

The Third Day of Christmas

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me ... Three French Hens. Some have said the three represent the Trinity. Others that they stand for the holy family – Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. The truth is ... they probably represent three of the finest (and tastiest) edible birds that the lyricist could come up with. In any event, Sunday, December 27th is the third day of Christmas, but it wasn't until the eighth day after the birth that Joseph and Mary left Bethlehem and took their son to the temple for the first time. Although "Christmas" was over, the celebration of life was just beginning.

Luke 2:21–40

1. We actually know very little about the _____ .
2. We DO know that Jesus' family was _____ and _____ to the practices of their faith.
3. _____ were ... and are ... important in the Bible.
4. We _____ rituals in our lives because our _____ them, and because _____

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll be "here" next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll create/adopt a faith ritual this year

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Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Week of December 27, 2020

The Third Day of Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:21–40

Introduction: Over the past couple of years, the twelve days of Christmas have been hijacked by retailers the world o'er in order to heighten the pressures of “Buy early, Buy now!” Instead of the twelve days following Christmas, they've been rearranged to the first twelve days preceding Christmas. But “everybody knows” that it's holly and mistletoe that make the season bright – not Coach purses, Rolex watches, or Zale diamonds – because that holly and mistletoe are all wrapped up in tradition and rituals; rituals that we desperately need in uncertain times like these.

1. Read Luke 2:21–24, 39–40. What three rituals of the faith are mentioned in this passage? Can you find the three Old Testament commandments that go with each one? (answers below)
2. Read Luke 2:41–42. What faith ritual is mentioned in this passage? What do you think were some of the costs involved in maintaining this ritual year after year?
3. Dr. Bill said that rituals are important. What are some of the reasons he gave for the importance of ritual?
4. What effects do consistent practices of ritual have on children? What effect do you think they had on Jesus?
5. What are some of the religious rituals that you observe regularly?
6. As 2020 draws to an end, what are some things you accomplished this year that make you proud?
7. What one thing do you intend to accomplish in 2021?

Redemption of the Firstborn: Numbers 18:15–16

Purification: Leviticus 12

Circumcision: Genesis 7:9–14