

Reading across the miles



Theme

Books to read
together

Reading the Bible
together

Looking at the Book
of Common Prayer
together

What we need to do
this work together

Talking or writing
together

Counting
Art Appreciation
Sophistication

Teeth, Tails & Tentacles (Christopher Wormell)
A Child's Book of Art (selected by Lucy Micklethwait)

Genesis 1 (story of creation)
Various other readings from *The Twelve Days of
Christmas*

The Apostles' Creed (p. 96)

Art books or websites of classical art

Find paintings of the verses in *The Twelve Days of Christ-
mas*. Find stories or books in the Bible mentioned in the
carol.

Reading across the miles

Making something together

Praying and Singing together



*Armed Services Edition
Office of the Bishop for Federal Ministries
The Episcopal Church
www.episcopchap.org
Lifelong Christian Formation
The Episcopal Church
www.episcopalchurch.org*

The Twelve Days of Christmas was written in the 16th century in England. Because it was illegal at that time to practice one's faith, this song served as a reminder for people of the significant teachings of the church. It is a great counting song and a good Bible study as well, and not just for Christmas. Find a good recording of the carol and sing along.

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| 1 st Day | The partridge in the pear tree is Jesus on the cross, who willingly gave up his life so that we might live. The tree also reminds us of Adam and Eve. |
| 2 nd Day | Two turtle doves – Old and New Testaments |
| 3 rd Day | Three French hens – faith, hope and love –
1 Cor 13 |
| 4 th Day | Four calling birds - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the four gospel writers. |
| 5 th Day | Five golden rings - the five books of the Torah/
Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) |
| 6 th Day | Six geese a-layin - the six days of creation |
| 7 th Day | Seven swans a-swimmin - seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. |
| 8 th Day | Eight maids a-milking - the 8 beatitudes |
| 9 th Day | Nine ladies dancing - nine Fruits of the Spirit found in Gal. 5:22-23 – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control |
| 10 th Day | Ten lords a-leaping – Ten Commandments |
| 11 th Day | Eleven pipers piping – the 11 faithful disciples |
| 12 th Day | Twelve drummers drumming – the 12 points of belief expressed in the Apostles' Creed |

Draw 12 boxes on a sheet of white paper. Draw pictures illustrating each verse of the song in the boxes (don't draw in order). Cover the boxes with a stick note and play a guessing game. "On the ninth day of Christmas....". Take turns guessing which box contains that picture.