

## The Garibaldi Family “Night of Darkness”

Usually celebrated December 23<sup>rd</sup>, or sometime just before or just after Christmas. As the sun goes down, no lights go on. We spend the night living only by candlelight and, later, the light of the Christmas tree.

Preparations:

- \* Have candles and a lighter out and ready in various rooms of the house.
- \* Have a simple meal planned that can be prepared or heated up easily in the darkness.
- \* Gather a Bible and the “Night of Darkness” devotion

Begin with only candles lit. Talk about darkness and what physical darkness is. There is not light. We can't see in the darkness. What kinds of things can we NOT do in the darkness? (read, run and play, see each other, it is hard to eat or get dressed or bathe...) “God’s Word says that before the creation of the world there was only darkness.” Read Genesis 1:1.

“In the Bible, we read about another kind of darkness – spiritual darkness. Do you know what it means to be in spiritual darkness? It means that we don’t understand God’s Word or know His truth. The Bible says that because of sin, all of us are born in darkness and we need God’s light.”

John 3:19 – Men love darkness instead of light.

“So let’s read what God’s Word has to say about light.”

5 Truths About Light:

1. God created the light. – Genesis 1:3; 2 Samuel 22:29
2. God is light. – 1 John 1:5; Psalm 119:105
3. Jesus is the Light of the World – John 8:12
4. As believers, we have Jesus’ light in our hearts, so through Him, we are the light of the world. – Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 4:6
5. Light and dark can’t exist together. We need to live in the light! – 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:5-7; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:8-14

Read the Christmas Story by candlelight from Luke 1:26- 2:20 and Matthew 2:1-12 (or this could be done prior to the Night of Darkness and then just talk through the story again briefly).

Then turn on the lights of the Christmas tree to represent the light of Jesus coming into the world. Even though it is still dark, we can see so much more!

Finish the night by getting the kids in their pajamas, grabbing blankets and special animals and loading into the car to drive around and look at neighborhood Christmas light displays.