symbol, fruit recalls the **twelve fruit of the Holy Spirit**. These fruit result from the **activity of the Holy Spirit** in our lives. The twelve Fruit of the Holy Spirit are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith, Modesty, Purity, Chastity. Which of these fruit do you live in your walk with the Lord? Which ones do you need to add?

THURSDAY: I John 4:13-21

KEY VERSE: I John 4:16

OBSERVATION: **Mistletoe** is an aerial parasite that has no roots of its own. It lives in the tree to which it attaches itself and without the tree it would die. Mistletoe is a Christmas symbol of our lives which derives from and exists only because God loves us. God, who is love, created us in love and caused us to be able to love. Unfortunately, just as mistletoe does not acknowledge the tree which sustains it, so people may not acknowledge the love of God who sustains them. Are you **“attached”** to God and Are you aware that He is sustaining you.

FRIDAY: John 8:12: John 1:1-13

KEY VERSE: John 8:12

OBSERVATION: **Candles and Christmas lights** represent Christ. Candles and lights also remind us that we are to be the light to others, to show them the way to Christ. Does your “light” shine brightly, dimly, occasionally or not at all?

SATURDAY: Isaiah 53:1-7; Psalm 51:9; John 19:29-30

KEY VERSE: Isaiah 53:6

OBSERVATION: The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's crook, reminding us that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came into our world at Christmas. The red stripe symbolizes Christ's sacrifice and the white background His purity. The candy cane reminds us that **“by His stripes we are healed”**. Candy canes have a peppermint flavor, reminiscent of hyssop which had medicinal purposes and that our healing came at the cost of Christ's life. The candy cane is meant to be broken and shared, just as Jesus' body was broken and shared.