



First time in a long time

— ❄ —
Let's make Christmas count!

Let's look at Christmas with fresh eyes.
The World Vision Advent Calendar is here to remind
us of everything we love about Christmas.

And what better way to celebrate it than to discover
new, fun, and festive things to do this December?

Try your hand at making some new Christmas
decorations, inspired by traditional crafters in
faraway places, share the Christmas spirit with your
neighbourhood with some random acts of kindness,
and so much more!

Let's make this Christmas count.



How to Use This **Advent Calendar?**



1

Turn the pages to discover a fun and festive activity for each day of the countdown to Christmas.



2

Each day, try something new! Since the Christmas spirit is made to be shared, you might want to invite some friends or gather the family to join you on the journey. And don't forget to share your Christmas journey with us on your socials.



3

Stay tuned to our weekly email to receive inspirational stories.



We're counting down to Christmas together!
Tag us on Instagram or Facebook with #ChristmasOfFirsts.



1

START SOMETHING NEW:

Christmas is full of traditions but what are yours? Create a new one and make this year the first year you'll do it! A Christmas movie, recipe, type of meal, type of get-together, something you wear, something you do, something you don't do.





2

JAR OF THANKS:

An oldie, but a goodie. Write a note of gratitude today for something you're thankful for and place it in a jar. Add a new note each day between now and Christmas and between the feasting and giving on Christmas Day, spend a few minutes reading them. If you live with others, get everyone involved. Remember, you can be thankful for big and small things, serious and fun things!



3



SUGARY SHOES:

Generous and giving, Saint Nicholas is dear to the hearts of Dutch children. On 5 December, families traditionally celebrate St Nicholas Day by leaving small gifts in children's shoes, which they will find the next day. Take some Dutch inspiration and surprise some children (or even friends, coworkers or neighbours) you know by leaving anything from lollies to toys in their shoes today!



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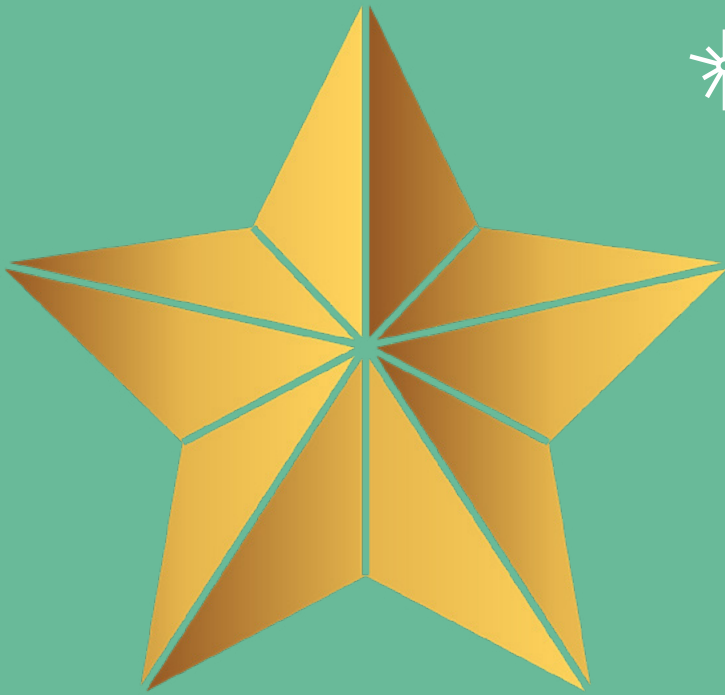


HOST A CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON:

Get your crew together (or do it over Zoom!) for some fun DIY holiday crafts! Why not start with Christmas cards? Use old magazines, unconventional materials that you may have handy (old paper bags, dry beans, recycled materials, etc). Turn up the festivities even more with Christmas tunes, decorations and festive food!



5



TWICE THE FUN:

What's on the menu at your place today? Why not double the recipe so you can give it to someone else - a neighbour, friend who is sick or having a tough time, a homeless person, a family member who hates to cook! There's nothing better than sharing great food with friends.





