Christmas at Home

A short family prayer for every day of Christmas · Christmas Day to Sunday 10 January 2027

Christmas is not one day but a whole season. It begins on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of the Lord, seventeen days of celebrating that God has come to live among us. These pages give your family one small moment of prayer for each day: five minutes at breakfast, after the walk or at bedtime.

HOW IT WORKS

1. **Keep your crib up** all season. It is your prayer place until the Baptism of the Lord.
2. **Read the day together.** Take turns to read the short line about the gospel. Grown-ups can read the gospel itself from a family Bible: the reference is printed each day.
3. **Say the prayer line together,** slowly, twice. Little ones can repeat it after you.
4. **Choose to do the one thing,** and tick the box when you have done it.

THE WISE MEN'S JOURNEY

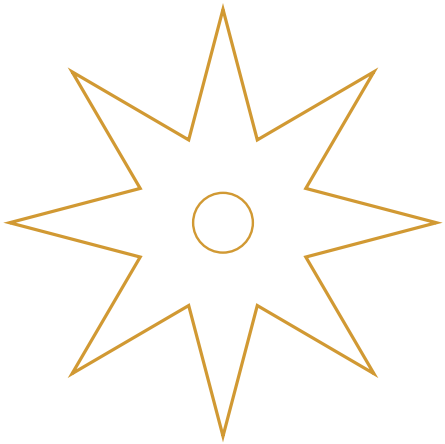
On Christmas Day, put the wise men from your crib set on the far side of the room. Move them a little closer each day, so that they reach Jesus on the Epiphany, Wednesday 6 January. Children can colour in the star at the top of each page.

SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

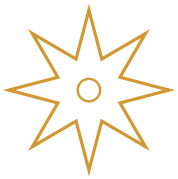
Days marked ▶ FILM + BOOKLET have a free two-minute animated gospel story and a four-page family booklet at **verityeducation.co.uk/sunday**: Christmas, the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, the Second Sunday after Christmas, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

FOR PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND GROUPS

Free to print, copy and hand out to every family. There is nothing to sign up for. The whole season is at **verityeducation.co.uk/pray/christmas**, and Advent at Home is at **verityeducation.co.uk/pray/advent**.



Jesus is born



AT THE CRIB

Gather at the crib. Put the wise men on the far side of the room: they are on their way. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, we kneel at your crib with the shepherds. Fill our home with your peace and joy this Christmas. Amen.

FRI 25 DEC
Christmas Day
Lk 2:1-14 · Lk 2:15-20 · Jn 1:1-18

▶ FILM + BOOKLET

Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Angels sing to shepherds: good news of great joy for everyone.

Pray: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Do: Before presents or dinner, gather at the crib and say happy birthday to Jesus.

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SAT 26 DEC
St Stephen
Mt 10:17-22

Jesus tells his friends that following him will sometimes be hard, but the Spirit will help them.

Pray: Holy Spirit, make us brave.

Do: Boxing Day: give away one toy or book you no longer use.

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SUN 27 DEC
The Holy Family
Lk 2:22-40

▶ FILM + BOOKLET

Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to the Temple, and old Simeon and Anna rejoice.

Pray: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless our family.

Do: Each family member says one thing they love about another.

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MON 28 DEC
The Holy Innocents
Mt 2:13-18

Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt to keep them safe from a cruel king.

Pray: God, keep all children safe.

Do: Pray for children who are refugees or far from home tonight.

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TUE 29 DEC
Fifth Day of Christmas
Lk 2:22-35

Simeon holds baby Jesus and says: now I have seen God's salvation.

Pray: Thank you, God, for keeping your promises.

Do: Look at a baby photo of each child and thank God for them.

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WED 30 DEC
Sixth Day of Christmas
Lk 2:36-40

Anna, who prayed in the Temple for years, sees Jesus and tells everyone.

Pray: God, help us to tell others about Jesus.

Do: Write or draw a thank-you card for a present.

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THU 31 DEC
Seventh Day of Christmas
Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word. The light shines in the darkness.

