

# Let Your *Light* Shine at Christmas

*I am the light of the world, he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

*John 8:12*

**Watch the video Let Your Light Shine at Christmas here:**

2000 years ago, the "star" led the wise men to the Savior, and today we can still shine like lights in the universe to point people toward **The Christ Child**.

In the universe, **stars** that are closest shine the **brightest**.

Proximity is everything!

Consider the sun. It is not the biggest star, but it is the closest to earth and thus gives us the most **light** and warmth.

**Who** is in your path—proximity—with whom you could **share your light** and **warmth**?

**Read a Christmas Book each day together:**

The Crippled Lamb

25 Days of the Christmas Story

Berenstain Bears Christmas

A Christmas Story of Light

Song of the Stars

Christmas in the Manger

Three Trees

Story Book Bible

Christmas Collection



*You are the light of the world. A city on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.*  
*Matt 5:15*

Proximity is everything.

## 3 Areas You Can Be a **LIGHT** This Christmas

**S**et apart this season to **LOVE**. Just as Mary and Joseph said yes to God's plan of being the parents to Jesus that first Christmas, we can also say yes to God by loving the people in our lives right now. Don't wait until they get their lives together. Make this a season of celebrating with people near and far.

**Decorate with the sights of Christmas** but don't go overboard where you join the "axis of evil" trying to make everything perfect. Choose two rooms to decorate and enjoy this season. And please let your kids & grandkids help decorate the tree even if it is not perfect.

**Play the sounds of Christmas** with your favorite music. Put bells on the door that jingle.

**Make a mess in the kitchen** and enjoy the **tastes** of Christmas.

**Light a candle that brings in all the smells of the season.**

**Enjoy TIME together:** \*Puzzles out on the table all December \*Board games in the house, plus here are **21 online games you can play** over Zoom for free \*Read a children's book everyday until Christmas: Include **The Last Straw** or **The Giving Manger** and **have a focus on kindness and giving**. \***Conversation starters at dinner & The Family Paper Chain Countdown** from **familylife.com** are both very helpful. Download both and enjoy!

*Let us not grow weary of  
doing good, for in due  
season we will reap a  
harvest if we do not give  
up. Gal 6:9*

**Give the Gift of Words to  
Those Who Have Lost a  
Loved One:**

### My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees  
Around the world below,  
With tiny lights like heaven's stars  
Reflecting on the snow.  
The sight is so spectacular,  
Please wipe away the tear,  
For I am spending Christmas  
With Jesus Christ this year.  
I hear the many Christmas songs  
That people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare  
With the Christmas choir up here.  
I have no words to tell you  
The joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description,  
To hear the angels sing.  
I know how much you miss me  
I see the pain inside your heart.  
But I am not so far away  
We really are not apart.  
So be happy for me, dear ones,  
You know I hold you dear,  
And be glad I'm spending Christmas  
With Jesus Christ this year.  
I sent a special gift,  
From my heavenly home above—  
I sent you each a memory  
Of my undying love.  
After all, love is a gift  
more precious than pure gold;  
It was always most important  
In the stories Jesus told.  
Please love and keep each other,  
As my Father said to do,  
For I can't count the blessings  
Or love He has for each of you.  
So, have a Merry Christmas and  
Wipe away that tear;  
Remember, I am spending Christmas  
With Jesus Christ this year.  
Unknown Author

**Value People over Pies.** Listen to Kim Wier & Pam McCune talk about loving people during the season from ideas in their book [Redeeming The Season on KSBJ Radio Show- Sunday Night Live](#)

**Join Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth** as she talks with **Kim & Pam** on [Revive Our Hearts Podcasts](#) on how to redeem the season from the book [Redeeming The Season](#).



**Season Your Surroundings by pointing people to The Christ Child.** As we see the people around us and step into their needs, we are reflecting the love of God, showing mercy and love as well as pointing them to The Savior.

**Season with Gifts.** A small token says I thought of you, I see you and I care. Put a small bag together of goodies along with a note of encouragement for those God puts on your heart.

