

# *Advent Ideas for Kids*

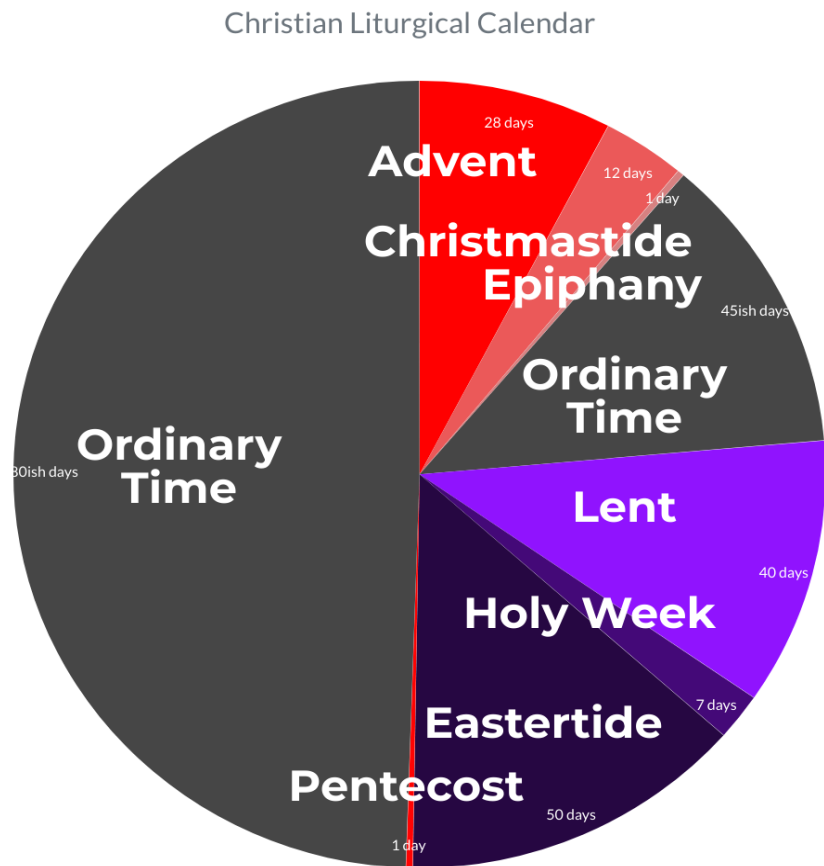


# Note from Rachel:

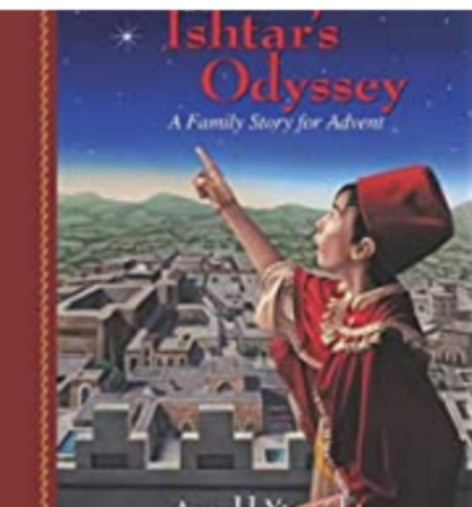
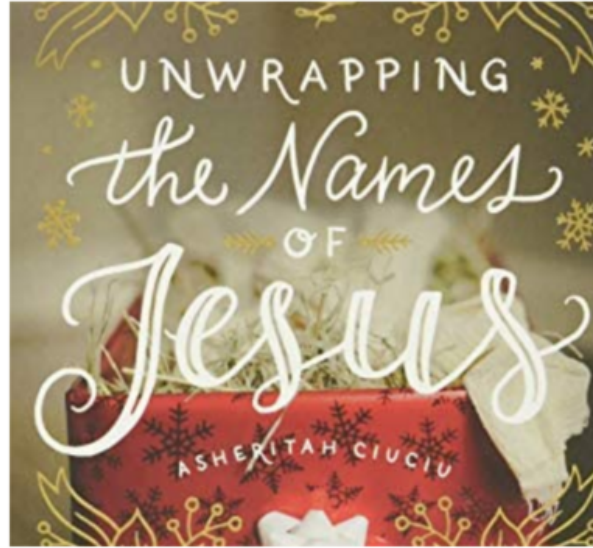
Many of you are probably familiar with the idea of Advent, and some of you with Lent. It is all part of a Christian liturgical calendar that I, coming from a nonliturgical tradition, was mostly unaware of. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas (lighting a candle for each week, representing hope, peace, love, and joy- and then a white candle for Christmas day). Typical Advent calendars start December 1st to make it easier to reuse/commercialize, and others just do a simple four weeks from Christmas day. There is no right or wrong way to do it. **Advent is getting ready and leading us up to Christmas.**

