



30 Christmas Traditions FOR YOUR FAMILY

1. **Visit a live nativity.**
2. **Christmas baking.** Rolling pins, cookie cutters, and flour everywhere. OR if you are not in to all that mess, change up the tradition by using cake mix cookie recipes or refrigerated roll dough.
3. **Open your Christmas cards at the dinner table after everyone has finished their meal.** Pray for each family who sent a card.
4. **Make Christmas ornaments or purchase a new one each year.** Be sure the ornament(s) is dated with the year.
5. **Christmas movie or animated show.** Choose a favorite Christmas movie or animated special and view it annually as a family. Make it a big deal. Pop popcorn, make hot chocolate, or serve a special snack chosen just for this occasion.
6. **Letter writing night.** As a family sit down and write out notes by hand. Mail them to friends, relatives, and others who have impacted your lives.
7. **Christmas Eve box.** Place a variety of items in a large box to be opened on Christmas Eve. Use the items to enjoy the evening together as a family. Items might include: new pajamas, slippers, a new movie, a new family board game, books, or snacks.



8. **PJ silliness.** Purchase identical pajamas for each family member. Open them and wear them on Christmas Eve. Or ramp up the silliness by wearing them out to breakfast or brunch on Christmas morning!
9. **Serve together as a family.** Volunteer at a soup kitchen, visit a nursing home, participate in [Operation Christmas Child](#), or provide gifts for a family in need.
10. **Read together.** Purchase a number of children's books. Wrap them up and place them under your tree with a special blanket nearby. Before bed each evening, choose one book to open and read together. (You decide how many books. Want to read each evening in December, each evening the week leading up to Christmas, once or twice a week?)
11. **Loving acts of Christmas kindness.** Spread Christmas cheer by engaging in random acts of Christmas kindness throughout the month of December. Such a FUN way to build bonds as a family and be a blessing to others.
12. **Drive around and look at Christmas lights.** The options for this are many. Keep it simple; just drive and look. Ramp it up by including hot chocolate, snacks, or a stop for pizza. Add more fun by making it a family scavenger hunt with this FREE printable by [ReEvolve Mom](#). Or use the [Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt](#) for a multi-family competition – each family taking photos of the items they find on the list, meeting back up at a designated time to determine who found the most, and ending the evening all together with pizza or burgers.
13. **Deliver small gifts or treats to your friends and neighbors.**



14. **Caroling.** Visit the homes in your neighborhood or sing carols at a nursing home. On the way home, detour to your favorite pizza or ice cream place for a family treat. Another fun way to enjoy caroling as a family is to pitch a tent in your family room, grab some flashlights, pile in, and sing!
15. **Gingerbread house.** Work together as a family to build a unique and beautiful creation of gingerbread OR hold a friendly family competition. Winner is awarded the prized annual “trophy.”
16. **Family gift for Jesus.** This is a beautiful tradition for showing our children and grandchildren what we think is most important and helping them value what we hold most dear. As a family select a recipient for your family gift. Then work together through the season to gather the money and deliver the gift. (If you need help with choosing the gift recipient, you might consider the [World Vision](#) and [Compassion gift catalogs](#)).
17. **A letter to your child or grandchild.** Each year write a letter to your child or grandchild. Give it to them on Christmas morning OR save all the letters and give them to the child when they graduate from high school.
18. **Christmas tree topper.** Have your children take turns placing the topper on the tree.
19. **The Christmas journal.** At some point during your Christmas celebration, each family member, no matter their age, writes about ONE favorite Christmas memory – past or present – in the journal. (This is not only a wonderful way to collect and preserve precious memories, but it helps you know which Christmas traditions are meaningful to your family and which should be discarded.)



20. **Attend a local Christmas walk, play, or concert.**
21. **The giving plate.** Make or purchase a giving plate and deliver a treat to someone special. (Be sure to use a food-safe marker.) Another option would be to purchase a festive plate and include a hand-written note or tag with the “Giving Plate” message.
22. **Wrapping paper fun.** Choose a different wrapping paper for each of your children. Do not place “names” on the wrapped packages. Children don’t know which packages are theirs until Christmas morning when they find a small piece of “their” wrapping paper in the bottom of their stocking or in any way you choose to reveal it.
23. **Family photo.** Take an informal family photo in the same spot every year.
24. **Attend Christmas Eve service.**
25. **Christmas Eve family gathering.** Enjoy a meal, caroling, or board games.
26. **Read *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*** by Clement C. Moore right before bedtime on Christmas Eve.
27. **Luke 2.** Help your family keep a proper focus on Christmas Day by reading the account of Jesus’ birth to everyone first thing Christmas morning.
28. **Act it out.** Let the children act out Luke 2 as a family member reads it.



