
Ideas for Keeping Christ in Christmas

1. **Set up a Nativity and make it a focus in your home.** [We put ours front and center on the entry table in our home].
2. **Hide baby Jesus and “seek” Him Christmas morning before opening gifts.** [I did this first thing last year. Here’s how I found it half an hour later. Turns out Mary had a little Snowman. I love little kids].
3. **Light an Advent wreath each day leading up to Christmas.**
4. **Have a birthday cake for Jesus or go all out and make it a birthday party!**
5. **Hang a stocking for Christ.** Fill it with notes just for Him.

The above are from “30 Ways to Keep Christ in Christmas” by Kristen Welch.

6. **Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital.** One year the staff at the office where I worked decided to incorporate Christmas caroling at a nearby nursing home into our yearly staff Christmas party plans. We all met at the nursing home and toured the facility while singing Christmas carols. Afterwards, we headed back to our party with our hearts full of tenderness. It was the best staff Christmas party we'd ever had.
7. **Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message.** This is an easy way to share your faith at Christmastime. If you've already bought the reindeer cards—no problem! Just write a Bible verse and include a personal message with each card.

The above are from “10 Purposeful Ways to Make Christ the Center of Your Christmas” by Mary Fairchild

8. **Share the Christmas message through the 12 Names of Christmas ornaments.** This resource from FamilyLife helps children understand not only the meaning of Christmas but the type of relationship God desires to have with us. The 12 ornaments each focus on a different name of Christ.
9. **Give "birthday gifts" to Jesus.** Wrap a box in colorful holiday tissue and cut a slit in the lid. Fill a container with blank slips of paper and put it by the box. Brainstorm, as a family, about possible gifts for the Savior for Christmas (patience, love for a difficult person, sacrificial giving, ministry to needy person, etc.). Then ask them to write a description of the gift they'd like to give on a slip of paper and to drop it in the wrapped box—without names. Open the box on Christmas day and see what presents the family has given Jesus for His birthday.
10. **Consider the feelings of Mary and Joseph.** For older children, read Matthew 1:18-25 and then discuss:

- How could Mary, a virgin, have felt when she discovered that she was pregnant?
- How could Joseph have felt when he learned of Mary's pregnancy?
- Why did both Joseph and Mary have the courage to believe God and undoubtedly suffer ridicule from man?
- Who do they (and you) turn to when life is not what they anticipated?
- Why can we always trust God even when His ways are different from ours?

The above are from “Keeping Christ the Center of Christmas” by Mary May Larmoyeux

Keep Christ in Christmas from the Knights of Columbus: Celebrate the season with your family and council members in the manner it was intended, by Keeping Christ in Christmas with one of our featured programs below!

<http://www.kofc.org/en/members/programs/church-activities/keep-christ-in-christmas.html>