After Christmas is called "Christmastide" which is the 12 days to Epiphany (in Brazil we called it Kings day), remembering the wise men. All I knew about the 12 days of Christmas was from the song, so when I thought it was the 12 days leading up to Christmas--not after. We are all learning!

When we were in Brazil, in a new culture and community, and away from our family during holidays, we needed to be intentional and figure out what we wanted to do- or it wouldn't happen. It was fun to try different things out, and find what really fit us and our growing family. I've put together the best things we liked: **for us and for you.** I've found that holidays are better spread out and shared, rather than squished into one day with too many expectations placed upon it. **I appreciate Advent and Lent to have the time to sink my teeth into the true meaning of Christmas and Easter, and to share it and invite others into it with me.**







Check out our coloring adventures at our Five Minutes of Fergie YouTube channel, with the video called "Lent and Birthdays"

# COLORING LENT & ADVENT

Idea for the littles



When my girls were too little to do much for Lent and Advent, we colored. I loved the adult journey coloring books, with minimal reading and a coloring picture for each day. The Easter and Christmas stories have too many complicated parts to try to cover in one sitting with littles!

If you don't want to spend the money, there are a lot of free coloring sheets online, or just buy a Christmas (25 pages for Advent) or Easter (47 pages for Lent) coloring book.





the

BIBLE

PROJECT



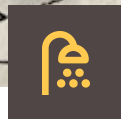
Holy Week  
Playlist



Passover  
Podcast



The Gospels  
Videos



Pentecost and  
Acts Videos

• ADVENT GUIDE •

BibleProject.  
com/  
guides/  
advent



If you go on their YouTube channel, you can find the playlists and videos, and if you go to their website you can find the podcast.

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LENT RESOURCES



# Storybook Bible

Every story whispers his name

sallylloyd-jones.com

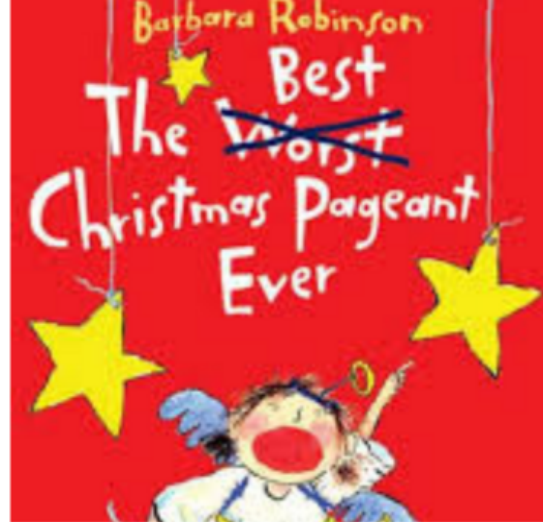


## Storybook Bible Lent & Advent Guides

**Our favorite Bible storybook**

On her website each year, Sally Lloyd Jones puts together a Lent guide, and an Advent guide. They are free, easy to print out, and easy to use with the storybook. You make a paperchain, and tear off one each day, reading that Bible story, which leads to the Christmas or Easter story.

