

# A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS



*A simple Christmas is an intentional Christmas. We hope you will use this resource to help your family intentionally celebrate Jesus this Christmas.*

**Advent Calendar:** Advent means "arrival" or "coming" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. It refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. The Advent Season is about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth. Use an Advent Calendar w/ Scripture: Bible App, online. Spend time as a family reading the Bible, praying together, and making the advent calendar about anticipating Jesus and not just candy. **Jeremiah 33:14-16.**

**Nativity:** Buy or make a nativity together. Leave the manger empty; no straw or Baby. Add a piece of straw for every kind deed or act of service. On Christmas Day, place the Baby in the manger filled with service and love. **Luke 2:1-7.**

**Hanging lights on house:** Share with your family that the reason you hang lights on your house is to show the world that we follow the light of the world that came down into our darkness. This is a reminder to us this year that we are not ashamed of being a follower of Jesus. Challenge yourself to share your faith with someone. Tell them about the good news of Jesus. **John 1:15; 8:12.**

**Tree:** This is a reminder that the Savior that came into the world as a baby would grow up and be hung on a wooden cross for our sins. The evergreen tree is also a reminder of the eternal life we have in Christ. As you set up your tree or as you gather in your living room around your tree, remember and thank God for the sacrifice He made for us on the cross and the eternal life you have in Him. **Acts 5:30; Romans 5:8.**

**Lights on tree:** We hang lights inside our home to remind us that Jesus is not only the light of the word, He is the light of our lives and the light w/in us. Consider how you can let His light shine through you to those in darkness. **John 1:4; Matthew 5:14.**

**Angels and Star:** The angels proclaimed the good news that the Savior was born. We are to be faithful in proclaiming the good news of the Savior. The wisemen followed the star to come and worship Jesus. We can be a part of leading others to follow and worship Jesus. This is the perfect time of year to invite other ppl into your life (dinner, gatherings, small group, church, Christmas Eve) allowing the opportunity to show and share the Good News of King Jesus. **Luke 2:8-11; Matthew 2:1-2 and 9-10.**



**RIVER ROCK**  
BIBLE CHURCH



**Candy Canes:** When turned upside down, it is a “J” for Jesus. It is shaped like a cane because Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us. His sheep hear and follow (obey) His voice. The white represents Jesus’ holiness and righteousness. The Red represents to blood He shed for the forgiveness of our sins. The candy cane represents the gospel of Jesus.

**John 10:1-30; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

**Giving gifts:** The wise men came and gave gifts to Jesus. **Matthew 2:11.** But the ultimate gift was Jesus Himself. **John 3:16; Romans 6:23.** Minimize the number of and amount spent on gifts. Replace “*What do you want?*” with “*Here is why we...*” Before opening presents Read the story of Jesus’ birth from Scripture in the following order: **Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20.**

**Santa:** Eliminate or minimize Santa. Share the true story that inspired the legend of Santa. A man named Nicholas had dedicated his life to Jesus and was known for his remarkable generosity. He was specifically known for following the words of Jesus recorded in **Matthew 19:21** as He told the rich young ruler to sell all of his possessions and give the money to the poor. Nicholas was discovered secretly giving gifts and money to those in need. After his death on Dec 6th, 343 he became known as St. Nicholas...or St. Nick. The story of Santa has its origins rooted in Jesus. Are you more concerned with what you can get or what your kids will get then you are about what you can give? Have you instilled in your children the heart of getting or the heart of giving? Who will you give intentionally to this year? Who can you help? **Acts 20:35.**