

## How to use the Christmas Advent Tree

Parents, the Christmas advent tree is designed to help you tell the Christmas story to your kids and to find fun opportunities to talk about the meaning of Christmas. There is a Christmas reading list telling the Christmas story in small daily installments. You begin the reading on December 1 and then each day added on to the story. You can repeat the whole story and add on each day or read the previous day's story and add on the new story so the kids remember the flow of the story. After reading the story you can talk about what the story means... You could help them imagine what it would be like to see and angel... How long it took for the wise men to find Jesus.. etc... How would you feel if God talked to you in a dream and told you to leave town in the middle of the night?

As you read the daily Christmas story reading you can use your nativity set to act out that day's story on your dining room table if you'd like. The main point is to find ways for your kids to enter into the Christmas story and begin to think about what the story means.

Each day in December has a note card on the tree. When you open the card for the day there are activities that you might want to do with your kids some time that week... Don't feel like you have to do these activities.. They are only suggestions. The point is to create positive memories with your kids and at the same time find ways to talk about Jesus, your faith and expressions of your faith by giving, loving , and serving the needy in your community. Have fun with it. If you have a busy work week and don't have time to do the activities daily consider picking one activity from the week to do on the weekend when you have more free time.

Another suggestion is to use the Advent wreath from last year and light one candle for each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas. As you light the candle during your dinner time together you can read a part of the Christmas story, talk about it and then open up a Christmas activity card idea. The kids could vote from the cards that week which one they'd like to do. You can decide what's doable.

May you and your children discover Christ together during this Advent season.