

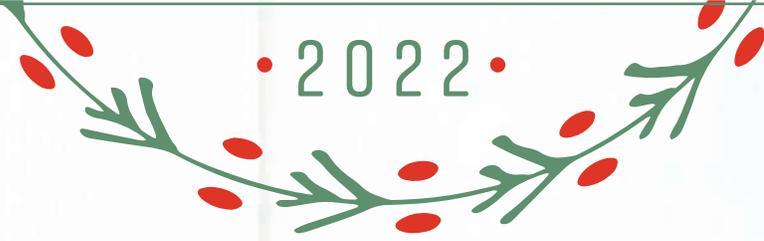


*HomeFront*



# CHRISTMAS

## DAY FAMILY RESOURCE



• 2022 •



MERRY

# Christmas



**Merry Christmas to you and your family. May you experience the hope, faith, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ.** And may you “declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among the people.” (Ps. 96:3)

With Love,

The Family Ministries Team, New Life Church

## FAMILY TIME ACTIVITY: “GIFTS FROM GOD”

**At Christmas, we celebrate the gift that God gave us in His Son, Jesus.** This is a fun family tradition that is a meaningful way to highlight how your guests are “gifts” to your family. It can be done after you have finished your Christmas meal, but while everyone is still sitting around the table or after opening gifts together.

On a sheet of paper make a list using the words provided below. Cut out each word and place them in a mason jar. Next, have each person choose one piece of paper from the jar. Then give everyone a moment to think about the person to their right and how that word relates to him/her. When ready have the oldest person start first.

That person will turn to the person on their right and say, **“You are a gift from God because you are \_\_\_\_\_”** (filling in the blank with the word they chose from the jar). Then this person will think of a time or an instance that person reflected the word they just read. After that person is finished, the person who was just affirmed will do the same to the person on his/her right until everyone has had a chance to be affirmed.

For example, if someone chooses the word “patient” then they could say, “Grandma, you are a gift from God because you are “patient”. I can remember when I was baking with you and I spilled flour everywhere. You were patient and helped me clean it up.” Or if someone chooses the word “helpful” then they could say, “Carter, you are a gift from God because you are “helpful”. When you see that I am working hard around the house, you quickly respond by helping me get things done, even when I don’t ask.”

**When everyone has been affirmed, ask someone in the room to thank God for the gift of each person in the room, and close in prayer.**

### LIST OF WORDS:



- HELPFUL
- A GOOD LISTENER
- HARD-WORKING
- FORGIVING
- LOVING
- FAITHFUL
- TENDER-HEARTED
- ENCOURAGING
- PATIENT
- CARING
- WISE
- PEACEFUL
- KIND
- JOYFUL
- GENEROUS
- GRACIOUS
- FUN
- THOUGHTFUL
- SACRIFICIAL
- SERVANT-HEART

## GOD'S WORD

Throughout the month of December, we have spent time in God's word celebrating the advent of Jesus as the One who brings hope, faith, joy, and peace. Today, Christmas day, we light the fifth and final candle which represents light, purity, and victory. It is called "Christ's candle."

### READ:

As you light the candle, consider singing the traditional Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World" together. Then, read Matthew 1:18–2:11 as a family.

### DISCUSS:

- What does Immanuel mean? Why is this important?
- What did the Magi (wise men) do once they saw Jesus?
- How do you want to respond to Jesus?



If you have not been lighting advent candles, simply choose a candle to light for Christmas day.

### PRAY:

Close this time together in prayer.

## FAMILY TIME RECIPE: PB & J PANCAKE TACOS

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 2 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> c. sifted flour
- 6 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 c. milk
- 4 tbs. vegetable oil
- peanut butter (or nut butter substitute)
- jelly, jam, or honey
- sliced apple, banana, or other favorite fruit

### WHAT YOU'LL DO:

1. In a large bowl, whisk dry ingredients together.
2. Mix eggs, milk, and oil in a separate, smaller bowl.
3. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir until just moistened. Be sure not to overmix the batter or it will be lumpy.
4. Pour the batter onto the griddle or pan. Cook until golden brown on both sides.
5. Spread a thin layer of peanut butter, jelly or nut butter of your choice and honey with your favorite fruits. Fold in half to create a taco shape.





# Be Blessed

**A** blessing is an opportunity to speak over another words of life, hope, and truth. Parents, take this opportunity (either at the beginning or end of the day) to sit your child down, look them in the eyes, and speak these blessings over them as a word of encouragement and hope for their life.

Read this passage of Scripture to your child: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

**(Child's name), may you know that Jesus is Immanuel (God with Us).** May you remember that God delights in being with you and that your proof is in the person of Jesus Christ. May you remember that He is a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God, an Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. May the Spirit of the living God fill you with hope, joy, peace, and love as you enjoy all that He has done for you and given you this Christmas.

## BE A BLESSING

Each year our mailboxes are filled with Christmas cards or annual letters from friends and family. This year, after the events of the day, gather the cards and letters and sit together with your family. **Have each family member choose a card or letter and then pray for the sender.** Once everyone has had a chance to pray for someone, choose a new card or letter. Repeat this until every person represented by a card or letter has been prayed for. This is a sweet way to be a blessing to others in prayer.