6

SPREAD CHEER IN UNUSUAL PLACES:

Today is a great day for an act of kindness! Write a note or create a small “thank you” package for a stranger in your life who makes your life better, like a delivery driver, trash/recycling collector, barista, cafe/restaurant owner, grocery store staff member or school/church volunteer. Don’t be afraid - it will probably be the best thing that will happen to them today.



SILLY STRING:

Get crafty, creative and colourful by making yarn/wool ornaments. Using cookie cutters as templates, bend craft wire into stars, bells, trees or other Christmas shapes. Then, simply wrap colourful yarn around the wire, adding a loop at the top to hang. Bonus: Add a mini pompom to hang in the centre of each ornament. [**Find your inspiration here!**](#)





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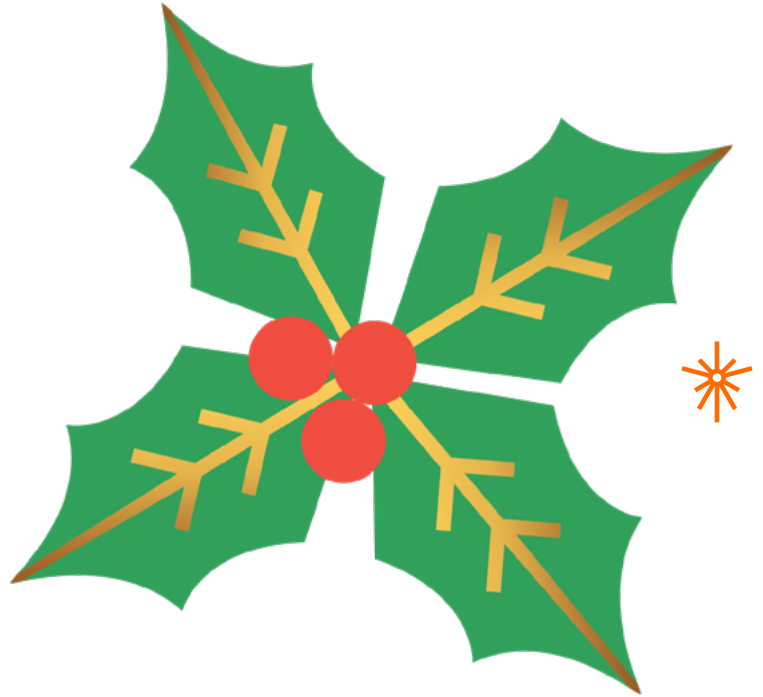
**JOYEUX NOËL. FROHE
WEIHNACHTEN. FELIZ NAVIDAD!**

Christmas is one of the most widely celebrated occasions around the world. Today, encourage your family to learn how to say “Merry Christmas” in 3 new languages! Bonus: make some word art using cutouts from magazines or just markers and your own creativity, and hang it around the house to jog your memory!





9



MIX, BAKE, DRIVE:

Today feels like a great day for a random act of kindness! Bake these easy jam-filled cookies and deliver them to someone special.

Not into cooking? Send a note, support a charity or pay it forward to someone instead.

It's a simple reminder of what matters the most on Christmas: sharing! Need more inspiration? Check out this recipe book.





EASY DIY ORNAMENTS:

Make your tree or house decorations personal with this DIY ornament that will work for even the non-craftiest of people! Mix three ingredients – 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup table salt and 1/3 cup water until a firm dough forms, then roll it out until it's 0.5cm thick. Use cookie cutters to make Christmas shapes or jam/glass jars to make circles if you don't have cutters. Add a hole in the top with a straw or skewer - this will eventually be used to add ribbon or string to hang. Bake in a 100°C/212°F oven for 1 hour. Once cool, paint or leave them plain, thread ribbon or string through the top and they're ready to hang!

