

A Christian Reading on the Twelve Days of Christmas

Three Leaders are needed. The song may be sung before or after the sketch.

Leader 1: No one knows for sure why the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written. Legend states, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written to help Christian children learn about the Bible during a time of persecution in 16th century England.

Leader 2: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) On the 1st day of Christmas, my True Love gave to me.*

Leader 1: My True Love is the Lord God Himself – the giver of all good gifts.

Leader 2: I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) A partridge in a pear tree.*

Leader 1: The Partridge in a Pear Tree is symbolic of Jesus and the wooden cross on which He died. A partridge will give its life to protect its chicks.

Leader 2: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Two Turtledoves*

Leader 1: The Two Turtledoves can represent the Old and New Testaments, God's holy and sacred Word.

Leader 2: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Three French Hens*

Leader 1: Three French Hens can represent the three theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love

Leader 2: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Four Calling Birds*

Leader 1: Four Calling Birds may represent the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They each CALL to us and tell us of the love of Jesus.

Leader 2: ... these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Five Golden Rings*

Leader 1: The Five Golden Rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These five books of the Bible were given by God through Moses. All of God's Word is precious and priceless.

Leader 2: the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Psalm 19:9b-10

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Six Geese a-Laying*

Leader 1: Six Geese a-Laying represent the six days of creation when God created the world and everything in it.

Leader 2: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; Exodus 20:11a

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Seven Swans a-Swimming*

Leader 1: Seven Swans a-Swimming can represent seven gifts of the Holy Spirit spoken of in Romans chapter 12.

Leader 2: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Eight Maids a-Milking*

Leader 1: The Eight Maids a-Milking remind us of the eight Beatitudes in the book of Matthew, the first Gospel in the Bible.

Leader 2: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3-10

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Nine Ladies Dancing*

Leader 1: Nine Ladies Dancing represent the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Leader 2: the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Ten Lords a-Leaping*

Leader 1: Ten Lords a-Leaping bring to mind the Ten Commandments. Our loving Heavenly Father gave us the Ten Commandments to show us how to live in ways that are pleasing to Him. They enable us to live our lives in ways that are safe and healthy to us, both spiritually and physically.

Leader 2: You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Exodus 20:3-17

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Eleven Pipers Piping*

Leader 1: Eleven Pipers Piping can remind us that we should constantly and frequently praise the Lord and give Him the thanks and the glory and honor due Him.

Leader 2: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:1-2, 4-5

Leader 3: *(Sing or speak) Twelve Drummers Drumming*

Leader 1: Twelve Drummers Drumming remind us of the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

Leader 2: I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to

judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader 1: That's our Christian version of the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Perhaps the next time you hear it or sing it, you will use it as a reminder of God's love and care for us shown throughout the Bible.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me

Twelve drummers drumming,

eleven pipers piping,

ten lords a-leaping,

nine ladies dancing,

eight maids a-milking,

seven swans a-swimming,

six geese a-laying,

five golden rings.

Four calling birds,

three French hens,

two turtle doves

and a partridge in a pear tree!