

SAINT NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT

BY KELLY STEWART

[HTTP://KELLYSTEWART.ORG](http://kellystewart.org) AND

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THE PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S FAMILY TIME IS TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS AND WHERE THE TRADITIONS BEGAN. BY LOOKING AT THE LIFE OF ST. NICHOLAS, YOU WILL GIVE THEM A GLIMPSE OF HOW THE LOVE OF JESUS CAN BE LIVED OUT IN A VERY PRACTICAL WAY.

DÉCOR:

TIME: 5-10

COST- \$10

THIS IS AN EASY NIGHT TO USE THE DÉCOR YOU ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE. USE DISPOSABLE PAPER PRODUCTS OR ONES WITH SANTA CLAUS ON THEM. THE KEY TO TONIGHT'S DÉCOR IS TO KEEP IT SIMPLE!

MENU:

TIME: 30-60 MINUTES

COST- \$20

MAIN MENU:

TONIGHT'S MENU IS ALL ABOUT BREAKFAST! THE MENU WILL INVOLVE GETTING YOUR KIDS INVOLVED IN CREATING A FUN DINNER THAT IS HIGHLY INTERACTIVE.

MAIN DISH: PREPARE YOUR FAVORITE PANCAKE RECIPE. USING STRAWBERRIES, WHIPPED CREAM, BANANAS, CHOCOLATE CHIPS, AND MARSHMALLOWS, CREATE A SANTA FACE. ALLOW YOUR KIDS TO MAKE THEIR OWN SANTA FACES. YOU CAN ALSO HAVE FRUIT, BACON, EGGS OR SAUSAGE TO COMPLETE YOUR MEAL.

DRINKS: MILK IN FUN GLASSES WITH SQUIGGLY STRAWS.

DESSERT:

THE OPTIONS ARE ENDLESS BASED ON HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAVE TO PREPARE.

SANTA HAT BROWNIES: PREPARE A BATCH OF BROWNIES AND CUT OUT CIRCLES USING A DEEP BISCUIT CUTTER. TOP EACH WITH YOUR FAVORITE WHITE ICING THEN

PLACE A STRAWBERRY WITH THE STEM CUT OFF, ON TOP TO LOOK LIKE A HAT. THEN PLACE A SMALL AMOUNT OF ICING ON THE TIP.

YOU CAN ALSO BUY OR PREPARE CUPCAKES WITH RED ICING SWIRLED ON TOP. THEN, SIMPLE ADD A MARSHMALLOW ON TOP.

WHILE YOU ARE EATING DINNER, SPEND SOME TIME DISCUSSING SANTA CLAUS. INTRODUCE YOUR CHILDREN TO THE FACT THAT THE TRADITION OF SANTA CLAUS BEGAN WITH ONE MAN, SAINT NICHOLAS.

ACTIVITIES:

TIME: 30-45 MINUTES

THE FOCUS OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS FAMILY NIGHT ARE TO TELL THE STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS. YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT SAINT NICHOLAS HERE ([HTTP://WWW.STNICHOLASCENTER.ORG](http://www.stnicholascenter.org)). PRINT OUT THE STORY OF HIS LIFE FOUND HERE

([HTTP://WWW.STNICHOLASCENTER.ORG/PAGES/REAL-SANTA/](http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/real-santa/)) AND READ IT TO YOUR FAMILY. DISCUSS HOW SAINT NICHOLAS SAW A NEED THAT A FAMILY HAD AND HE HELPED THEM. DISCUSS HOW HE WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE WHAT GOD HAD GIVEN HIM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND HIM.

