

## DELIVER IT



Take some homemade cookies or treats to your neighbors and sing them a Christmas carol as a family. You will enjoy seeing them smile, plus you might just make their day!

### Make It

Get an inexpensive decorative plate to give as part of this gift. There are usually fun holiday plates available at discount stores.

Neatly place your cookies on it and wrap them in foil or plastic wrap. Top your gift of cookies with a Christmas bow. If you made the cookies from scratch, include the recipe for a nice added touch. Now they are ready to be delivered!

### Trust It

*Luke 10:27- He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "love your neighbor as yourself."*

### Believe It

Thank God for your neighbors. Ask him to help you to show them love. Also ask God to help you love your family and yourself.

## WEAR IT



Sock it! See what kind of perfect holiday socks you can find. Do you have some favorites? If not this time of year they are pretty easy to find. Look in the dollar bins of discount stores, art supply stores or even at a shoe store.

### Do It

Put your socks on and take some pictures of your feet as a family. Take some from the bottom, from the top, take some of just the kids, and let your kids take some of mom and dad. Be creative and see what you can come up with. When you go out, wear some shoes that allow people to see your holiday socks. You can even roll your pants up! If your whole family is doing this, people might begin to think it's a fun new trend. Don't get rid of these socks, you will want to pull them out again next year!

### Trust It

*Psalms 119:105- Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

### Believe It

Ask God to help you be a light today and every day.

## SEND IT



Work on your Christmas cards together!

### Make It

Don't you love getting Christmas cards in the mail? This year let your kids help. They will be very proud in having a part in sending your cards.

Ways your kids can help:

Let them sign the cards- even if it's scribble, your friends and family will love it!

Get them busy licking the envelopes. This might even give you a moment of silence.

Have them put the stamp on the envelope.

The post office doesn't mind if the stamp is crooked. Have them help write, stamp or stick your return address. As you address the envelopes, pray for each person individually. God knows what they need.

### Trust It

*Proverbs 17:17- A friend loves at all times.*

### Believe It

Pray for your friends and family to experience God's unfailing love this year! Ask God to comfort them if the holidays are a hard time of year.

## SING IT



Sing some of your favorite Christmas carols together!

### Here are a few favorites:

Away in a Manger  
Silent Night  
Joy to the World  
Hark the Harold Angels Sing  
We wish You a Merry Christmas  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
Jingle Bells  
Frosty the Snowman

### Do It

If you're feeling courageous, gather a few friends together, kids and all, and go Christmas caroling around your neighborhood. Another fun thing to do as a group is to drive to grandparents' houses. Just showing up and surprising them with your songs will make their day!

### Trust It

*Psalm 69:30- I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.*

### Believe It

Thank God for your voice and use it to praise him!

## TELL IT



Set out your nativity and tell the story of how Jesus was born.

### Make It

If you don't own a nativity that your kids can touch, play with, or even break, you might consider getting one. There are a lot of kid friendly nativities online for you to choose from. You can also purchase nativities at a craft or discount store for a few dollars. Encourage your kids to play with the nativity and act out the story of Jesus birth. Make special family memories!

### Trust It

*Matthew 21:1- Jesus was born in Bethlehem.*

### Believe It

Thank the Lord for the greatest gift of all- His Son Jesus Christ! Pray for those who do not know Jesus that they would come to know him.

## WATCH IT



Have a family movie night with no interruptions! Watch a favorite holiday movie together as a family. If you don't have a favorite movie there is no time like the present to find one. Pop some popcorn, drink some soda and even let the kids have some candy. Make it an evening to remember!

### Here are a few holiday favorites:

It's a Wonderful Life  
A Christmas Carol  
Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
A Christmas Story  
How the Grinch Stole Christmas  
Frosty the Snowman  
Rudolph  
A Charlie Brown Christmas

### Trust It

*Acts 10:2- He and all his family were devout and God-fearing: he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.*

### Believe It

Thank God for each family member of your immediate and distant family. Pray for generous blessings to be poured out on all of them this holiday season. Pray for the unbelievers, that they will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

## WRAP IT



Make some homemade wrapping paper as a family and wrap some gifts with it!

### Make It

First, get some paper. Craft stores carry butcher paper or you can use paper grocery bags or whatever else you can find at home.

