

The Christmas Adventure Box Free Printables

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<http://confidentingrace.wordpress.com>

Thanks and enjoy!

Jen ☺

The Christmas Adventure Box

The Greatest Gift

First, bring out the large, wrapped Christmas Adventure Box. Explain to your children that you will be unwrapping an item a few times a week in order to learn more about Jesus this Christmas season.

Read **John 3:16** and talk about how Jesus is the greatest gift of all. You can also read prophecies from Isaiah about the Promised Deliverer. Feel free to share the full gospel with your children and pray together as a family.

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Joseph and Mary

Read **Luke 1:30-33** - unwrap Joseph and Mary from your nativity set.

If you have littles in the house, be sure to choose a non-breakable set to work with. On this day, you'll read the story of Jesus' parents learning that Mary was with child!

Discuss the prophecies fulfilled by Mary and Joseph found in Isaiah 9:7 and Isaiah 7:14. Talk about promises God has kept for your family and pray together.

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Baby Jesus

Read **Luke 2:6-7** - unwrap the baby Jesus figure from your nativity set.

Today you can discuss once again that Jesus was a gift, not only to His parents, but to the whole world. Talk about the birth stories of each one of your children - how you planned for them, waited for them, and the joy of experiencing their birth.

Ask your children to find similarities and differences between their births and Jesus' birth. Pray together as a family, thanking Him for each family member and most of all, for the gift of a Savior.

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Shepherds and Angels

Read **Luke 2:8-20** - unwrap the shepherd and angel figures from your nativity set.

Discuss a time when your family had exciting news to share. Think about how the angels and shepherds must have felt sharing such important news.

Talk about how important it is that we continue to share the story of Jesus with anyone who hasn't yet heard and pray together, especially for any unsaved relatives or friends. Think of someone each person could share the Good News with.

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Legend of the Candy Cane

Read **Isaiah 53:5** - unwrap a candy cane (or one for each child).

Read your children a brief version of the legend of the candy cane and discuss why we use them in our Christmas decorations. And yes, Pray together.

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The Legend of the Candy Cane

The legend of the candy cane begins with a man who wanted to create a candy that would teach people, especially children, about Jesus. So he made the candy cane.

It's shaped just like a shepherd's crook to remind us that Jesus is our Shepherd, and if we turn it upside down, it even makes the letter J for Jesus!

The candy is white to show that Jesus was born pure, without sin. The stripes remind us of the stripes Jesus took on his back, and they are colored red to remind us that it is His blood that pays for our sins.

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The Wise Men

Read **Mt. 2:1-2, 10-11** – unwrap the wise men from your nativity set.

Talk about how the wise men had never heard about a Savior being born, but they still knew to follow the star.

Discuss the ways that God reveals himself to us today. Pray together as a family that your knowledge of God's ways would increase.

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Joy to the World

Read **Mt. 28:19-20** – unwrap a small globe or picture of the world.

Tell your children about things we have in America that help us to know who God is (a Bible in our own language, churches we can attend, freedom of religion, etc.). Discuss how other countries may or may not have these items. Explain the importance of reaching the whole world with the Good News about the Greatest Gift.

Pray as a family for most unreached people groups of the world (if you need an easy way to pray for the most unreached peoples, use the T.H.U.M.B. method found on Being Confident of This.)

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THE BAKER'S HAND

Read **Isaiah 64:8** – unwrap cookie cutters.

Make and decorate sugar cookies (if you have small or impatient children as I do, it's a good idea to make the dough ahead of time and perhaps even bake some of the cookies).

While you are working, discuss how God shapes us according to His purposes and how we are each uniquely created and uniquely gifted by Him.

Pray as a family, asking the Lord to help each one remember that they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

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The Legend of St. Nicholas

Saint Nicholas was a man who lived long ago in Asia. He was very wealthy, but instead of keeping the money for himself, he liked to help the poor and those in need wherever he went. There are many legends about Saint Nicholas, but the most famous one tells about why we hang stockings!

During his travels, St. Nicholas met a poor man who had three daughters. The man was so poor that his daughters could not afford to marry. One night, the daughters hung their stockings (like socks) by the chimney to dry and St. Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of coins into one. The daughters would be able to marry!

St. Nicholas became famous even though he helped in secret. As the stories spread to other countries, he became known by new names, such as Father Christmas, Sinterklaas, and today we call him Santa Claus.

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The Legend of St. Nicholas

Read **Gal. 2:10** – unwrap socks or a stocking.

Read a brief version of the Legend of Saint Nicholas to your children.

Talk about ways your family can pass on the gift of Christmas to others by being generous. Watch the VeggieTales video, Saint Nicholas: The Joy of Giving. (Hint: many VeggieTales videos can be found on Netflix. No need to purchase!)

Pray together for a generous spirit during this season rather than a coveting spirit. *This would be the perfect place to include a service project such as Operation Christmas Child or serving at a local soup kitchen.

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CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Read **Rev. 5:12** – unwrap a note in an envelope that reads "Christmas Adventure!"

Talk about the importance of singing God's praises. Take the whole family for an adventure in Christmas caroling and spread some cheer to your neighbors or even shut-ins from your church. Local nursing homes usually welcome carolers, as well!

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LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read Mt. 5:14-16 – unwrap a notecard that says “Christmas Adventure!” on it.

Discuss light and dark. Ask your children how Jesus is the Light of the World. Then, pile everyone into your vehicle and go on an adventure to see some Christmas lights! (You can continue discussion as you travel). Be sure to pray together as a family.

*I try to schedule this night on a weekend so that we can allow the children to have sleepover by the Christmas tree. It's one of our kids' favorite traditions.

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Christmas Day!

Unwrap a Bible and **read Luke 2:1-20**, the Christmas story.

Discuss all you have learned and how Jesus truly is the Greatest Gift of all!

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'Twas the night Before Christmas...

Read Thessalonians 2:15-16 – unwrap a nativity story dvd or a “Christmas Adventure!” notecard.

We have two different takes on this day's advent activity. The first is to watch a dvd about the Christmas story, such as A Nativity Story. The second is to attend a local candlelight service, if you have one near you.

Both options will work to help you review what you have learned throughout the month of December and to celebrate this special evening.

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