10



11



CHRISTMAS THEMED MEAL:

Living in abundance is easy, but it takes creativity and planning to work with scarcity! Make yourself a vibrant festive meal at home with only 3 ingredients that are green, red and white in colour and be surprised with the end result. This does more than just appeal to the eyes, but to your spirit too!



12



MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY!

Give a total stranger a compliment, or help someone load their shopping into their car, or let someone else take your seat on the bus or train. A little kindness goes a long way! "I Love your smile, you were kind to that shop assistant..." your options are endless.





13

GIVE IT AWAY!

Books, toys, clothes... we often have things in our homes that we no longer use but someone else could. Spend 20 minutes today finding items that you could give away and help someone else in the process - then drop them off at a local school, charity, church, organisation that helps people or post it to a friend or family member who could benefit from it.



14

STRING IT UP:

This decoration idea is good enough to eat! Bake a batch of gingerbread biscuits, making a hole in each one with a straw or skewer before baking. Once cool, thread and tie ribbon through the holes to make a garland, which you can hang on your tree or use as a table centrepiece. We highly recommend this easy recipe by BBC. Yum!

15



GIVE MORE:

The most precious gifts are ones you've put your heart into. Do one thing today big or small as a gift to others - volunteer your time, share something with a neighbour or friend, donate to a cause that matters to you, deliver a gift to a colleague or friend, send a note to someone in the mail to make their day!



16

LIGHT A CANDLE:

Bring a bit of Christmas tradition to your dinner table tonight! Traditionally, four candles were lit during advent to represent hope, faith, joy and peace. Use it as a time of reflection or a conversation starter about how you've experienced these things this year or how you'd like to next year.

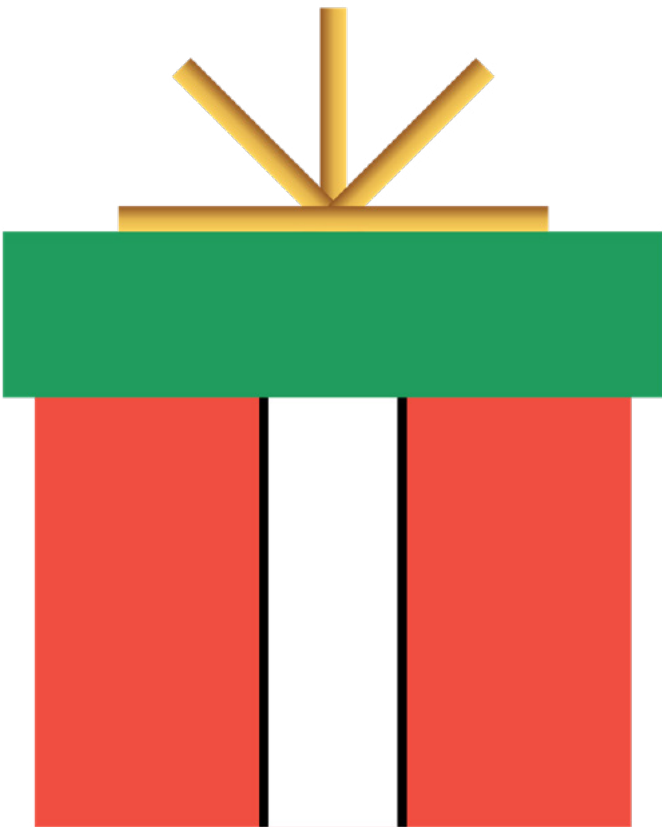


17



CAMP IN:

If you can't get out, do it inside. Set up a tent in your backyard/courtyard or set up a sleepover for friends or family inside - near your Christmas tree if you have one. Eat great food, tell stories and even give small gifts as a teaser to Christmas Day!



18

WORDS MATTER.