Get some crayons, markers and paint together and start decorating! The options are endless. Have fun and be creative!

Here are some ideas:

Use hands and feet to make reindeer on Christmas trees.

Use stamps to decorate the paper. Splatter paint with a paintbrush or drip some paint on the paper and blow it around on the paper with a straw.

### Trust It

I Thessalonians 4:11- *Work with your hands*

### Believe It

Thank God for your hands. Pray that he would help you use them to worship and glorify him! Also pray for blessings on those who work with their hands.

## WRITE IT



Do you know what a missionary does? All missionaries are very different, but many people consider a missionary to be a person who shares the good news of Jesus Christ.

They might also participate in other activities such as educational teaching or hospital work. They are usually supported by the church or other organization. Do you know any missionaries?

### Do It

Write a letter or send a Christmas card to a missionary. Thank them for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Have your kids draw a picture to send with your letter. If you have a picture of your family send that too! Think about it- what if you were a missionary? Wouldn't it be nice to get a letter of appreciation around the holidays?

### Trust It

Hebrews 13:16- *And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

### Believe It

Pray for the missionaries around the world, that they are protected and showered with God's love this holiday.

## PLAY IT



Have a family game night!

### Do It

Do you have a game that you enjoy as a family? Take some time to play it together with no interruptions.

### Here is a fun game to try:

Gather a few brown bags and put one holiday item inside each bag. Staple the top of the bag. Pass the bag around one by one trying to guess what's inside- no peeking!!

### Stuffing suggestions:

Use a pinecone, a wrapping bow, roll of ribbon, birthday candle, a piece of your Christmas tree, a Christmas ornament, or a Christmas cookie. Get creative and have fun!

### Trust It

1 John 4:7- *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

### Believe It

Ask God to help you love your family today. Even when they are challenging, ask God to help you be kind to them and show them love.

## OFFER IT



The holidays are a time of giving so let's do just that! Give one personal possession to someone in need.

### Do It

Begin by brainstorming with your family- What are some things people are in need of this time of year?

Who can you give something to? What does God think about a cheerful giver?

After you discuss it, go find a personal possession that is in good condition to give to someone in need, it might be a coat, a pair of shoes or a toy. It should be something with meaning to you, that way it will hopefully have meaning to someone else. And, don't forget- it should be something in good condition.

### Trust It

Romans 12:13 *Share with God's people who are in need.*

### Believe It

Pray for the people in need. Pray that the items you give away will touch someone in a very special way.

## SACRIFICE IT



Give the gift of yourself.

### Do It

Do one selfless act for someone today. Begin by talking about what a selfless act is. Then, as a family, discuss some things you could do for someone else. Consider doing something together as well as individually.

#### Here are a few ideas:

Pay the bill of the person behind you at the drive-thru.

Watch a friend's children for a few hours.

Take someone a home cooked meal.

Deliver your neighbor's mail.

Sweep someone's driveway or walkway.

Help a friend wrap some presents.

Volunteer to serve a meal at a local church or shelter this holiday.

### Trust It

Acts 20:35 ...*Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

### Believe It

Pray for others today, that they may be blessed by you and your family this holiday. Pray that you can be a cheerful giver.

## READ IT



Choose a favorite holiday book to read together. Turn off the TV, radio, cell phone, and computer long enough to enjoy some time together!

### Variations-

Let each child pick one book they want to read. Listen to a book on tape or CD. Let your older children read to the younger ones. Allow your younger children to read a book to you by using illustrations. Take some extra time to talk about your book.

### Make It

Write your own holiday story.

Come up with a fun title or use this one: "The Perfect Christmas Day" Let your kids have a part in writing this story. What would their perfect day look like? Once it's written, illustrate it together. If you have older children let them write their own story and illustrate it. You could even get a copy printed to give as a gift.

### Trust It

I Timothy 6:17 – *Put your hope in God.*

### Believe It

Thank God for hope in good times and bad times.

## ADORN IT



Hang your stockings today as a family. Talk about the stocking...Do you know where it originated? Do you have any thoughts on why they are traditionally red and white? What are some fun things that have been in your stocking in the past? Talk with other people about their stockings – what did your grandparents get in their stockings? For more information on the origin of the stocking and other fun Christmas facts go to: <http://www.allthingschristmas.com/traditions.html>

### Make It

Decorate your stocking! Get a couple small stockings from a craft store decorate. Use these for small gifts of gift cards over the holidays. You can put a name on it with fabric paint or acrylic paint. Use some sequins, glitter or felt to decorate it. Get creative and have fun!

