

Christmas Countdown: Activities for Families



Use this Christmas countdown chain and activities to make the most of the Christmas season and create lasting memories with your family!

Christmas Countdown: Paper Chain

Count down the days to Christmas with this printable paper chain, which includes scripture and fun activities to help your family prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Start a new family tradition and get your children excited to learn the Word of God!

HOW TO USE THE CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN:

- To make a paper chain, print on thick paper, cut along the dotted lines, then loop each slip of paper through the next, closing the loops with tape or a staple. Make sure they are in order as you go!
- Hang the finished chain somewhere you'll see it every day (a doorknob, mantel, fridge, or Christmas tree).
- Start on December 1 by reading, discussing, and completing the daily activity as a family.
- Countdown to Christmas: Each day, tear off one link from the bottom of the chain. When the last link is gone — it's Christmas Day!
- No matter how your family chooses to use this paper chain, have fun!

UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS AT VENTURE:

- December 7 & 14 - Re-Gift: December Mini Series
- December 21 - At the Movies: Christmas Edition
- December 24 - Christmas Eve at Venture

For more information and experience times, visit venturechurch.org/christmas.

1.

"I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. Her child will crush your head. And you will bite his heel."

GENESIS 3:15

2.

"But the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name Him Immanuel."

ISAIAH 7:14

3.

"A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace. Power and peace will be in His kingdom. It will continue to grow. He will rule as king on David's throne and over David's kingdom."

ISAIAH 9:6-7A

4.

"God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, 'Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.'"

LUKE 1:26B-28

5.

"But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, 'What does this mean?' The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus.'"

LUKE 1:29-31

1.



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HOPE = Share a favorite Christmas tradition that celebrates hope!



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2.

Donate to a local food pantry.

3.

Pray for a friend who needs to know the
hope found in Jesus this Christmas.

4.

Read your favorite Christmas book.

5.

Send a Christmas card to share the hope of Christmas.

6.

"He will be great, and people will call Him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of King David, His ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

LUKE 1:32-33

7.

"Mary said to the angel, 'How will this happen? I am a virgin!' The angel said to Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.'"

LUKE 1:34-35

8.

"Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!"

LUKE 1:36-37

9.

"Mary said, 'I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!'"
Then the angel went away."

LUKE 1:38

10.

"Then Mary said, 'My soul praises the Lord; my heart is happy because God is my Savior. I am not important, but God has shown His care for me, His servant girl.'"

LUKE 1:46-48

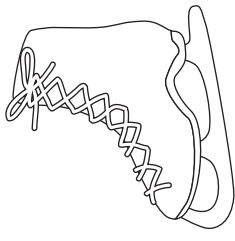
6.

Pop popcorn and watch a Christmas movie in your pajamas!

7.



JOY = Share a favorite Christmas memory!



8.

Christmas family game night!

9.

Pray for the joy of Jesus to fill our hearts so we can share His joy with others.

10.

Make hot cocoa!

11.

"Now those people live in darkness. But they will see a great light. They live in a place that is very dark. But a light will shine on them."

ISAIAH 9:2

12.

"Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through Him. Nothing was made without Him."

JOHN 1:1-3

13.

"In Him there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered the Light."

JOHN 1:4-5

14.

"The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw His glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth."

JOHN 1:14

15.

"The Word was full of grace and truth. From Him we all received more and more blessings. The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

JOHN 1:16-17

11.

Indoor snowball fight with cotton balls!

12.

Take a drive to look at Christmas lights.

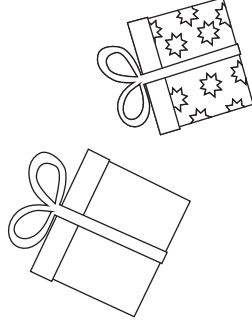
13.

Visit someone and spread joy.

14.



LOVE - Perform a random act of kindness!



15.

Pray for God to help you love others.

