



# The Twelve Days of Christmas

*Read these ideas with your family and choose some to do during the Twelve Days of Christmas.*

<p><b>December 25</b></p> <p><i>Gifts</i></p> <p>Don't unwrap all the Christmas gifts at one time. Spread the gift opening throughout the Twelve Days of Christmas, then set aside some unused toys for children who need them.</p>	<p><b>December 31</b></p> <p><i>Have a spur-of-the-moment party</i></p> <p>Ask everyone to bring a food or beverage to share. Play games. Sing Christmas carols. Exchange inexpensive funny gifts.</p>
<p><b>December 26</b></p> <p><i>The Light of Christ</i></p> <p>Etch a symbol for Christ on a big white candle. Light this Christ candle each day as a reminder that we continue to celebrate "Emmanuel – God with us."</p>	<p><b>January 1</b></p> <p><i>Nature walk</i></p> <p>Whatever your weather, spend some time outside together. Look for signs of God.</p>
<p><b>December 27</b></p> <p><i>Christmas carolling</i></p> <p>Gather family and friends for an evening of carolling on your street and in your community.</p>	<p><b>January 2</b></p> <p><i>Give of your time</i></p> <p>Invite another family's young children to spend the afternoon with you. Entertain them with craft projects and games.</p>
<p><b>December 28</b></p> <p><i>Christmas productions</i></p> <p>View videotapes or watch the television schedule for special Christmas shows to view together.</p>	<p><b>January 3</b></p> <p><i>Other traditions</i></p> <p>Use the library in your community or the internet to find out about Christmas traditions in other places. Try a new tradition this year.</p>
<p><b>December 29</b></p> <p><i>Give the gift of yourselves</i></p> <p>Visit relatives, friends, and church members who may be house-bound, lonely, or grieving during this holiday time.</p>	<p><b>January 4</b></p> <p><i>Continue the music!</i></p> <p>Begin or end a meal together by singing a Christmas carol. Listen to Christmas CDs and tapes during all twelve days.</p>
<p><b>December 30</b></p> <p><i>Christmas stories</i></p> <p>Get books of Christmas stories from the library and read them aloud together.</p>	<p><b>January 5</b></p> <p><i>Twelfth Night party.</i></p> <p>Invite friends and relatives to help you plan an "end of Christmas celebration." Research medieval Twelfth Night festivities. Celebrate the last day of Christmas as you did the first, with joy and thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Christ child.</p>