

A very different Christmas

Christmas is going to look very different this year, restrictions and guidance in place for our safety will have an impact on who we can meet with and which of our traditions can take place.

It is important to take time to prepare our children for a very different Christmas this year, but this can also be an opportunity to have some meaningful conversations about what Christmas is really about.



What is your favourite part of Christmas Day?

Which is your favourite thing we normally do at church for Christmas?

How is Christmas going to be different this year?

What are you going to miss the most this Christmas?

Family

Spending time with family is an important part of Christmas for many of us. This year you may be unable to meet with family members or you might find yourself having to be socially distanced from them.

Why not encourage children to write letters or create special Christmas cards to relatives. Fill them with messages of love, taking the time to let them know some of your favourite things about them. You could even take time as a family to wait on God and ask for a message of encouragement or a picture from God for each member of your family.



Presents

When asked, most children will say that their favourite part of Christmas is the presents! During these strange times many families will be struggling with finances. Don't be afraid of sharing honestly with your children and managing their expectations.

Why not get creative and crafty, working together to hand make some presents/edible gifts for others. You could pray for those you are making presents for and include a message of encouragement or a favourite Bible verse with their gift.

What is the best present you have ever given?

God's love is a free gift for everyone – how can we share it this Christmas?



Food

What is your favourite Christmas food?

If you could invite anybody to Christmas lunch who would it be?



Christmas has become a lot about indulgence and food, a far cry from the baby placed in an animal's feeding trough over 2000 years ago.

This year why not think about those who might be alone or without food at Christmas. If you're able to why not buy extra food to drop off at a local food bank or community fridge.

Even if you can't invite them into your home why not offer to share Christmas lunch with somebody locally who lives alone – package up a meal for them and drop it round. You could even invite them to join you at your dining table via zoom and all eat together.

Church

Church leaders around the world are coming up with creative ways to celebrate Christmas this year. If your favourite church tradition is missing this year why not just hold your own family service together at home – invite your children to plan the service, choose the carols, share Bible readings and celebrate Christmas together.

You could even invite another family to join you via video call and be part of your service!

Which is your favourite Christmas Carol?

What is the most important thing to include in a Christmas Service?



How can we be a light in the world this Christmas?

How many sources of light can you find in the Christmas story?



Shining a Light

Jesus came to be a light for the world and we can be a light too. From the shining star above the stable to the host of angels appearing to the shepherds the Christmas story is full of images that remind us that Jesus came to be a light in a dark world.

How will you share God's light with others this Christmas? Why not decorate your windows with lights or pictures and share a message of Christmas hope with those passing your home.

If your church is running services online you could include details in Christmas cards and deliver them to neighbours and those in your community.