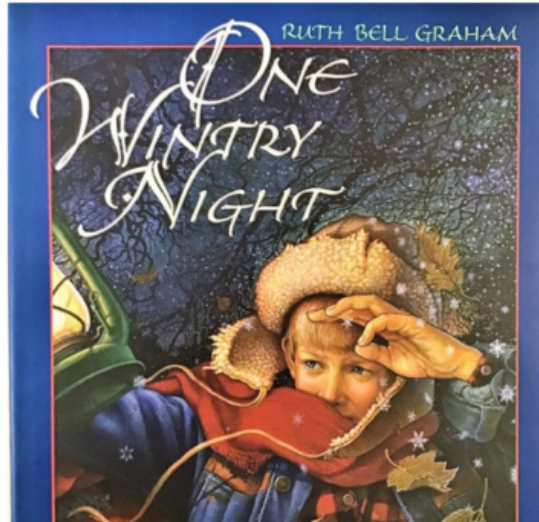
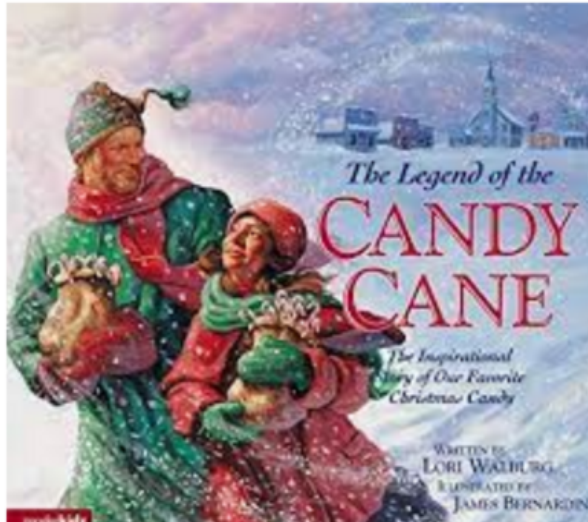
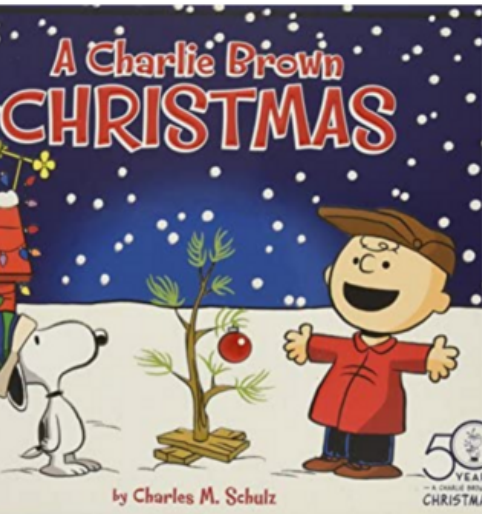
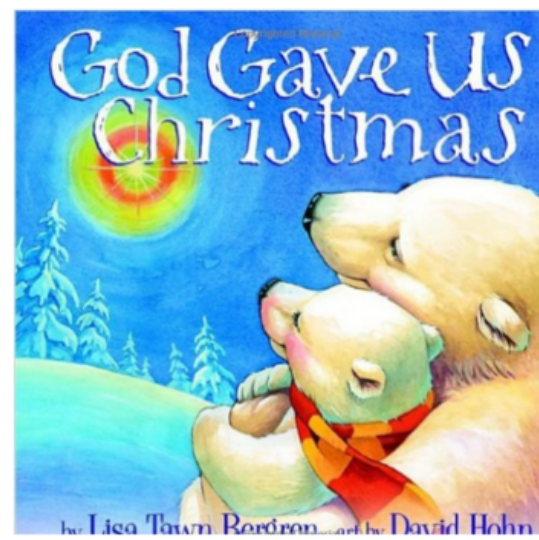




Best  
Christmas  

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Books



# LENT & ADVENT

## COUNTDOWN

## CALENDAR



### Book Countdown

Once you get 25 Christmas books, or 47 Easter books (good luck), this is super fun!



### Pocket Countdown

What we did!  
Double up the days for Lent (1 is also 25, 2 is also 26...