\*I like to give **popcorn** to my **new neighbors**. "As we are rejoicing and celebrating this season, we want to celebrate you moving into the neighborhood. **Pop over** anytime to our house." And I buy some fun flavored popcorn or make the Family Recipe of Carmel Popcorn that has been passed down through the generations. *Recipe included at end.*

\*You can simply make **Spiced Pecans** or **Monster Cookies** and bless those around you with yummy treats. *Recipes included at end.*

\***The Candy Cane points to Jesus.** It is shaped like a shepherd's crook because Jesus is our Good Shepherd. It is striped with white and red as a reminder that Jesus is pure (white) without any sin, and His red blood was sacrificed for us. The J shape stands for Jesus, the sweetest name I know.

\***Little gifts to pass along to people as they serve you** — whether a restaurant server, store clerk, or delivery person. *Give a gift and verbalize your thanks for their service.*

I like to give the **2 inch Roman nail with a small card** explaining that this is a special ornament as a reminder of the true Christ-tree which Jesus decorated for us with the sacrifice of His life. (6 inch nails are also available) "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 Send an email to [pam@nbs2go.com](mailto:pam@nbs2go.com) \*if you would like to order a bag of 25 of the 2 inch nails with cards and ribbons. You can also order the individual 6 inch Roman Nail Ornament. Place it in the center of your tree so that only your family knows of its presence. Others will take no notice of it, but to you the nail symbolizes the tree that Jesus decorated for us with the sacrifice of His life. Limited quantity available.

**Basket of Treats for Delivery Drivers.** Fill a basket full of water bottles and snacks at the front door. Post a note that says, “We are thankful for your service! Merry Christmas.” Click here for [10 Thank You Notes to Print](#).

**Give the Gift of Words.** Encourage others with the gift of words. For many this is a hard season of losses. Write a card to those who have lost a love one, lost a job or struggled with health issues. Read this article for more ideas to [Help the Hurting with words](#).

**Write a letter to someone in prison.** We have access to 80 names of women incarcerated in a facility in Texas this Christmas. Would you like to send one of them a Christmas card filled with words of hope? Email [pam@nbs2go.com](mailto:pam@nbs2go.com)

**Give the Gift of Prayer.** Place the Christmas cards you receive in a basket and pick one each night to pray for at dinner or bedtime. Followup by sending a text or letter to each person/ family after you pray for them. Also, as you drive around looking at Christmas lights, pray “popcorn” blessings and petitions for those families.

**Give the Gift of Service.** Watch for ways to be a blessing of service to those around you. Think about single moms, those with health challenges and those alone. Service ideas: help put up the Christmas tree, wrap gifts, put up Christmas lights, take care of the yard, watch your neighbors children so they can buy gifts. Also, I have enjoyed this [adorable neighbor advent with service ideas from Crew and co](#). And don’t forget to think about those who serve and work on Christmas Day. Buy some \$5 gift cards and deliver them to frontline workers.

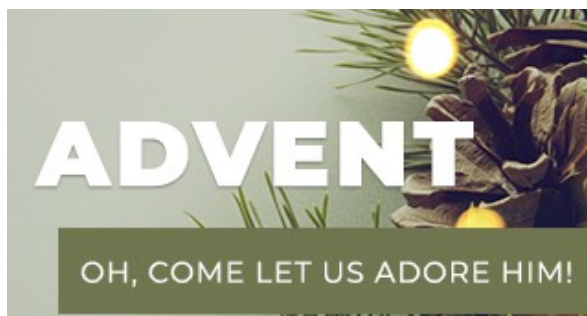
**Host a Christmas gathering** outside over a fire pit with hot cocoa. Put on an outdoor movie with extra blankets to share. Have a white elephant party with the theme “pandemic survival gear”. Share how Jesus is the key to your survival.

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**Savoring The Savior.** At the first Christmas we see the shepherds going on a scavenger hunt in the midst of their work day to find the baby in the manger. When they found Him, they worshipped the baby. Simeon and Anna both worshipped and praised God at seeing the Messiah as a baby. Even the Gentiles, known as the wise men, bowed down and worshiped the toddler when they eventually arrived carrying gifts. Don’t miss taking time this season and acknowledge who Jesus is. He is not just a baby; He is God and worthy of savoring.

One way to aim at savoring the Savior throughout December, not just on Christmas day, is to celebrate Advent. Take the rest of December and anticipate the arrival of Jesus as well as His second coming.