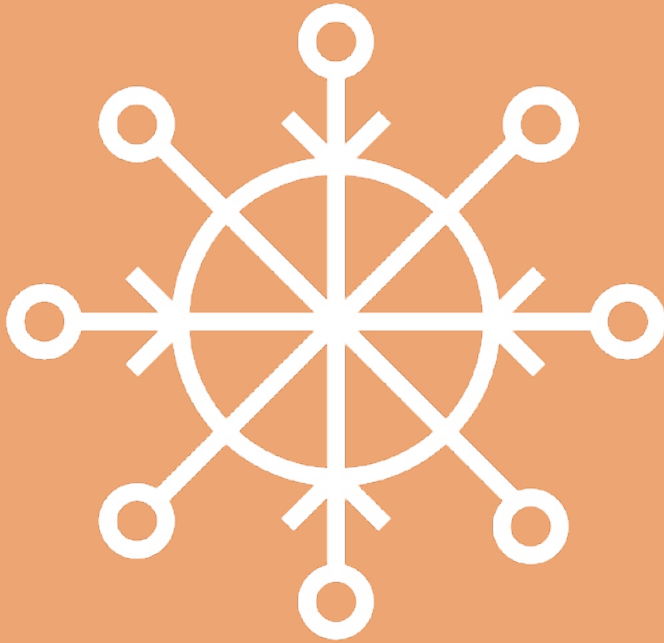
In a world of everything, one of the best gifts to give is still words - and what better time to give them than Christmas? Tell 5 people in your life how much you appreciate them today by telling them how much you admire them for being resilient, positive, supportive, hopeful or brave. Send them a text or email, give them a shout-out on social media or send them a note/card in the post.



19

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK:

Grab an old book or a new one, wrap it up and write “Take me!” on the front. Add a note on the back or label that says what the book is or about, then put it in front of your home, at your office, on public transport or in a public place for someone to pick up and enjoy this Christmas! Not everyone can afford gifts nor does everyone receive one so this small package could make someone else’s day.



20



BURNING LAMPS:

Armenians come together on Christmas Eve to celebrate Chragaluits or 'burning lamps' which is a special mass. The locals traditionally light a candle at the church and bring it home to light up their houses as they prepare for the Christmas feast. Recreate this experience at home by lighting up a candle before dinner!





21

DANCING WITH EGGS:

On Christmas Eve, Malian children play a special game known as 'dancing with an egg', where they have to hold an egg in their hands as they dance in a small and crowded circle. Without enough space to move around, it makes it extra challenging to dance without dropping the eggs. Give this game a try today inviting your friends and family - both old and young to play this simple yet exciting game! The last person holding the egg is the winner!



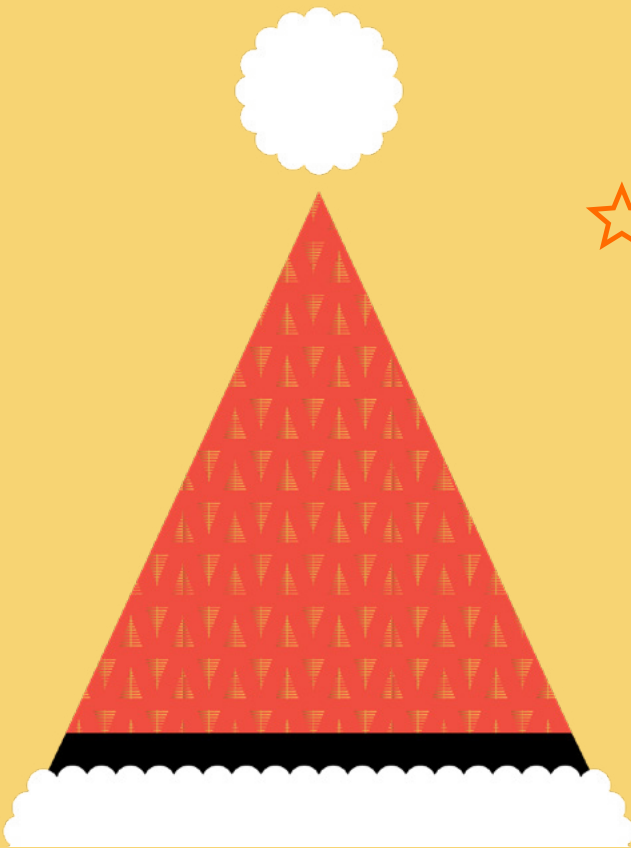


22

RED SILK AND SOCKS:

