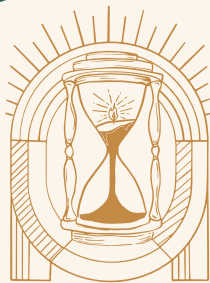


Christmas



Advent Cards

CROSS TIMBERS CHURCH

Merry Christmas from Cross Timbers!

We hope these Christmas Advent Cards help your family slow down the busyness of the holiday season and spend intentional time together. There is a verse and activity each day to help you prepare your heart and home for this Christmas. Don't forget to join us for Christmas Eve services!

DECEMBER 23RD AT 4 + 6PM

DECEMBER 24TH AT 12, 2 + 4 PM

Share your family participating in the advent activities on your social media by tagging @crosstimberschurch and using #CTChristmas

DECEMBER 1



Christmas Tree Pause

WHAT YOU NEED

- A Christmas tree strung with lights but no ornaments hung.
- One ornament per family member.

WHAT YOU DO

Right before you start hanging ornaments on your tree, when only the lights are strung, gather your family for a Christmas Tree Pause.

DECEMBER 1

WHAT YOU SAY

Spend time thinking about and sharing all God has blessed you with this year. Just as the tree is evergreen, God's love for us is unending and never changes. Then as each ornament is placed on the tree, have the family member placing it share something they are grateful for that has happened during this year.



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 40:1-5* together as a family.

DECEMBER 2



Others First!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Spending money
- Shopping list for your siblings or other family members

WHAT YOU DO

Buy your Christmas gift for a family member. Let each person in your family choose a gift for someone else.

DECEMBER 2

WHAT YOU SAY

It's important to remember that treating others the way we want to be treated is better. It may not always be easy. So when you are spending your money today, you may want something for yourself. This is a special trip where we put others first and we remember that it is good to put what someone else needs over what we want.



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 52:7-10* together as a family.

DECEMBER 3



Treat Yourself Station

WHAT YOU NEED

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Basket
- Waters and other drinks

WHAT YOU DO

Set up a snack station on your front porch for delivery workers.

DECEMBER 3

WHAT YOU SAY

Our delivery folks take good care of us all year long! Let's leave treats and drinks so that they can feel strong and able to handle all the extra boxes and deliveries this month!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 40:9-11* together as a family.

DECEMBER 4



Christmas Ornaments

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper ornaments or ornaments that you can write on.
- Paint markers or regular markers (whichever works best for the ornaments you chose.)

WHAT YOU DO

Make ornaments with the names of Jesus on each one: *Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Alpha and Omega, Mighty One, Lamb of God.*

DECEMBER 4

WHAT YOU SAY

Read Luke 2:1-21 and then decorate the ornaments using the names of Jesus. Help little ones as needed. Hang the ornaments on the tree after sharing what the special names of Jesus mean to you!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 2:1-21* together as a family.

DECEMBER 5



Gratitude is My Attitude

WHAT YOU NEED

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Glue
- Markers
- Crayons

WHAT YOU DO

Create a family paper chain. Cut paper into strips to be used for your family's paper chain. On each strip, write something you are thankful for!

DECEMBER 5

WHAT YOU SAY

After passing out several strips to each person, give everyone a chance to write things they are grateful for this December. Share as you write the items on the strips. Assemble the chain as you visit and share.



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Genesis 15:1-6* together as a family.

DECEMBER 6



Dear Hero!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper
- Stickers
- Envelopes
- Pens
- Money for Postage

WHAT YOU DO

Write a letter to a family friend or some troops stationed overseas.

DECEMBER 6

WHAT YOU SAY

Spend time talking about each person you are writing letters to. Add drawings and stickers to make the letters even more special. After the letter writing is complete, say a prayer as a family for the people receiving the letters. Then take the letters to get postage and mail them off!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Deut. 18:15-19* together as a family.

DECEMBER 7



Others First!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Hope Center Serve dates (*check crosstimberschurch.org for information!*)

WHAT YOU DO

Serve together as a family at the Hope Center!