### Trust It

John 15:17- *This is my command: Love one another.*

### Believe It

Pray that you will be able to show love to others. Also pray for special blessings on the people who will not have a Christmas this year.

## BAKE IT



Bake some holiday cookies together. While you are baking take some time to talk about some fun memories you have with your family in the kitchen.

Did you bake as a child? Who was your favorite person to be in the kitchen with? Is there someone you know who can bake really well? What is your favorite thing to bake? What is your favorite thing to bake?

### Make It

Ask someone in your family for a favorite cookie recipe and bake it together. If your pressed for time, get the store bought cookies in the refrigerator aisle or the box one in the cake aisle and bake them. Use some frosting and candies to decorate the cookies.

### Trust It

Psalms 136:25- *And who gives food to every creature. His love endures forever.*

### Believe It

Thank God for the food he gives us. Pray for those who don't have food that they will be blessed this year.

## CELEBRATE IT



Have a birthday celebration for Jesus on Christmas morning!

### Do It

Everyone celebrates Jesus' birthday differently. Find a special way that works for you and your family.

#### Some suggestions:

Have a birthday party with cake, candles, hats and favors. Sing Happy Birthday and let each child blow out a candle for Jesus.

Make a big birthday breakfast!

Celebrate on Christmas Eve and let each child open a gift for Jesus.

The options are endless. Get creative! Think of how you normally celebrate birthdays and try to incorporate some of the same traditions.

### Trust It

Matthew 1:21- *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

### Believe It

Thank God for the gift of Jesus! Pray that you will remember the real reason for the season this holiday!

## DECORATE IT



The Legend of the Christmas tree (Read together as a family): Martin Luther, while walking in the woods one Christmas, was awed by the beauty of moonlight and stars glistening upon the fir trees. So struck by its beauty, he found that words could not recreate the scene. To communicate the wonder of it to his family, he cut down a small fir tree, brought it home and decorated it with candles. This is the most popular legend of the Christmas tree and if it occurred, it happened in the 1500's. Alas, though many attempts have been made to substantiate it, no real proof exists. What are your thoughts? Did you learn anything from this legend?

### Do It

Get a small Christmas tree for your child's room- he or she will love it! Purchase some inexpensive ornaments at a discount store or make some small homemade ornaments or just string some lights on it. Be sure to let your kids be a part of the decorating!

### Trust It

Genesis 2:9- And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground- trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

### Believe It

Thank God for our trees. The ones that are fun to look at and climb as well as the ones that produce food for us to eat.

\*\*\*The Legend of the Christmas tree was taken from [www.family-christmas-traditions.com](http://www.family-christmas-traditions.com)

## BUILD IT



Build a gingerbread house together!

### Make It

You can purchase a gingerbread house kit at almost any arts and crafts, discount or grocery store. The kits include everything you need right in the box. For variety, add some of your own candy. Some good candies to add are red hots, gum drops, marshmallows, M&M's, skittles, peppermints and mini candy canes.

There is really no rhyme or reason to decorating your house other than you can never have enough candy and icing. Take some pictures to share.

Icing recipe (just in case)

3 egg whites

1 ½ teaspoons cream of tartar

3 ½ cups confectioner's sugar

Beat egg whites until foamy. Combine other ingredients. Put the icing in a Ziploc bag. While holding the bag, barely cut one of the bottom corners off so you can pipe the icing onto your house. If you really want to make your gingerbread house from scratch you can search online for a recipe that suits your needs.

There are lots of options out there!

### Trust It

Psalm 27:4- *One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.*

### Believe It

Thank God for your house and all that he has provided for your family. Pray blessings on the people who don't have a house this holiday season.

## CREATE IT



Use clay or play dough to create the story of Jesus.

### Make It

Look in Matthew 1:18-35 to find the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Let your kids use play dough to create each character in the story. Assign your kids each a character or two to create. When you are finished, use your characters to tell the story. Set up the nativity somewhere in your house and take a picture for future reference. Invite a neighbor or family member over to share your creation!

