



Celebrate with
gladness the

12 Days *of* Christmas



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Creative Communications Sample



Introduction

Christmas is such a busy time, we are almost glad to see it end! The concerts and parties and decorating and gift-wrapping are finally finished. Everything is done—or is it?

The Christmas celebration continues beyond December 25. The Twelve Days of Christmas begin with Christmas Day, and continue until January 5, the day before Epiphany. Epiphany is the day to remember the visit of the wise men. They followed the star and when they found the Christ Child, they worshiped him. They knew Jesus was their King and they gave him rich gifts fit for a King.

Christmas is a beginning. Jesus our King has come. We celebrated his birth in Bethlehem, and now it is time to remember and rejoice in all of the gifts that he brings to us through his life, death and resurrection. The Twelve Days of Christmas are days to celebrate the light and joy that Jesus brings to us, light and joy that are ours now, for the next twelve days, for the whole year, for every year of our lives—and forever!






Day 1 ... December 25

1 Baby

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.




Jesus

Of all the presents you opened this Christmas, which was your favorite? Of all the presents you gave to others, which did you like giving the most? At Christmas we give and receive gifts. For many families, giving gifts is the most important part of Christmas. Giving gifts reminds us of the best gift-giver of all. Do you know who that is?

God is the best gift-giver of all. No one gives better gifts than God. You already know about many of God's gifts. Let each person in your family tell about a favorite gift from God. God's Word is full of gifts for you. One way to celebrate Christmas is to open God's Word and learn about his gifts there.

Today, on the First Day of Christmas, we remember God's best gift for us—the gift of Jesus. Baby Jesus was born for us in Bethlehem. He grew up to die on the cross to take away our sins. Baby Jesus, God's own Son, is God's best gift to you!



Dear Jesus, we are glad you were born in Bethlehem for us. You are the best Christmas gift of all! Amen.

Day 2 ... December 26

2 Sons

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living ... When he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:11-13, 17-20

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly his—
How sad and poor and dark it is!
Oh, blest that house where faith is found
And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve him still
And do in all his holy will!





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12 Days of Christmas

This booklet is a helpful tool for families to use to celebrate with gladness all 12 days of the season of Christmas. Family-friendly reflections, Bible readings and suggested activities about God's many gifts are included for each day to keep the celebration of the birth of Jesus going all the way to Epiphany.

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This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#)

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