DECEMBER 7

WHAT YOU SAY

Serving together is a great way to help each other remember the importance of the season! Talk about it on the way home and maybe stop off for a special treat!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1: 67-80* together as a family.

DECEMBER 8



I Can Do It!

WHAT YOU NEED

- No materials needed

WHAT YOU DO

Make your bed and tidy your room.

DECEMBER 8

WHAT YOU SAY

Invite your kids to make their beds and tidy their rooms. Encourage them to do their best. Help them along the way and let them know how proud you are of them for being responsible and dependable!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 11:1-5* together as a family.

DECEMBER 9



Christmas Kindness Part 1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Homemade or store-bought dog treats

WHAT YOU DO

Deliver dog treats to your local animal shelter.

DECEMBER 9

WHAT YOU SAY

After you make dog treats or buy some from the store, plan a trip to your local animal shelter. Give the treats to the staff so they can share them with the animals. It's good to remember that Jesus lived a life of putting others first!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Zechariah 6:12-13* together as a family.

DECEMBER 10



Christmas Jam Party!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas playlist

WHAT YOU DO

Create a Christmas music playlist and have a jam party!

DECEMBER 10

WHAT YOU SAY

As a family, create a playlist of all your favorite Christmas songs. Then have a Christmas music jam party! Make a fun Christmas memory by dancing and singing along together.



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Psalms 149:3* together as a family.

DECEMBER 11



I Can Do It!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Trash bags or boxes

WHAT YOU DO

Clean up old toys and donate the gently used ones to charity.

DECEMBER 11

WHAT YOU SAY

Spend time sorting through toys and games. After finding the gently used ones, clean them up and gather them to take to a local donation site. It's good to remember that Jesus helped those in need!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Malachi 3:1-4* together as a family.

DECEMBER 12



I Can Do It!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Rakes
- Trash Bags or Brown Paper Leaf Bags

WHAT YOU DO

Rake leaves in the front yard and bag them up.

DECEMBER 12

WHAT YOU SAY

It's good to help get our homes ready for guests, and we can work together! Rake leaves into piles and then place the piles in the trash bags. Maybe jump in a leaf pile a time or two!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *John 1:1-8* together as a family.

DECEMBER 13



Act it Out!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Toys or stuffed animals

WHAT YOU DO

Act out the Christmas story using your favorite toys or stuffed animals.

DECEMBER 13

WHAT YOU SAY

After you gather your favorite toys, dolls or stuffed animals, take turns using those toys to retell the Christmas story.



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Micah 5:2-4* together as a family.

DECEMBER 14



Christmas Light Cruise

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pajamas
- Blankets
- Not-so-hot chocolate
- Slippers

WHAT YOU DO

LOAD UP! Make sure everyone is in their favorite Christmas pajamas...slippers and all! Grab a blanket and buckle up for a Christmas light cruise!

DECEMBER 14

WHAT YOU SAY

Have each member in the family finish this sentence:

“To me, Christmas means...”



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Mark 1:1-3* together as a family.

DECEMBER 15



Gingerbread House Fun

WHAT YOU NEED

- Purchase one or two gingerbread house kits

WHAT YOU DO

Work together to create the best gingerbread house ever!

DECEMBER 15

WHAT YOU SAY

Putting a gingerbread house together takes teamwork! We get to practice lots of patience as we build. This is a great chance for us to see that we are better together even when we build gingerbread houses!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1:5-13* together as a family.

DECEMBER 16



Family Christmas Photoshoot

WHAT YOU NEED

- Phone or camera

WHAT YOU DO

Let everyone pick their favorite outfit for a unique family photoshoot!

DECEMBER 16

WHAT YOU SAY

Encourage each family member to dress how they want to celebrate Christmas. The more festive, the better! Older ones can help out the little ones! Let this be a time to remember that being perfect isn't the goal! Let's have fun and let each person's uniqueness shine!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1:14-25*
together as a family.

DECEMBER 17



Treat Yourself Station Refill!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Basket
- Waters and other drinks

WHAT YOU DO

Refill the snack station that your family set up earlier this month!

