

Christmas Pondering Beads

When Jesus was born, there must have been lots of activity, but Mary chose a very wise thing to do... she sat quietly, looked onto the eyes of her new baby and "pondered." Pondering is when we sit quietly and simply "spend time with Jesus." These beads tell the story of the birth of Jesus and you are invited to use them as you "ponder" this wonderful story. We suggest that you "ponder" daily and grow close to Christ this Advent season.

Find a quiet place to be comfortable, light a candle, play Christmas music. Take a deep breath in and slowly breathe out. Pull the bead and pray as follows:

Bead 1: (plain) Jesus, I want to grow close to you as I ponder this holy story.



Bead 2: (coins) Luke 2:1-3 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.



Bead 3: (donkey) Luke 2:4-5 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.



Bead 4: (Mary with Baby) Luke 2:6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.



Bead 5: (Manger) Luke 2:7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Bead 6: (Shepherd) Luke 2:8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.



Bead 7: (Angel) Luke 2:9-10 An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;



Bead 8: (Cross) Luke 2: 11-12 For today in the town of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Bead 9: (Host of Angels) Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Bead 10: (Plain) May I carry the peace I found in pondering with me always.