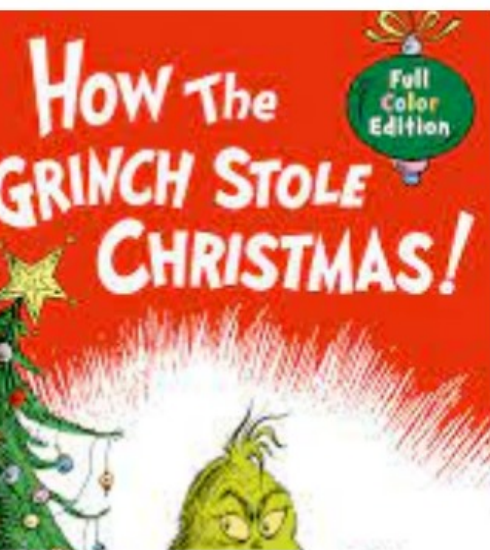


### Egg Countdown

Cheap containers for each day with plastic eggs- you can put in candy or instruction note for activities

Check out our calendar adventures at our YouTube channel, Five Minutes of Fergie, the video called "Week 1 of Social Distancing in Brazil" (3.40 minutes in)

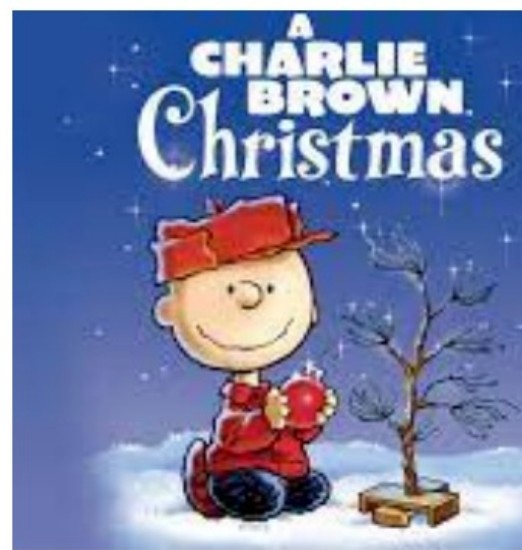




Best Christmas

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Movies





\* SPECIAL CRAFT \*

# 12 Days of Christmas Boxes

Buy 12 white boxes that fit inside each other at a craft store or online, and turn them into something really fun. All the PDFs to print are at the blog link below.

Watch us make this craft at YouTube Five Minutes of Fergie, video "Best Homemade Christmas present Ever"



[Fiveminutesoffergie.com/friday-finds/best-homemade-present-ever](https://fiveminutesoffergie.com/friday-finds/best-homemade-present-ever)



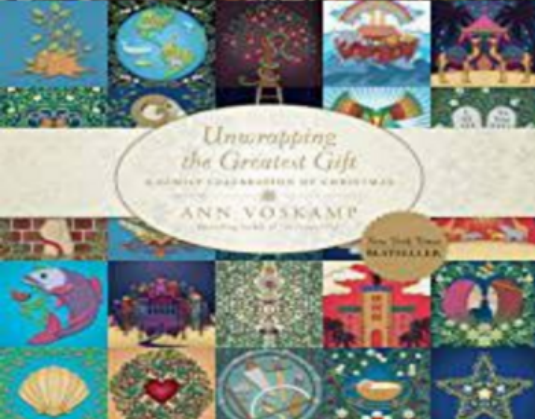
Ann Voskamp has plenty of lovely resources to buy: I love the candle countdown (for Advent, then you can buy an extra attachment for Lent as well). Her Advent books are spectacular. But I really love her free resources! Here are my favorites:



- Trail to the Tree Easter Devotional
- Sticky Notes Lent
- Easter Grace Garden
- Christian Passover Meal
- A Lent to Repent and Refresh Cards



- The Night before Advent Printable kit
- Unwrap Coloring ornaments



## Ann Voskamp Lent & Advent Resources

Go to [Annvoskamp.com](http://Annvoskamp.com), and the subscribe button at the top. Sign up. You should get to [Annvoskamp.com/stickynotes](http://Annvoskamp.com/stickynotes). Choose the "free tools" in the drop down menu, scroll through until you find the free resources!



