



Christmas Is for Kids



For three months in 1940, Britain—and especially London—was pounded by German airplanes. But the Brits held on and won the Battle of Britain. The following year, 1941, was a dark year of recovery and rebuilding. Winston Churchill addressed the nation by radio on Christmas Eve, 1941, to give the nation a message of courage and hope. And what do you think he said about Christmas? Christmas is for children! But note what he said to the adults—we should join our children in experiencing the “unstinted pleasures” of Christmas:

Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures before we turn again to the stern task and the formidable years that lie before us....

But how do we help children see the wonders of Christmas through God’s eyes? And how can we join them, helping them to see all that Christmas means? Here are some ideas—ways to open your children and grandchildren to the wonders of Christmas.

OPENING THEIR EYES

Christmas is visually rich with images that convey truths about the glory and reality of what God has done for us.

- **READ.** Read the Christmas story to your children, especially from a Bible that has pictures of the stable-birth, the shepherds, the Magi, the animals, the angels announcing the birth.

- **SEE.** Drive around to see beautiful Christmas lights, reminders of the beauty and glory of heaven coming to earth in Christ, the Light of the World. Include visiting a live nativity scene and a pageant or play to see Christmas in action.
- **TEACH.** Find teachable moments throughout the season to explain the meanings of Christmas—gifts, sacrifice, response, worship, service, generosity, and more.

OPENING THEIR ARMS

Christmas is the tangible evidence that God wants a relationship with us. He opened His arms and said, “Here is My Son, My gift to you.”

- **LOVE.** Love is the heart of Christmas: “For God so loved the world” Help your children find ways to express love to others in service, giving, and kindness.
- **EXPERIENCE.** There are so many ways to enter into Christmas: participating in choirs, caroling, and pageants; delivering food and gifts to those in need; spreading Christmas cheer to shut-ins, nursing homes, and the lonely; carefully planning unique gifts for loved ones.
- **SERVICE.** Just as God served humanity at the first Christmas, children can follow His example. They can

contribute clothes and toys for children in need; older children can offer free babysitting services during the holidays; they can take Christmas cookies to those in need of encouragement. Remind children that Christmas is an “others-centered” celebration!

OPENING THEIR HEARTS

The essence of Christmas: To all who *received Him*, to them He gave the right to be children of God. Christmas is a gift that must be received individually. Faith and understanding happen at different times and by different ways in children's lives. The adult's job is to furnish biblical truth and experiences that the Holy Spirit can use to awaken faith and understanding in a child's heart.

- **MEDIA.** There are many resources available to fill a child's heart and mind with truths about Christmas: music, movies, books, television specials, and more.
- **TRADITIONS.** Community Christmas tree lighting, attending performances of Handel's *Messiah* and other majestic performances, special family traditions that are explained as to their importance, exposing children to great Christmas stories in world literature, Christmas Eve candlelight services, and more.
- **PRAYER.** It is easy to forget in the busyness of Christmas, but adults should pray faithfully for God to open their children's hearts to the meaning of

Christmas—and pray that their children would respond
in meaningful ways.

Let us follow Winston Churchill's advice. Let us share with our children
the “unstinted pleasures” and meaning of Christmas in as many ways as
possible. In helping our children engage more deeply with Christmas, we
will be touched ourselves. For our children and ourselves, Christmas will
take on its fullest meaning.

As adults, may we fulfill our God-given responsibility to lead our
children into the wondrous depths of the Christmas experience.



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