DECEMBER 17

WHAT YOU SAY

Our delivery folks take good care of us all year long! Let's leave treats and drinks so they can feel strong while handling all the extra boxes and deliveries this month!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1:39-56* together as a family.

DECEMBER 18



Family Game Night!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Favorite game
- Yummy snacks or treats

WHAT YOU DO

After dinner, choose a game that everyone can play and enjoy game night!

DECEMBER 18

WHAT YOU SAY

Let tonight be a reminder that even in busy seasons, it's important to slow down and take some time to be with the people you love most! Game nights are a great way to do just that! Just be careful not to let them get too competitive!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1:57-66* together as a family.

DECEMBER 19



Christmas Cookie Fun

WHAT YOU NEED

- Sugar cookies
- Icing, food coloring, sprinkles, etc.
- Disposable plastic plates, plastic wrap or ziploc bags
- Craft sticks or plastic knives
- Paper towels or lots of hand wipes!

WHAT YOU DO

Invite neighbors over for Christmas cookie fun! Prepare or purchase sugar cookies, gather supplies, and get ready for cookie decorating!

DECEMBER 19

WHAT YOU SAY

Give each decorator time and space to create their masterpiece! After everyone has decorated at least one cookie, invite everyone to choose their favorite cookie and tell why. Then divide the cookies up and share them with neighbors, bus drivers, friends at work, or someone that could use a cheerful cookie surprise!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Psalm 89:1-4* together as a family.

DECEMBER 20



Christmas Light Cruise Round 2

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pajamas
- Blankets
- Not-so-hot chocolate
- Slippers

WHAT YOU DO

Let's do it again! Make sure everyone is in their favorite Christmas pajamas, slippers and all! Grab a blanket and buckle up for a Christmas light cruise!

DECEMBER 20

WHAT YOU SAY

Have each member in the family finish this sentence:

“Christmas is special to me because...”



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 7:10-14* together as a family.

DECEMBER 21



Christmas Kindness Part 2

WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas treat ingredients, Christmas candy or a pre-baked item from the bakery

WHAT YOU DO

Make a Christmas treat and share it with a neighbor.

DECEMBER 21

WHAT YOU SAY

Make a special Christmas treat for a neighbor. Decorate it with Christmas ribbons and trim! Take it to a neighbor and add an invite to your Christmas Eve services!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 1:26-38* together as a family.

DECEMBER 22



Christmas Clean Up

WHAT YOU NEED

- Santa hats
- Garbage bags

WHAT YOU DO

Wear Santa hats and take a garbage bag to clean up garbage from your neighborhood.

DECEMBER 22

WHAT YOU SAY

Take a neighborhood walk as a family. Pick up any trash that you see!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Isaiah 9:2-7* together as a family.

DECEMBER 23



Christmas Story Night

WHAT YOU NEED

- Your favorite book about the birth of Jesus.

WHAT YOU DO

Read a Christmas book about Baby Jesus.

DECEMBER 23

WHAT YOU SAY

Gather around and get cozy as a family. Take turns reading your family's favorite story about Jesus' birth. Give each person a chance to share what makes the birth of Jesus so special!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Genesis 3:8-15* together as a family.

DECEMBER 24



Christmas Eve

WHAT YOU NEED

- Invitations from Cross Timbers

WHAT YOU DO

Attend a Christmas service at Cross Timbers Church! Invite family and friends to join you!

DECEMBER 24

WHAT YOU SAY

Take invites from church and share with friends and neighbors. Invite others to attend Christmas Eve Services with you and your family!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Matthew 1:18-25* together as a family.

DECEMBER 25



Merry Christmas!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Grab a box cake mix, a cake at the bakery, or make a cake from scratch!

WHAT YOU DO

Make a birthday cake for Jesus!

DECEMBER 25

WHAT YOU SAY

Spend time decorating the cake and talk about the birth of Jesus with your family. Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus! Merry Christmas!



ADVENT READING

Get out your Bible and read *Luke 2:22-40* together as a family.