
Family Building: Assembly Required

The Legend of the Poinsettia

Family Rituals and Traditions of Simplicity

Welcome Families!

- Plan for the Evening
 - Family Share Time
 - Children's Story
 - Rituals and Traditions of Simplicity
 - Christmas Cookies & Quesadillas
 - Closing Devotion
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Family Share Time

■ Materials

- A construction paper mat frame
- Strips of colored paper to weave into mat

■ Activity

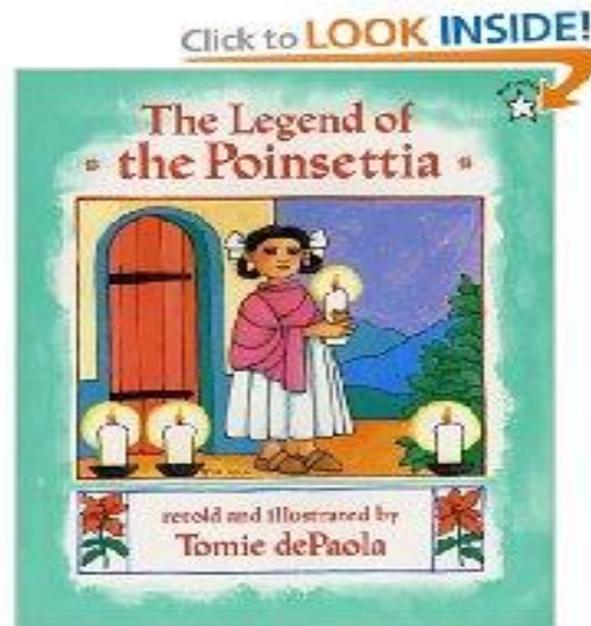
- Divide the colored strips of paper between family members.
- On each strip write words describing a simple “gift” that one member of your family could give to another member. The words could be “a hug” or “a helping hand with the dishes” or “story time.” Let these gifts be words and actions that you can share. Ask young children, “Tell me something nice that you could do or say to someone in the family that would make them feel good.”
- Take turns sharing your gift ideas and weaving the strips into the frame.

■ I Invite You to Share

- Discuss as a family how and when you will use your Gift Mat between now and Christmas.
- For example, maybe every morning, one strip could be pulled from the Gift Mat and that gift could be given to someone in the family.

The Legend of the Poinsettia

- by Tomie dePaola



Why simplify the holidays?

- Becomes a Choice Rather than a Burden
 - Creates More Time and Space
 - for each other
 - for God
 - Makes Life More Fun
 - encourages creativity
 - pre-Christmas & Christmas celebrations p.49-55
 - awakens you to everything around you
 - 1 mile radius living
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Getting Started

- Decide now what you **will** and **will not** do.
 - Let your family and friends know that you are planning for simpler holidays.....as an act of family building.
 - Invite family and friends to join you in a commitment to simpler, more meaning-full holidays.
 - Include “gifts” of generosity and kindness in your holiday plans.
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Christmas Cookies!

■ Materials

- ❑ Cookie mix, sheet of waxed paper, cookie cutters, rolling pin, colored sprinkles, small baking tray

■ Activity

- ❑ Follow the directions on your box and mix up a batch of cookie dough.
 - ❑ Roll your cookie dough out onto the sheet of waxed paper.
 - ❑ Cut and decorate cookies.
 - ❑ Place on your family's baking tray.
 - ❑ Deliver tray to the kitchen where cookies will be baked during supper.
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Christmas Quesadillas

- Share in Prayer
 - Choose and send a ...
 - **Family Food Finder**
 - To the buffet table
 - Eat and Enjoy
 - Menu: Quesadillas with avocado and tomato, Salad, Pineapple Chunks, Chocolate Pudding
 - Choose and send a ...
 - **Clean Up Captain**
 - To put trash and garbage in the can
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Share in Prayer

- *O, the Lord's been good to me,
and so I thank the Lord,
for giving me the things I need
the sun and the rain and the apple seed.
The Lord's been good to me. Amen.*
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Family Food Finder

- Go to the buffet table.
 - Bring an adult with you if you are under 8.
 - Pick up a tray, plates, cups, napkins & utensils.
 - Choose as many quesadillas, bowls of salad, cups of pineapple and pudding packs as your family will enjoy.
 - Return with your filled tray to your family's table.
 - While you are dividing and sharing your food, servers will come to your table with pitchers of milk and water.
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Evening Prayer

■ Opening Sentences

- Leader: Each of us is a gift to our family.
- Family: a gift of love and hope.

■ Song: Tis a Gift to Be Simple

*Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free
Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in a place just right
We'll be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To have and to hold we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn, will be our delight.
Til by turning, turning we come round right.*

■ Closing Sentences

- Leader: God, you first loved us.
- Family: Let us love one another.
- All: Amen.