# TREES



## CHRISTMAS

This is a picture of our Christmas tree in 2017, while in Brazil. Some other ideas we've loved is doing the Name of God ornaments



## EASTER

This is our Easter tree--I've seen some people do a "Jesse Tree," Of Jesus' ancestors. My mom does an Easter tree with hot cross buns and bags of grapes for Easter breakfast.

Watch YouTube: Five Minutes of Fergie, video called "Getting ready for Christmas in Brazil"



*I've written about how Pinterest is a tool for missionaries (on my Mission Monday blog), And it is a great tool for planning out great Advents and Lents. Check out my boards "Christmas and Advent" and "Easter and Lent" for over a hundred ideas. Literally.*

**Check it out**

[Pinterest.com/rwinzeler](https://Pinterest.com/rwinzeler)

# 25 Simple Daily Ideas for Advent

1. Begin your Christmas list of who/what you will give
2. Begin Christmas decorations
3. Review your goals from the current year—how are you doing?
4. Go over your own family genealogy
5. Go over Jesus' genealogy in Matthew and Luke
6. Put together a family Christmas letter to give out
7. Sit around with eggnog/hot chocolate and share stories of how God has provided this year
8. Read the "Three Trees" book (or another Christmas book)
9. Study Christmas traditions around the world
10. Study Jewish traditions and Holidays
11. Read 1/3 of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
12. Read 1/3 of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
13. Read 1/3 of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
14. Evening with candles/fireplace. Have a candle lit every day until Christmas
15. Have an evening of worship
16. Have an evening of Christmas music
17. Read "The Gift of the Magi"
18. Find catalogs that let you send Christmas presents to people around the world (Like World Vision, GFA...)
19. Watch "It's a Wonderful Life"
20. Watch "Miracle of 34th Street"
21. Plan all the special food you want for Christmas and New Years. Start making Christmas cookies
22. Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
23. Watch "The Grinch who stole Christmas"
24. Christmas Eve! Watch "Muppet Christmas Carol, open one present each, sleep in front of the tree, attend a Christmas Eve service
25. Read the Christmas story



# Christmas

## Around the World

In Brazil, Christmas is less about presents and more about food. Many start the celebration Christmas Eve, and go to Midnight Mass

In Haiti, many people go to a Christmas Eve service that starts about 11pm. At midnight they sing the traditional song "Minuit Chrétien"

# Christmas

## Around the World

In Kenya, many churches hold night vigils, or 'Keshu', on Christmas Eve. They often sing Christmas hymns and carols, and some have nativity plays

In Tanzania, families will fatten up a cow or goat to eat for Christmas, and many kids hope for new clothes, rather than toys, for Christmas



# Christmas



## Around the World

In India, Nativity scenes are called "Christmas cribs", and Kerala plum cake is served in place of fruitcake. Many Hindu's don't celebrate, but the holiday has become secularized enough that many do

Also like Easter, Orthodox Christmas is normally on a different day: January 7 instead of December 25 because they use a different calendar. The 12 days of Christmas (after Christmas) lead to January 6th: Epiphany or Kings day

# Christmas

## Around the World

Christmas is the most celebrated and universally recognized holiday worldwide. It is December 25th in most countries. Traditions vary from country to country

Christmas, like Easter, can be celebrated as a Christian holiday or a secular holiday, or a mixture of both. Many people celebrate Advent to prepare for the time of Christmas



# Christmas

## A Basic History

1

Around  
0AD

● **Jesus was born in Bethlehem**

You can read the accounts in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. The early church celebrated Christ's death and resurrection more than His birth, but many cultures celebrated a winter solstice, or a time of light during the coldest, darkest part of winter.

2

400s

● **Pope Julius 1 choose December 25 to celebrate Jesus' birth**

It was first called the Feast of the Nativity, and worked well since most cultures already had some kind of celebration in place. By the middle ages, Christmas had been embraced, but was more of a drunken revelry of the solstice than the Christian holiday we think of today. In fact, many Christians stopped celebrating it by the 1600-1700s.