We invite you to take part in the **ADVENT 2GO Bible plan** now available on YouVersion.



Check out Nbs2go’s  
[The Advent Study on YouVersion](#)  
[Advent Leaders Guide](#)  
[Advent Study to Download](#)

### Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!

This study includes:

- four stories from Matthew and Luke
- God’s divine plan for the birth of Jesus Christ
- experiencing what it was like to be present at these events.
- question-and-answer format that can be used for family devotions, group discussion, or self-study

Invite a neighbor, friend, or family member to this Advent Bible Study and look expectantly to what God will teach you together.

He will draw you closer to one another as you study God’s Word.

**Advent for all ages: Prophecy Cards.** Read 25 of the prophecies from the Old Testament about the coming Messiah on the front of the card. Then turn it over and read how it is fulfilled in the New Testament. [Send an email to pam@nbs2go.com](mailto:pam@nbs2go.com) if you would like to order the prophecy cards. Very limited quantity available.

**Other Advents**—[Shadow & Light: A Journey into Advent by Tsh Oxenreider](#), [Unwrapping the Greatest Gift by Ann Voskamp](#), [The Wonder of the Greatest Gift: An Interactive Family Celebration of Advent Calendar – Pop up](#), [Listen to She Reads Truth Weekly Advent Podcast](#)

**Nativities**- Let the grandkids and kids enjoy an unbreakable nativity set. Bring out a new piece each day, or move the nativity around the house as if they are traveling to Bethlehem.

**Joy Stocking**- Write on index cards each time you realize a blessing from God through December. Then on New Years Day read all of them aloud.

**Bethlehem Star** — Go outside and watch for the first star to come out on Christmas night. Talk about what the Bethlehem star meant.

**Print out Luke 2** and divide verses to set at each persons place at the table for them to read the Bible Christmas story out loud as you enjoy the Christmas meal.

**PRAY** and ask God which of these ideas will work best for you this year. Don't over do it. Choose one in each area. Then ***“Be devoted in prayer, watchful and thankful.” Col 4:2***

**Have you enjoyed these ideas on how to love the people around you during Christmas? If you have, please join our [community here](#) —take a moment and enter your name and email to receive our blog. We send out two monthly blogs that include tips and tools and stories on how to reach the people around you. We would love to connect with you. We invite you to [peek into our past blogs as well here](#). [NBS2GO.COM](#) has so many more resources for you. Our **BIBLE STUDIES** are easy to facilitate and are available in over 30 languages that you can access at a touch of a button. If you have any questions, email [pam@nbs2go.com](mailto:pam@nbs2go.com).**

## Gluten free Monster Cookies

Debbie McGoldrick

350 7-8 minutes (time depends on size of cookies)

### Mix together:

½ cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup & 2 T. brown sugar  
3 eggs  
2 cups peanut butter (I use chunky)  
¼ t. vanilla  
¾ t. light corn syrup  
4 ½ cups reg. oats  
2 t. baking soda  
¼ t. salt  
1 cup M & M's (holiday themed)  
1 cup choc. chips

Cream butter, gradually add sugars.  
Add eggs, PB, vanilla & corn syrup.  
Combine oats, soda & salt and mix in.  
Fold in M & M's choc. chips

Drop or roll out in little balls ☺

## Southern Spiced Pecans

Debbie McGoldrick

### Melt:

¼ c butter  
1 ½ teaspoon ground cumin  
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

### Stir in:

3 cups pecan halves  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon salt

300 degrees/25-30 min.  
stir occasionally

## McCune Carmel Popcorn

16 cups popped corn, lightly salted  
2 cups light brown sugar  
2 sticks butter  
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar (very important)\*  
1/2 cup white corn syrup, “Karo”  
1 teaspoon baking soda (put in at end!)

Mix all ingredients well, except soda and popcorn  
Dissolve over low heat  
then boil for 5 minutes on medium heat  
Remove from stove and  
add baking soda, stir in  
(it will bubble up)

Then pour it over the popcorn and mix it well (coat evenly)  
Bake at 250 degrees, for 30 minutes, 4 stirring every 5 minutes  
Let cool, and break apart