



Christmas Story.

Read a new Christmas Story every night or every Sunday night until Christmas.

Wrap a pile of books that tell the Christmas story of Jesus' birth and put them under the tree or next to the tree. These can be books that you already own, that you purchase from the thrift store or brand new. Let your kids pick a book to unwrap and read each night.

Countdown Garland.

You will need:

A star cut out of yellow paper with the number 25 on it.

Red and Green strips of paper with the numbers to Christmas (depending on what day you start this activity)



Loop each strip together (by gluing or stapling the ends together create a garland.) Each morning or evening tear off the numbered loop corresponding to the day and do one of the listed activities. By Christmas you will be left with only the star.

Variations.

Say a prayer for family, friends and neighbours as you tear off a loop.

Read a verse of the Christmas story from Luke 1:26-2:40, Matthew 1:18-2:23 , Isaiah 9:6-7

With each loop you tear off add a food bank item to donate to your local Food Bank after Christmas.

Shepherds search for Jesus.

Prep:

Print and cut out shepherds or use shepherds from a nativity set.

Set up a nativity set somewhere in your house without the shepherds.

Each night after the kids are in bed or in the morning before they wake up place the shepherds somewhere in the house on their search for Baby Jesus. You could include little chocolates or treats with the shepherds for your kids to find if you want.

The shepherds could end up in all different locations until they finally find Jesus on Christmas morning:

- the kitchen; the fridge, the freezer, in the cupboard
- the bathroom; the tub, next to the sink, in the cupboard
- outside; looking in the window, on the front step
- in the bedroom; on a dresser or pillow or in a closet
- hanging from the chandelier
- or any other creative places you might find in your house.



CHRISTMAS COOKING DEVOTION

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BY MAKING
SOME FESTIVE CUT OUT COOKIES!**

**WHILE EATING YOUR COOKIES, READ
MATTHEW 2:10.**

**THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO CELEBRATE JESUS'
BIRTH - DECORATIONS, PRESENTS, EVEN YUMMY
TREATS.**

**THE WISEMEN REJOICED AND WERE FILLED WITH
JOY AT THE NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH. ARE YOU
FILLED WITH JOY FOR HIS BIRTH OR IS YOUR FOCUS
ON THE STUFF OF CHRISTMAS?**

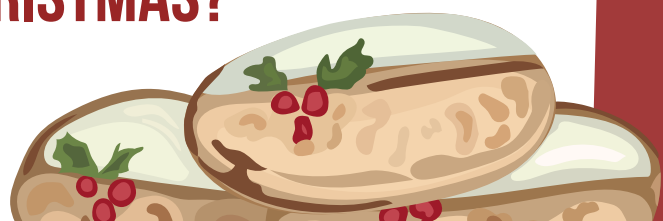
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EASY CUT OUT COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup salted butter**
- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar**
- 1 large egg**
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste**
- 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour**
- 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- 1 teaspoon salt**

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°

In the large bowl with a mixer, cream together butter and powdered sugar, and mix until the butter is light in color and well blended.

Mix in the egg and vanilla.

Blend in 2 ¾ cups flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix until the dough forms a ball, on medium speed.

Roll out cookie dough in between wax paper sheets, or lightly floured surface.

Roll out cookie dough to 1/4" thick and cut out with floured cookie cutter. Bake for 7-9 minutes.

