

Family Gatherings



Two Disappointing Family Gatherings



1. The Gathering That Doesn't Happen



Luke 1:
5-7



The Gathering That Doesn't Happen

Both Zechariah and Elizabeth were upright in the sight of God, observing all of the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

-Luke 1: 6-7





2. The Gathering That Does



MT 1:
18-19



The Gathering That Does

[Jesus'] mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

-Matthew 1: 18-19



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2. The Gathering That Does



A Biblical Prescription for Family Gatherings:

Not my feelings...
BUT GOD'S PLANS



1. Trust God no matter what the circumstances

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-Luke 1: 6-7







Go on, ask him for something this Christmas.



1. Trust God no matter what the circumstances

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

-Matthew 1: 24-25



“He went up to Bethlehem with Mary...who was expecting a child”



“...you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from
their sins...”



2. End Traditions That Don't Serve God's Purposes

...they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

-Luke 1: 59-61





3. Speak Godly Words This Season

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe...

-Luke 1: 63-65



Tragedy speech

EDGAR. The weight of this sad time we
must obey

Speak what we feel, not what
we ought to say.

-King Lear, V,3, 329-330



Nativity speech

JESUS. Out of the overflow of the heart
the mouth speaks.

The good man brings good things
out of the good stored up in him...

-MT 12: 35



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Strangers may cheer you up, study says

By [Pam Belluck](#)

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How happy you are may depend on how happy your friends' friends' friends are, even if you don't know them at all.

And a cheery next-door neighbor has more effect on your happiness than your spouse's mood.

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The Stranger in the Manger never disappoints