Pray: Jesus, be our light in the new year.

Do: Each say one hope for the new year, and pray for it together.

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FRI 1 JAN
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Lk 2:16-21

▶ FILM + BOOKLET

The shepherds find the baby, and Mary keeps all these things in her heart.

Pray: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Do: Start a family 'things to remember' jar for the year.

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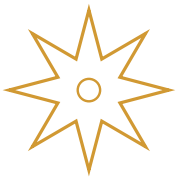
Come and see



AT THE CRIB

Move the wise men a little closer to the crib each day. Jesus, you came to live among us, and you say to each of us: come and see. Help us to follow you, and to bring our friends with us. Amen.

SAT 2 JAN
Ninth Day of Christmas
Jn 1:19-28

People ask John who he is, and he says: I am a voice getting the way ready.

Pray: God, use our voices for good.

Do: Use your voice for something kind today: a compliment, a thank-you, a song.

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SUN 3 JAN
Second Sunday after Christmas
Jn 1:1-18

▶ FILM + BOOKLET

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for coming to live among us.

Do: Leave the crib up and pray beside it together once more.

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MON 4 JAN
Eleventh Day of Christmas
Jn 1:35-42

Two of John's friends follow Jesus. He turns and says: come and see.

Pray: Jesus, we want to come and see.

Do: Take a winter walk and look for three beautiful things.

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TUE 5 JAN
Twelfth Day of Christmas
Jn 1:43-51

Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus. Nathanael is not sure, so Philip says: come and see.

Pray: Jesus, help us to share you with our friends.

Do: Prepare chalk for tomorrow's house blessing.

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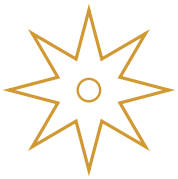
FOR THE EPIPHANY: CHALKING THE DOOR

An old Epiphany custom is to bless your home by writing in chalk above the front door: **20 + C + M + B + 27**. The numbers are the new year. The letters are the first letters of the names tradition gives the wise men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and of the Latin prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*: may Christ bless this house.

All: Lord God, bless our home and everyone who lives here or comes to visit. May Christ be our guest, and may all who come in find his welcome here. Amen.

A light for every nation



AT THE CRIB

The wise men reach the crib today. Place them beside Jesus. Jesus, the wise men followed your star from far away. Lead us by your light, and help us to be a light for others. Amen.

WED 6 JAN The Epiphany of the Lord *Mt 2:1-12* ▶ FILM + BOOKLET	Wise men follow a star to Jesus and kneel to give their gifts. **Pray:** Jesus, we bring you the gift of ourselves. **Do:** Chalk the house: 20 + C + M + B + 27 over the door, and pray a blessing on your home.	☐
THU 7 JAN After the Epiphany *Mt 4:12-17, 23-25*	Jesus begins to preach: turn back to God, the kingdom of heaven is close. **Pray:** Jesus, help us to turn to you every day. **Do:** Back to school: pray for teachers and classmates by name.	☐
FRI 8 JAN After the Epiphany *Mk 6:34-44*	Jesus feeds five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. **Pray:** Jesus, you give us what we need. **Do:** Say grace together at every meal today.	☐
SAT 9 JAN After the Epiphany *Mk 6:45-52*	Jesus walks on the water to his frightened friends: take heart, it is I. **Pray:** Jesus, when we are frightened, you are near. **Do:** Talk about something that worries you, then pray about it together.	☐
SUN 10 JAN The Baptism of the Lord *Mk 1:7-11* ▶ FILM + BOOKLET	Jesus is baptised in the Jordan, and a voice says: you are my Son, the Beloved. **Pray:** Thank you, God, that we are your beloved children. **Do:** Look at baptism photos or candles, and each child hears: you are God's beloved.	☐

FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM

If you have baptism candles, light them (or use a battery candle). Dip your fingers in a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads, saying each person's name: *you are God's beloved child.*

All: Thank you, God, for making us your children. Help us to live as your beloved every day. Amen.

Christmas ends today. You can pack the crib away tomorrow. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 10 February.