Christmas is in summer in Brazil, so Papai Noel, who is the Brazilian Santa, wears a red silk suit. Children hang a sock near a window and if they have been good, Papai Noel will exchange it for a gift. Homes, churches and stores put a nativity scene, known as presépio, on display, and all decorations and Christmas trees stay up until 6 January, the Three Kings Day, which marks when the three wise men visited Jesus and gave him gifts. Why not take a moment to give thanks for some of our greatest gifts this year!





23



NOCHE BUENA:

Latino cultures across the world celebrate “the good night” a day before Christmas, where they stay awake all night and prepare feasts of traditional dishes like a whole roast pig and hot noodle soup. The meal is often accompanied by music, dancing and even fireworks! Recreate this lively get-together at home with your loved ones (or over Zoom!) with your choice of dishes. Upbeat music that your guests can groove to is a must-have!

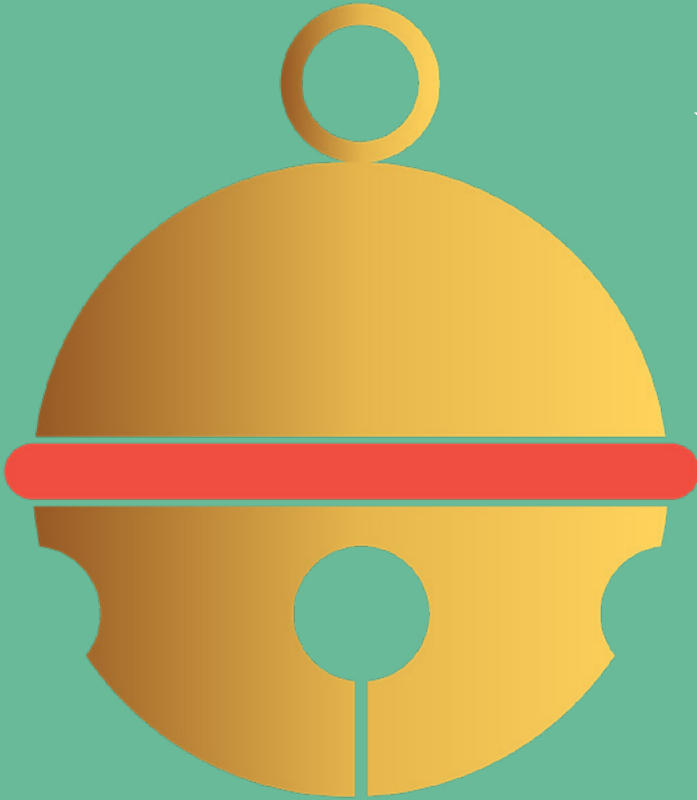




24

FEAST OF THE THREE KINGS:

In the Philippines, Christmas isn't over until January! The Feast of the Three Kings, also known as the Epiphany, is the celebration of the day the Three Kings reached Jesus' manger. It also marks the last day of the Christmas season. Host a feast to celebrate Epiphany with your loved ones using some fresh ideas here!



25

CELEBRATE LESOTHO-STYLE:

Christmas in Lesotho is loud and colourful! Children wake up before dawn on Christmas morning, because they believe watching the first rays of sunshine will give them joy throughout the day. The women wear their traditional patterned blankets and dance the “Mokhibo”, kneeling on the ground and moving their shoulders to the music. Pause for ten minutes today to focus on what brings you joy this season and practice gratitude.



Let's make this Christmas count!

And do not forget to do good and to share with
others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16 (NIV).

Merry Christmas!"



Let's make Christmas Count!