# Christmas

## A Basic History

3



**Christmas officially becomes a US federal holiday**

1870

With Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and a new focus on caring for children in the 1800s, decorating trees, sending holiday cards, gift-giving (and Santa) quickly became new traditions for Christmas, brought to the USA by different European immigrants.

4



**Christmas is a Big Deal**

Now

Christmas is the most celebrated and universally recognized holiday worldwide. The most money of any holiday is spent on Christmas (about 900 billion dollars). Most people connect it to being a Christian holiday, but celebrate it as a time of gift-giving and family time, often leaving the whole "Jesus part" out.



# Christmas

Connected to Missions

1



**Send Christmas cards to your missionaries and sponsored children!**

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Ask them how they celebrate Christmas and what it means to them. Tell them how you celebrate, and what it means to you!

# Christmas

Connected to Missions



2



**Use Christmas Gift Catalogs from missions organizations to give presents around the World**

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Some of your missionaries may be able to receive packages in the mail as well, but it is important to check first, before sending it!



# Christmas

Connected to Missions

3



**Use the 10 Activities from  
KidsEnjoyingJesus.com**

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This website has great Christmas ideas, with videos, Bible Verses, songs, and printable resources. They also have Advent for Kids ideas. [WorldRenewal.org/kids-holidays](http://WorldRenewal.org/kids-holidays) also has an Advent/Lent free PDF

# Christmas

## Connected to Missions

4



### Learn more about St. Nicholas, the man who became Santa Claus

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"The Story of St. Nicholas: More than Reindeer and a Red Suit" by Voice of the Martyrs is an easy and great way to share about someone who was persecuted for his faith.



# ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS...

# 1



1. DESIGN YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE: HOW WOULD YOU MAKE IT BETTER THAN IT WAS THIS YEAR?
2. MAKE CHRISTMAS TREE BROWNIES
3. MAKE AN EDIBLE CHRISTMAS TREE (UPSIDE DOWN CONE)
4. SING "O CHRISTMAS TREE"
5. WATCH "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"
6. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT YOUR HOUSE, AND WHY? WHAT ARE THE STORIES BEHIND THE DECORATIONS?

# 1



## DECEMBER 25

## DECORATION DAY

# ON THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS...

# 2



1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG, AND WHY? (MINE IS "HOPE HAS COME")
2. PLAY CHRISTMAS SONG CHARADES--OR MAKE IT HARDER AND PLAY CHRISTMAS SONG Pictionary!
3. CAN YOU "NAME THAT CHRISTMAS SONG?"
4. SING YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG.
5. WATCH SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS ON YOUTUBE!
6. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT CHRISTMAS MUSIC? ALL YEAR LONG? ONLY AFTER THANKSGIVING? UNTIL WHEN?

# 2



## DECEMBER 26


## SONG DAY



ON  
THE  
THIRD  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

3

DECEMBER 27

- 
1. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DESSERTS?
  2. "CANDY CANE" A FRIEND'S HOME AROUND CHRISTMAS: GO TO THEIR HOME WHEN THEY AREN'T THERE AND PUT A BUNCH OF CANDY CANES POKED INTO THEIR YARD!
  3. DECORATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE! HAVE YOU MADE HOUSES IN THE PAST? WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?
  4. SING "FALALALA" WHO KNOWS WHAT FIGGY PUDDING IS?
  5. WATCH SOME "NAILED IT: HOLIDAY" WHILE EATING YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DESSERT.
  6. MAKE SOME CHRISTMAS COOKIES: WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE KINDS?