16.

"No man has ever seen God. But God, the only Son, is very close to the Father. And the Son has shown us what God is like."

JOHN 1:18

17.

"But when the right time came, God sent His Son. His Son was born of a woman and lived under the law. God did this so that He could buy freedom for those who were under the law. His purpose was to make us His children."

GALATIANS 4:4-5

18.

"The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit."

MATTHEW 1:18

19.

"Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, 'Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

MATTHEW 1:19-20

20.

"She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give Him that name because He will save His people from their sins."

MATTHEW 1:21

16.

Make a homemade ornament.

17.

Christmas dance party!

18.

Take a fun family photo!

19.

Bake Christmas cookies to share.

20.

Learn about holiday traditions from different cultures.

21. "All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name Him Immanuel.' This name means 'God is with us.'"

MATTHEW 1:22-23

22. "When Joseph woke up, He did what the Lord's angel had told Him to do. Joseph married Mary. But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus."

MATTHEW 1:24-25

23. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are one of the smallest towns in Judah. But from you will come one who will rule Israel for me. He comes from very old times, from days long ago."

MICAH 5:2

24.

LUKE 2:1-20

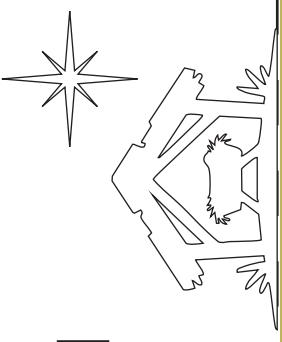
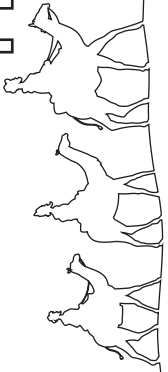
25.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

21.

PEACE - Go stargazing! Talk about how God
used a star to guide others to Jesus!



22.

Pray and thank God for the peace He gives His children.

23.

Family Christmas sing-along!

24.

Read the story of Jesus' birth, Luke 2:1-21.

25.

Be still and know that Jesus came to be our Savior.

Christmas Card Template



Cut along the dotted line and fold at the center line.



Picture Frame Templates



YOU WILL NEED:

- Printed picture frame template
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- A photo or drawing to place inside

STEPS:

1. Color Your Frame

Use crayons, markers, or colored pencils to decorate the frame.
Make it bright and fun!

2. Cut Out the Frame

Carefully cut along the outside edge of the frame.
(An adult may need to help with cutting.)

3. Cut Out the Photo Window

Fold the center gently and cut a small hole to start,
then cut along the line to open the window.

4. Add Your Photo

Place your picture behind the window.
Make sure the part you want to show is centered.