### Trust It

Psalm 52:8- *I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever.*

### Believe It

Thank God that Jesus was born to save our world from sin. Ask God to help you put your trust in him every day.

## ADMIRE IT



Don't you love snow? Did you know a real snowflake only has 6 points? Did you know that God created each snowflake? Do you know no two snowflakes are alike? In a way, we are like snowflakes. Can you guess how? God made each one of us. There are no two people exactly alike. Even twins are different and unique in their own way, even if they look alike. What are some special ways you are different from your brothers, sisters or friends?

### Make It

Make some snowflakes. As you make them, talk about the uniqueness of each snowflake and the one making it.

Directions to make a snowflake:

Start with a square piece of paper

Fold in half

Fold in half again

Fold in half again

Draw some designs on the outside edges

Cut out the designs and unfold paper

Voila! The perfect snowflake. Talk about how different each snowflake is. Color them or apply some glitter on them to add some sparkle! Tape them on a window or mirror, attach them to a package, or hang them on your tree.

### Trust It

Proverbs 25:13- *Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger.*

### Believe It

Thank God for making you unique. Pray that He will help you be trustworthy.

## SEE IT



Load up the car and drive around town looking at Christmas Lights!

### Do It

Take some time as a family to drive around and look at Christmas lights. Don't forget to listen to Christmas music. You can even sing together! End the evening at a coffee shop and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

### Talk about it:

Which lights were your favorites?

Which lights looked the best?

Which display was the brightest?

Come up with some questions of your own.

### Trust It

Genesis 1:3- *And God said "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good.*

### Believe It

Pray that you would be a light of God's love today and every day.

## LIGHT IT



Plug in your Christmas tree and light a couple of candles. Sit together as a family and talk about your favorite holiday memories.

### Do It

**Some suggestions to get you started:**

What was the first Christmas like in your current home?

Which family members have visited over the holidays?

What did your kids do the first time they were able to comprehend Christmas?

Anything funny happen during the holidays?

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

What was one gift you will never forget?

Come up with some of your own questions.

Let your kids ask some questions too!

### Trust It

Psalm 4:6 ....*Let the light of your face shine upon us O Lord.*

### Believe It

Pray that you would have a peaceful holiday with wonderful memories as a family.



## LEARN IT



### The legend of the Candy Cane:

(Read together as a family)

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. He made a Christmas candy cane. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the church, and the firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the "Good Shepherd". The candy maker then included three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Jesus endured at the end of his life. The candy became known as a candy cane. Talk about the legend. What did you learn? Who can you share this with?

### Make it

Make some candy cane ornaments.

Materials needed for one ornament:

1 red pipe cleaner

20-40 red and white beads

Begin by securing a bead at the bottom of the pipe cleaner by twisting the pipe cleaner tightly around the bead. Then "thread" the beads onto the pipe cleaner until you have it the length you like. Alternate the red and white beads so they resemble a candy cane. Secure another bead at the top in the same way as the bottom. Make a bend in the top of the candy cane and voila...You have a candy cane ornament!

### Trust It

<sup>1</sup> John 1:7- *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

### Believe It

Thank God for giving us a chance to celebrate Jesus, so we can have eternal life.

## JINGLE IT



Jingle bells...

Here is a fun fact.

On December 16, 1965, "Jingle Bells" was the first song broadcast from outer space.

### Make It

Make some noise with jingle bells! Tie bells to your shoe laces, put a ribbon and make a bracelet or necklace; you can even use a safety pin and pin some on. Now put on some of your favorite Christmas CD's and dance, dance, dance!

### Trust It

Psalms 98:4-6- Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music, make music to the Lord with harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn-shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

### Believe It

Thank God for everything He created that makes noise! Praise him with your voice.

## ILLUSTRATE IT



Do you know the story of the birth of Jesus? Read Matthew 1<sup>st</sup> 18-25 as a family.

Now let's illustrate it!

### Make It

Begin by reading the story of Jesus' birth. You can use the bible or a book that you like.

Now illustrate it. You can draw the characters, even if you are not an artist, it doesn't have to be perfect.

Look for stickers of the story. Talk about it as you apply them to paper. Add some special touches with crayons or markers.

Stamp it- get some stamps that tell the story and be creative in stamping it!