3

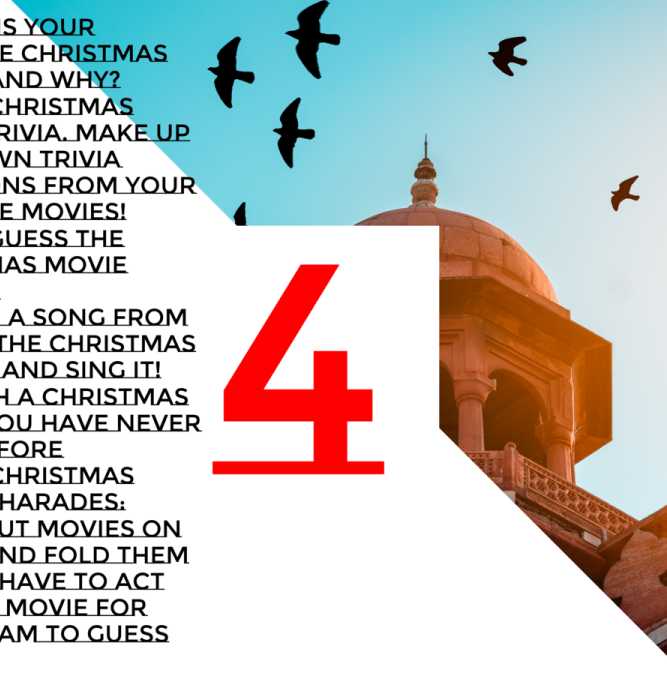
DESSERT DAY



ON  
THE  
FOURTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

4

DECEMBER 28

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1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE, AND WHY?
  2. PLAY CHRISTMAS MOVIE TRIVIA. MAKE UP YOUR OWN TRIVIA QUESTIONS FROM YOUR FAVORITE MOVIES!
  3. PLAY GUESS THE CHRISTMAS MOVIE QUOTES!
  4. LEARN A SONG FROM ONE OF THE CHRISTMAS MOVIES, AND SING IT!
  5. WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE
  6. PLAY CHRISTMAS MOVIE CHARADES: WRITE OUT MOVIES ON PAPER AND FOLD THEM UP. YOU HAVE TO ACT OUT THE MOVIE FOR YOUR TEAM TO GUESS IT!

4

MOVIE DAY



ON  
THE  
FIFTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

5

DECEMBER 29

1. WHAT IS THE BEST PLACE THAT HAS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS? HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO VISIT IT YET? GO DO THAT!
2. PLAY CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT
3. WHAT IS YOUR REINDEER NAME?
4. SING [[RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER]]
5. PLAY CHRISTMAS REVERSE CHARADES-- WHERE EVERYONE BUT ONE KNOWS THE ANSWER AND HAS TO GET THAT ONE PERSON TO GET THE ANSWER!
6. PLAY CHRISTMAS TRIVIA.

5

LIGHTS DAY

ON  
THE  
SIXTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

6

DECEMBER 30

1. WHAT IS YOUR ELF NAME?
2. MAKE GRINCH FRUIT KABOBS: STRAWBERRIES, BANANAS, AND GRAPES
3. MAKE GRINCH PUNCH AND GRINCH GOO (LOOK IT UP ON THE INTERNET)
4. LEARN THE SONG, [[WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS]] FROM THE GRINCH
5. WATCH THE GRINCH (YOUR FAVORITE VERSION) AND ELF.
6. CAN YOU ANSWER ELF TRIVIA BEFORE YOU WATCH THE MOVIE?

6

GRINCH & ELF DAY



ON  
THE  
SEVENTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

7



DECEMBER 31

1. WHAT ARE THE BEST CHRISTMAS DRINKS?
2. MAKE A HOT CHOCOLATE KIT TO GIVE SOMEONE. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO MAKE IT?
3. MAKE HOT CHOCOLATE SPOONS
4. SING "CHESTNUTS ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE"
5. WATCH "KLAUS" ON NETFLIX WHILE YOU DRINK YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DRINK
6. DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE MONTH FROM TODAY IS NATIONAL HOT CHOCOLATE DAY? WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE DO TO CELEBRATE?

