

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Four – Day 20

Silent Night

Silent Night—or *Stille Nacht* in the original German—was created because Josef Mohr needed a carol for worship. On Christmas Eve of 1818, Mohr visited Franz Xaver Gruber, a local schoolteacher who would become organist at Old Saint Nicholas Church with a poem he had written a few years earlier. Gruber quickly arranged the song to be played on a guitar with a choir because the church organ was broken. That evening at Midnight Mass, Gruber strapped on his guitar and led the congregation at St. Nicholas in the first rendition of *Silent Night*. Later in the 1800s, the hymn was translated into English and made its way to America by way of a book called *Sunday School Hymnal*, though with only three of the original six verses. Today, *Silent Night* is perhaps the most famous Christmas carol in history. It has been translated into most languages, and the Bing Crosby version is the third-best-selling single in history. (By Ryan Reeves, The Gospel Coalition, thegospelcoalition.org)

Craft Idea – <https://www.darlingdoodlesdesign.com/2011/11/silent-night-holy-night-easy-art.html>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyY36DJmlcs>

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"	Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
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Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- When you read or listen to the words of this son, how does it make you feel? (Read I Peter 5:7)
- When you think about the peace of Jesus what other words come to mind?
- How does the peace of Jesus help you through sad moments? (Read Philippians 4:6-7)

Digging Deeper

1. How is it possible for Jesus to be our Savior and our Lord at the same time?
2. Look up in your Bible index or in a concordance about the peace that Jesus brings?
3. Read Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:34; John 14:27; Psalm 56:3. What do these references tell you about Jesus in the midst of your struggles?