



An Advent Sharing List for Families

- * Look through your clothes for things in good shape that you will never wear again. Bundle them for delivery to a church-run thrift shop or shelter.
- * Buy a gift you would personally like to have. Wrap it for distribution to someone your age at a local family shelter.
- * Read the Christmas story in the Bible as a family (Luke 2:1-20).
- * Bake and decorate sugar cookies as a family. Keep half and give the rest away.
- * Offer to help a family member or friend do their Christmas shopping or wrapping.
- * As a family, go without snacks or even a meal. Contribute the money saved to a local soup kitchen or food pantry.
- * Donate a package of heavy-weight socks to your local homeless shelter.
- * Read a book about Christmas traditions around the world. Add an idea you like to your family Christmas celebration.
- * Locate Israel and Bethlehem on a globe or world map. Pray for peace in the land and continent of Jesus' birth.
- * Call or write family friends you have not seen for a while. Let them know how much you appreciate their presence in your life.
- * Schedule a date for a family visit to a local nursing home —not now, but in February or March when Christmas is a memory.
- * Buy a family's worth of gloves and hats, then give them away to a family in need.
- * Invite someone who lives alone to join you for a special Advent or Christmas meal.
- * Select a cause or charity you would like to support as a family in the coming year and decide how to include it into your budget.
- * Think of a no-cost, "invisible" present (story, joke, favor, hug) you can give to a family member or friend and share it today.
- * Clean house together in preparation for putting up your Christmas tree and decorations.
- * Sing a favorite Christmas song together.
- * Make an ornament for your family Christmas tree.
- * Offer a prayer of thanks for someone who went out of their way to make your day better.
- * Look at everything your family does to prepare for Christmas and how you share these tasks. Redistribute the responsibilities so that no one feels overburdened.
- * As you watch or read today's news reports, think about where Jesus is being born in poverty today and what you can do to help.
- * Take time today to sit and pray. Think about what you are thankful for and what your hopes are for the coming year.
- * Do something good today for someone who will never know you did it or be able to do something for you in return.
- * List the things you least like about Christmas preparation. Decide as a family to eliminate a couple of these things.
- * Figure out what makes you feel best at Christmas time. Find a way to include the feeling into your life throughout the year.
- * List the things you most like about Christmas preparation. Schedule time together to do them, so that they do not get lost in the rush.
- * Play a game tonight as a family instead of watching television.
- * Visit a friend or relative in a nursing home or write a Christmas greeting letter to a resident at a nearby retirement home.
- * At meal prayer tonight, ask each family member to share something he or she is thankful for.