5. Attach the Photo

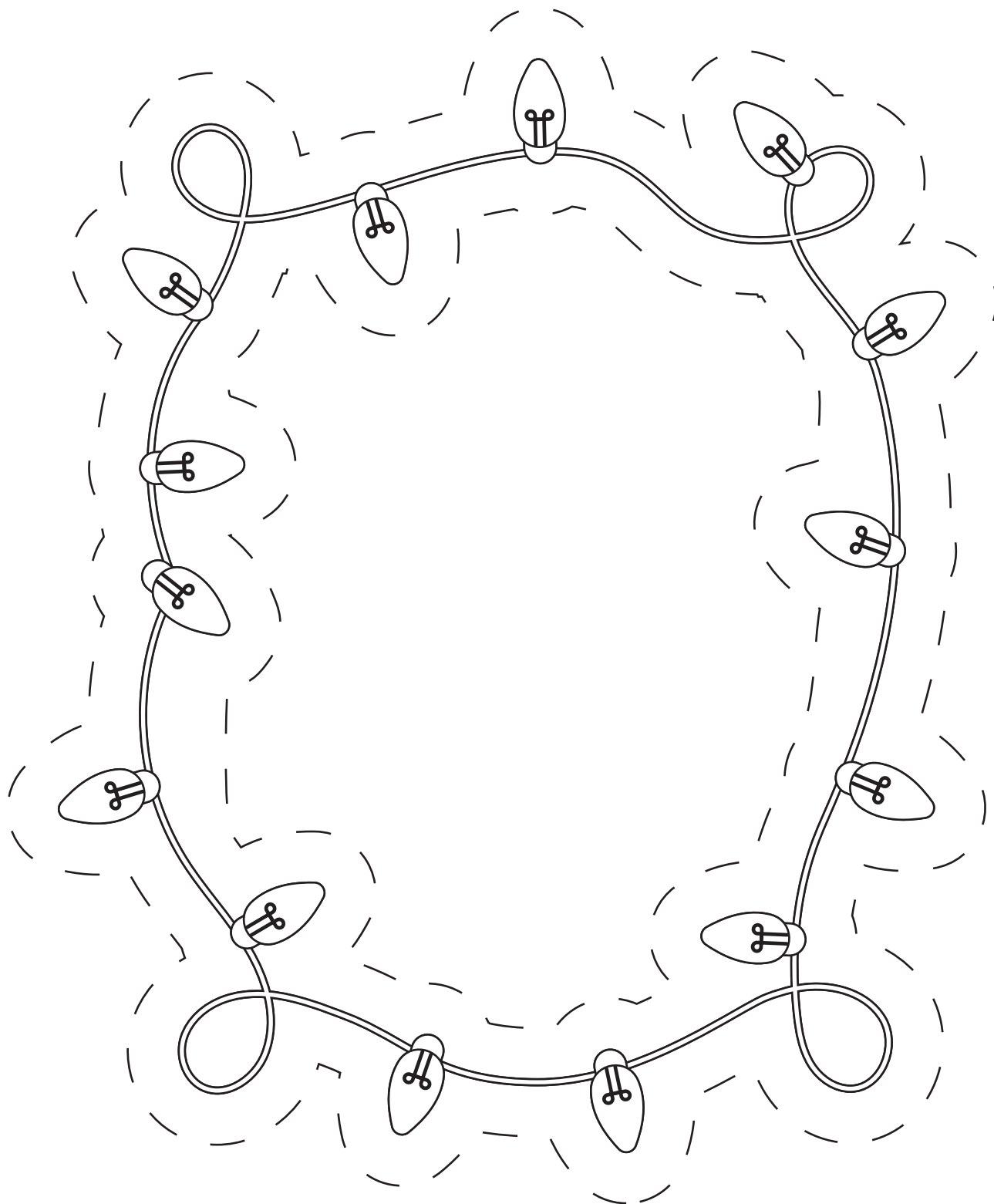
Use glue or tape around the back edges of the
frame to secure the photo in place.