7



DRINKS DAY

ON  
THE  
EIGHTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

8



JANUARY 1

1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS BOOK?
2. GO TO THE LIBRARY AND FIND AT LEAST 5 CHRISTMAS BOOKS
3. TRY TO FIND 24 (OR 12) DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS BOOKS (THIS MIGHT TAKE MANY YEARS) AND THEN EACH YEAR YOU CAN WRAP THEM UP AND OPEN UP ONE BOOK EVERY DAY TO READ TOGETHER WITH YOUR FAMILY!
4. SING "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"
5. WATCH OR READ "THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER"
6. IF YOU COULD WRITE A BOOK, WHAT WOULD IT BE ABOUT, AND WHY?

8



BOOK DAY

ON  
THE  
NINETH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

9

JANUARY 2

1. CHOOSE A COUNTRY  
YOU WANT TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT, AND  
STUDY ON YOUTUBE  
HOW THEY CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS

2. LEARN HOW TO SAY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS IN  
5 OTHER LANGUAGES

3. WHAT ARE 5 OTHER  
SANTAS THAT ARE  
AROUND THE WORLD?  
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

4. SING FELIZ  
NAVIDAD

5. FIND OUT THE  
STRANGEST THINGS  
OTHER COUNTRIES EAT  
FOR CHRISTMAS.  
WHAT IS IT?

6. IF YOU COULD  
SPEND CHRISTMAS IN  
ANY PLACE IN THE  
WORLD, WHERE  
WOULD IT BE, AND  
WHY?

AROUND THE WORLD DAY

9

ON  
THE  
TENTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

10

JANUARY 3

1. THERE ARE LOTS AND  
LOTS OF GOOD IDEAS  
THAT YOU CAN DO TO BE  
KIND AND SHOW PEOPLE  
YOU CARE ABOUT THEM.  
PLEASE MAKE YOUR  
OWN LIST OF 12 THINGS  
TO DO

2. WHO ARE THE 12  
PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE  
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE  
TO SACK (SMALL ACT OF  
CHRISTMAS KINDNESS?)

3. SING AULD LANG  
SYNE

4. WATCH IT IS A  
WONDERFUL LIFE

5. WHY DO YOU THINK  
THAT THINKING OF  
OTHERS IS SO  
IMPORTANT FOR THE  
HOLIDAY SEASON?

6. WHAT ARE THE  
CHRISTMAS KINDNESSES  
THAT YOU WOULD DO IF  
YOU HAD A MILLION  
DOLLARS?

KINDNESS DAY

10



ON  
THE  
ELEVENTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

11



1. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE JESUS AT CHRISTMAS TIME? HOW CAN YOU MAKE THINGS FOCUSED ON HIM INSTEAD OF PRESENTS? HOW DID YOU DO ON THAT THIS YEAR?
2. DO YOU HAVE A TRADITION OF READING LUKE 2 AROUND CHRISTMAS? WHAT IS A CREATIVE WAY TO TELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY?
3. DO YOU HAVE A NATIVITY? FIND A CREATIVE WAY TO MAKE YOUR OWN IF YOU DON'T.
4. SING YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL.
5. WATCH A MOVIE ABOUT THE NATIVITY
6. MY FAVORITE WAY TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS IS THROUGH [WHAT GOD WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS] KIT. HAVE YOU SEEN IT? WHAT ABOUT YOU?

11



JANUARY 4

JESUS DAY

ON  
THE  
TWELFTH  
DAY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS...

12



1. EPIPHANY IS CELEBRATING WHEN THE WISE MEN FINALLY MADE IT TO THE MANGER. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT EPIPHANY? CHECK OUT YOUTUBE TO LEARN MORE.
2. LIGHT ALL THE CANDLES YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE
3. SNOW! IF IT ISN'T OUTSIDE, THEN MAKE YOUR OWN. WHAT'S THE BEST RECIPE YOU CAN FIND ONLINE?
4. SING [WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE]
5. WATCH WHATEVER CHRISTMAS MOVIE YOU HAVEN'T YET (MY FAVORITE IS MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL!)
6. CHOOSE THREE EPIPHANY (OR THREE KING'S DAY) TRADITIONS TO CELEBRATE TOMORROW. WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

12



JANUARY 5

EPIPHANY EVE