Paint it- do finger painting or use a brush and paints to tell the story.

Once your illustration is finished put it somewhere that your kids can easily get to it, so they can share it with anyone who may drop by this holiday!

### Trust it

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

### Believe It

Thank God for sending his son Jesus for us. Pray specifically for someone who doesn't know Jesus to get to know him!



## GIVE IT



This holiday give your teachers something yummy! Make a list of all your teachers.

### Here are a few to get you started:

School or preschool teacher

Sports or dance coach

Music or art teacher

A special friend or family member

### Make It

Make some snowy trail mix, and give to your teachers this holiday.

### Snowy trail mix ingredients:

3 cups pretzel sticks

1 ½ cups corn cereal (Crispix)

¾ cup pecan halves

½ cup cashews

½ cup dried cranberries

12 ounces of white chocolate

### Instructions:

In a large bowl, mix together the pretzel sticks, corn cereal, pecans, cashews and dried cranberries. Melt the white chocolate according to package directions and slowly pour it over the mix, stirring gently. Scoop the mix onto waxed paper to cool, about 20 minutes, and then break it into bite size clumps. Makes about 10 cups

### Trust It

*Psalms 27:11- Teach me your way O Lord; lead me...*

### Believe It

Pray for God to teach you how to tell others about Jesus.



## EXCHANGE IT



Let's play the gift exchange game! Do you like getting presents? Do you sometimes get a present you don't like? What do you do in that situation?

Play this game to find out!

### Play It

This is a fun, interactive game for all ages, parents too! Start this early in the day to allow sometime between the gathering and opening of the gifts. Begin by having everyone find one personal thing to give to each person in your family. Mom and dad- find one or two things to give that are funny or that your kids might not like. Keep your gift a secret and wrap it. Let the older ones wrap the gifts themselves. Help the younger ones put their gifts in a pretty gift bag with tissue paper. It is important that these gifts look pretty. After some time has passed, let each person hand out their gifts. Pick a person to go first. Let them open one gift and say at least 3 nice things about it. They can even practice giving a big thank you hug! There is one important rule in playing the game: NO negative or hurtful comments. For each negative comment, you have to say one additional nice thing to the person who gave you the gift. Rotate to the next person and let them do the same thing. Continue playing until all gifts have been opened. Doesn't it feel good to be appreciated when you give a gift? Remember this game as you give and receive gifts.

### Trust It

*Acts 4:32- All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*

### Believe It

Ask God to help us be thankful with a joyful heart. Pray that he will help you share with others.

## DISCOVER IT



Did you know that Jesus is an eternal value of love with no end? Can you think of a holiday symbol that represents the never ending eternal value of love?

The Christmas wreath

### Make It

Make some wreath ornaments together as a family.

Materials for one ornament:

1 round piece of green felt or foam with the center cut out.

(You can purchase these at a craft store).

1 small piece of red ribbon tied into a bow and one piece for the loop if you are making an ornament.

Approximately 5-10 pieces of red sequins.

1 small magnet (optional)

1 photo of your child or family for each ornament. Begin by centering the photo on the back of the green (wreath) circle and taping it into place. Glue the bow to the front near the bottom of the wreath. Attach the red sequins all around the front of the wreath with glue. Add the looped ribbon to the back, top of the ornament so you can hang it or glue the small magnet onto the back and viola....You have a beautiful wreath ornament or magnet for the holidays! Make some extras to put on your Christmas presents, or give as gifts.

### Trust It

*Psalms 136:1- Say thanks to God.*

### Believe It

Thank God for his never ending unconditional love.

## PREPARE IT



Get ready for Jesus' birthday party. Think about how much time we spend on our own child's birthday. Don't you think Jesus deserves a small amount of that time and energy for his birthday?

### Make It

Bake a cake for Jesus.  
Frost it and let your kids decorate it. Use candy or edible glitter to jazz it up!  
Get some birthday plates and cups together. You can purchase all different kinds at the dollar store. What kind of birthday party will you have for Jesus? Make some fun birthday hats, have some noise makers and get the candles ready!

### Trust It

*Psalms 100:3- Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.*

### Believe It

Give thanks to God for everyone he has put in your life, especially family and friends. Ask him to use you to bless them in some way over the holiday season.

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