6. Display Your Frame!

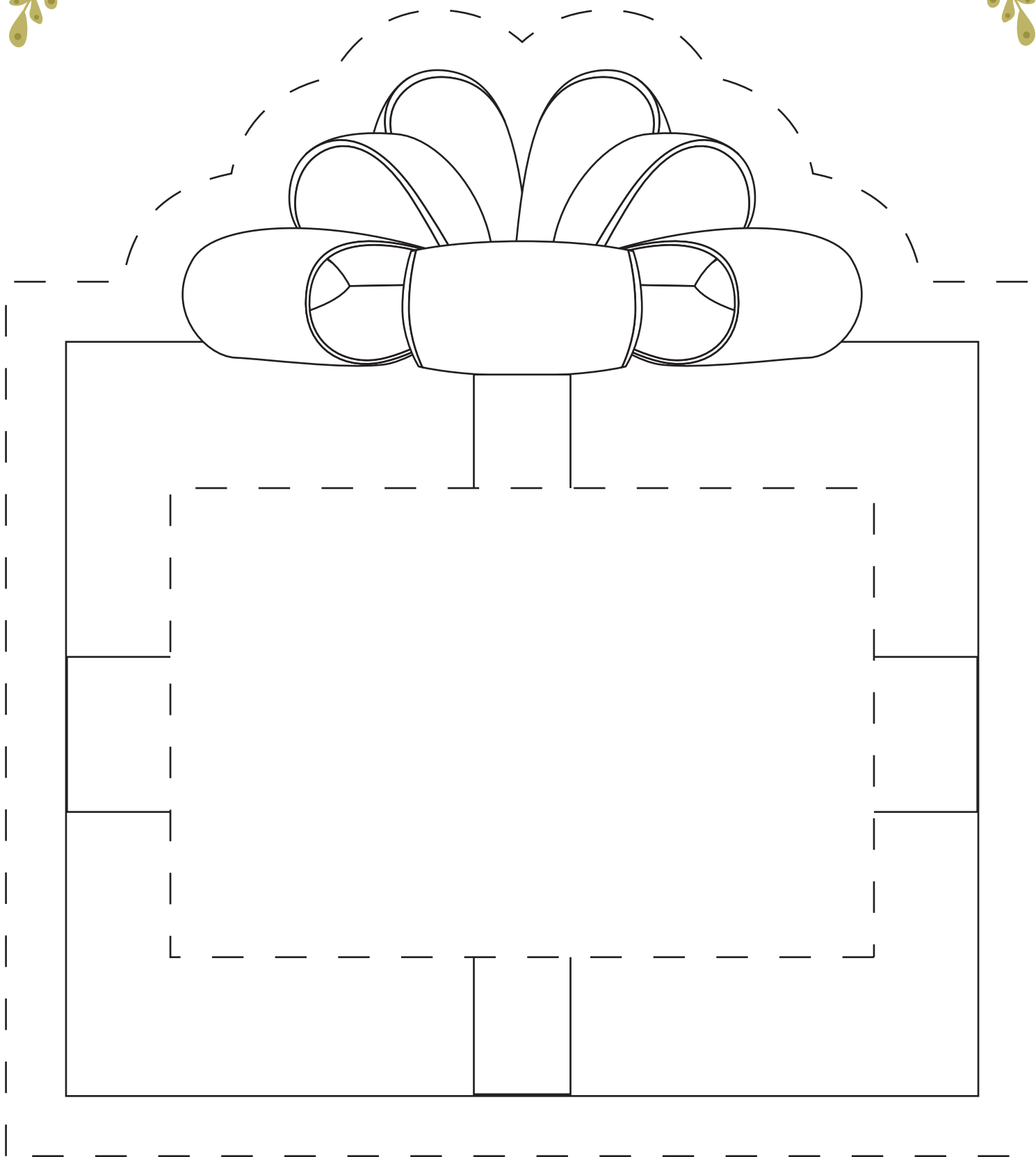
You can:

- Hang it on the wall or fridge!
- Give it as a gift!
- Make it an ornament by taping a loop of ribbon on the back!

Christmas Lights Frame



Christmas Gift Frame



Christmas Lights

Scavenger Hunt

☐ Christmas Tree 

☐ Sled 

☐ Nativity Scene 

☐ Reindeer 

☐ Snowman 

☐ Elf 

☐ Bells 

☐ Bow 

☐ Candle 

☐ Stocking 

☐ Snow Globe 

☐ Mrs. Claus 

☐ Star 

☐ Angel 

☐ Polar Bear 

☐ Santa 

☐ Ornament 

☐ White Lights 

☐ Candy Cane 

☐ Gingerbread Man 

☐ Green Lights 

☐ Wreath 

☐ North Pole Sign 

☐ Train 

☐ Presents 

☐ Santa Hat 

☐ Nutcracker 

☐ Sleigh 

☐ Snowflake 

☐ Icicles 

☐ Holly 

☐ Teddy Bear 

☐ Penguin 

Ornament Instructions

YOU WILL NEED:

- A clear, hollow glass or plastic ornament in the shape of a ball with a removeable topper
- 3 colors of craft paint - you can use Christmas colors - red, green, white

STEPS:

1. Take the topper off of the ornament.
2. Put a few drops of one color into the hollow ornament.
3. Gently swirl the ornament around to coat the inside with the first color.
4. Next put a few drop of a second color into the ornament.
5. Gently swirl again.
6. Last take your third color and add a few drops to finish the look.
7. Gently swirl for the last time.
8. Place the ornament upside down in a disposable cup or old egg carton with the opening facing downward.
9. This will allow excess paint will drip out.
10. Allow the ornament to dry for a few hours before replacing the topper.
11. Add a special tag to your ornament.
12. Hang your creation on your own Christmas tree or wrap it up and give it as a gift to someone you love.

Handmade Star Craft

YOU WILL NEED:

- popsicle sticks (we used long, skinny Starbuck's stir sticks)
 - 5 sticks are required for the 5-sided pentagram star
 - 6 sticks are required for the 6-sided Star of David
- black paint
- glue gun
- tissue paper in a variety of colours
- scissors
- school glue
- small paint brush
- string for hanging

STEPS:

1. Paint Sticks

Paint popsicle sticks or stir sticks with black paint to look like the lead used in real stained glass pieces. Let dry.

2. Glue Sticks Together

With a hot glue gun, glue the tips of your sticks together to form your star.



3. Glue Tissue Paper to Star

Lay star on a flat surface with the back side facing up. Cut a piece of tissue paper slightly larger than the section you want to cover. Spread glue along the sticks for that section, and press tissue paper to it.



4. Remove Excess Tissue Paper

Dab gluey paintbrush along the top of the tissue paper/wood section to soften the tissue paper even more. You can dip your paintbrush in a bit of water if need be. Gently tear away the excess tissue paper by pulling it down against the wooden stick. Repeat for all sections of your star.



5. Add Hanging String

Hang your gorgeous stained glass stars in a window and enjoy!



Melted Snowman Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

- 16 pre-made round cookies (sugar cookies, snickerdoodles, etc.)
- 16 large marshmallows
- 1 cup white chocolate chips or melting wafers
- 1/2 tablespoon vegetable shortening or coconut oil (optional, for smoother chocolate)
- 8 pretzel sticks, broken in half
- Mini M&M's or chocolate chips for buttons and eyes
- Orange sprinkles or icing for the nose
- Black edible marker or gel icing for the mouth (optional)
- Additional candy (Twisters, Reese's mini cups) to decorate your snowman (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Melt the white chocolate.** In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the white chocolate chips with the shortening or oil. Microwave on half power in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until the chocolate is smooth. Alternatively, use a double boiler on the stovetop for a more controlled melt.
- 2. Decorate the snowman's head.** Use an edible food marker to draw eyes and a mouth on each marshmallow. Alternatively, dip a toothpick in a small amount of melted chocolate to create the features. For the nose, attach an orange sprinkle with a dab of melted white chocolate.
- 3. Assemble the cookies.** Place a spoonful of melted white chocolate onto the center of a cookie. Spread it out to create an irregular "melted puddle" shape.
- 4. Add the pieces.** While the white chocolate is still wet, quickly place a decorated marshmallow on one side of the "puddle".
- 5. Add the arms.** Insert one half of a pretzel stick into each side of the white chocolate puddle to create arms.
- 6. Add the finishing touches.** Place two or three mini M&M's or chocolate chips down the center of the snowman for buttons.
- 7. Allow to set.** Let the cookies sit for at least 30 minutes, or until the white chocolate has fully hardened. You can speed this up by placing them in the refrigerator.

I Spy: Christmas



Find all the Christmas objects and count them!



The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.



So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."



Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