STOCKING STUFFERS: THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTIVITY IS TO PREPARE HYGIENE KITS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OR FOR A LOCAL CHARITY YOU SUPPORT. AS APPROPRIATE, SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN THAT YOU ARE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND YOU. THESE CAN BE MAILED TO ([HTTP://ONELESSMINISTRIES.ORG](http://onelessministries.org)) OR ([HTTP://WWW.THEA21CAMPAIGN.ORG](http://www.thea21campaign.org))

ITEMS NEEDED: DEODORANT (MALE & FEMALE)

SOAP

SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

LOTION

TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE

CLEANSING WIPES

HAIR BRUSH

UNDERGARMENTS (MALE AND FEMALE)

HAVE EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN ASSEMBLE THEIR OWN CARE KIT AND THEN WRITE AN ENCOURAGING NOTE TO BE INCLUDED.

MOVIE FUN:

AS A FAMILY, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, WATCH THE MOVIE **VEGGIETALES: ST. NICHOLAS: A STORY OF JOYFUL GIVING** TO SET UP THE STORY. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SEE THE LIFE OF ST. NICOLAS!

DEVOTIONAL:

TIME: 20 MINUTES

SAY:

THERE ARE GREAT THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF SAINT NICHOLAS. WE SEE HOW HE NOT ONLY KNEW JESUS, HE HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. THAT RELATIONSHIP CHANGED HOW HE LIVED.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT SAINT NICHOLAS DID THAT SHOWED THE LOVE OF JESUS?

READ JAMES 1:22, 27

SAY:

WE ARE NOT ONLY TO HEAR GOD'S WORD AND INSTRUCTION, BUT PUT IT IN TO PLACE. ONE OF THE WAYS THAT WE CAN DO THAT IS BY CARING FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET, CHILDREN WHO NEED FAMILIES AND EVEN THE ELDERLY WHO NEED A FRIEND. DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE CAN SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS IN SO MANY WAYS. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN BLESS OTHERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A LIST OF WAYS TO BLESS OTHERS. IT CAN INCLUDE A HOMEMADE GIFT,

AN OFFER TO BABYSIT FOR A SINGLE MOM, INVITING A WIDOW OVER FOR DINNER OR EVEN SPONSORING A CHILD IN POVERTY.

READ ISAIAH 9:6 AND LUKE 2:4-7

SAY:

ISAIAH TELLS US SOME NAMES THAT DESCRIBE JESUS. WHAT ARE THEY?

JESUS CAME AS A BABY AS WE JUST READ IN LUKE. HE WASN'T BORN IN A CASTLE, BUT WAS SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS AND HIS BED WAS A FEEDING TROUGH. BUT THAT BABY, CHANGED THE WORLD. HE IS OUR COUNSELOR, OUR PEACE AND HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE. JESUS IS THE SAVIOR WE ALL NEED AND WE GET THE PRIVILEGE OF SHOWING THE LOVE OF JESUS TO ALL WE MEET. LET'S BE A FAMILY THAT NOT ONLY KNOWS JESUS, BUT LIVES EACH DAY FOR HIM.

AS A FAMILY, WE CAN SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS, WITH GREAT JOY IN OUR HEARTS, BY GIVING TO THOSE AROUND US. SOMETIMES, IT IS GIVING TO MEET A NEED, LIKE SAINT NICOLAS DID, BUT SOMETIMES IT IS SHARING THE GREAT NEWS THAT THE SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN AND WANTS TO SET THEM FREE FROM SIN. WHO CAN YOU THINK OF THAT NEEDS TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS?

SPEND TIME WRITING DOWN A LIST OF PEOPLE YOU CAN PRAY FOR, REACH OUT TO AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS IN VERY PRACTICAL WAYS, DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. POST THIS WHERE YOUR FAMILY WILL SEE IT EACH DAY.

PRAY:

JESUS, YOU ARE THE GOOD NEWS AND WE WANT TO SHARE THAT YOU ARE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, TO ALL THOSE AROUND US. WE ASK FOR YOU TO BE WITH THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL RECEIVE OUR HYGIENE PACKETS AND HELP THEM TO KNOW THAT YOU LOVE THEM. HELP US TO DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS TO THOSE AROUND US. AMEN.

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

INVITE A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL INTO YOUR HOME FOR DINNER, WITH THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. LISTEN AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST WITH THEM DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEYOND.

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