

# 20 Family-Friendly Christmas and Thanksgiving Ideas

- Look at a photo album of family memories. Or watch clips from homemade family videos. Begin conversations with “Remember when...” Tape-record a good memory and send it to the person who was part of it.
- Buy a new game as a family gift for Christmas. Open it early and play it together.
- Work on a jigsaw puzzle. Play Christmas carols in the background.
- Each family night, read aloud a few chapters from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens until it’s finished.
- Have each family member choose a Christmas carol, read one verse, and tell why it has special meaning.
- Make special cards for grandparents. Together, write a message on each card.
- Have each family member think of something helpful to do for another family member. Write the idea on a piece of paper, sign it, and put it in a box. During the next seven days, do the helpful thing and present the box to the right recipient. Repeat this each week.
- Go for a walk together. Look for the brightest star, the largest pine cone, the most interesting house decorations, and so on.
- Help each other memorize a Christmas verse, a passage, or a psalm.
- Go through the alphabet naming gifts from God. The first person begins, “God gave our family an apple tree.” The next person says, “God gave our family an apple tree and a basketball goal.” Keep adding items. See how far your family can go through the alphabet and remember the gifts named.

## FAMILY FRIENDS

- Invite a family that’s different from your own to dinner. It may be a single person, a single-parent family, or a family who has a child with special needs.
- Decorate Christmas cookies with another family. Use a roll of prepared sugar-cookie dough or make your own.
- Take a Christmas lights tour of your favorite places. Combine with other families to use the church bus. Or you could rent a bus if you have enough people. End your tour at someone’s house for hot cider and Christmas cookies.
- Get with another family and each share one holiday tradition.
- Have a simple supper together that symbolizes togetherness in the family of God. It may be vegetable soup or a salad that both families contribute to. Note the individual parts and how they make up the whole. Include a loaf of bread to “break bread” together. Read [Acts 2:42-47](#).

## FAMILY TO FAMILY

- Make hot chocolate mix, freezer jam, or a simple fruit bread. Give to neighbors or people who live near your church. Write a Christmas message on each item.
- Join with other families to sing Christmas carols to elderly people. \*\*Come Caroling with Desert Cross on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the Tempe site at 4:00. Bring your friends and neighbors! ☺
- Trade child care with another family for an evening or Saturday so you can shop, bake, clean, decorate, or sleep.
- Help children shop for gifts for their parents (particularly in a single-parent household). Help children wrap and tag their gifts.
- Adopt a needy family and provide gifts and food for their Christmas celebration. \*\*We have an Angel tree at DCLC! ☺

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*Time  
spent with  
family  
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Second*