

INTRODUCTION

THIS IS A BOOK OF PROGRAMS, POEMS, CRAFTS AND TRADITIONS FOR CHILDREN TO EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. THERE ARE PATTERNS TO MAKE A CHRISMON TREE, ADVENT WREATH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

- Children love Christmas time.
- Children need to know why we celebrate Christmas.
- Traditions begun in childhood are carried into adulthood.
- Traditions are carried from generation to generation.
- *Jesus is the reason for the season!*

Children learn about Jesus and how special he is. Christmas time is a perfect time to show Jesus just how special he is to us. Children can begin a tradition of making love coupons to be distributed at Christmas time. Children can make Christmas ornaments of some of the monograms of Christ and decorate a Chrismon tree. Children can make an advent wreath and count down the weeks until Christmas by lighting a candle signifying something special about Jesus until Christmas Day at which time all candles will be lit. What a fun way to begin Christmas traditions these children can carry into adulthood and to the next generations.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS FOR CHILDREN

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JESUS' FEET WERE WORSHIPPED

Scripture verse:

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair:

John 12:3a

Jesus walked upon the shores of Galilee.

Everywhere he walked, the soil must have felt blessed.

Seas were no problem for him. He walked across them, too.

Ultimate blessings were the waters who could feel his beautiful feet.

S'urely the seas felt something special.

Feelings of awe and importance must have come over his sandals.

Every thing that touched his feet must have felt special.

Enjoying the pleasure of his company,

Taking in the fragrance of him must have filled everyone with joy.

Wouldn't you just love to be able to sit at his feet?

Even today it is fun to pretend to be sitting at his feet listening to his word.

Rubbing his toes and just loving to be in his presence.

Everything forgotten and only thinking about him.

When Mary anointed his feet with oil.
Oh what a delight that must have been.
Rubbing the oil into his feet.
Sharing such a special time with him.
His wonderful aroma filling her senses.
Ignoring the comments about how expensive the oil was,
Purely enjoying her special time,
Patting and worshiping his lovely feet.
Everything about him was so perfect.
Don't you wish you could have been there?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we want to sit at your feet today. We want to wash your feet with our tears. We want to enjoy the pleasure of your company as Mary did. You are very special. Your hands and feet were nailed to the cross for us. Your hands and feet are so beautiful.

THE CHRISMON TREE

Scripture verse:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:15

At Christmas our church (school, club, etc.) has the Chrismon tree.

It is filled with monograms of Christ.

At this time of year

It makes our purpose clear—

Celebrating the birth of Christ.

The evergreen tree stands for eternal life. We can have it, if we just believe.

He came down to earth

To bring us new birth.

Let's remember him this Christmas Eve.

The tree is covered with small twinkling lights for he is the light of the world.

That first Christmas night

Brought the world this great light,

So salvation might be unfurled

Each Chrismon is made of gold and white representing his purity.

Gold for his majesty

For he is royalty—

King of Kings by Heaven's decree.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for this Christmas season when we can celebrate your birth and life. Help us not be caught up in the busyness of the season, and forget why we are celebrating.

ACTIVITY

Have a Chrismon tree this season. Get an evergreen bough or tree and attach small white twinkling lights. Make the Chrismons illustrated on the next few pages. They should be made white with gold trim. You could sprinkle gold glitter around the edge of each one. Cover your tree with the Chrismons you have made. Remember to keep him the center of your celebrations.

TRIQUETRA CIRCLE

Scripture verse:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:19

Triquetra is three circles in one representing the trinity.

They intertwine

As one smooth line,

As the three becomes one, you see.

A circle itself is just one solid line that has no beginning or end.

As it goes around

No gaps can be found.

It goes 'round in a perfect bend.

The trinity made up of God, you see—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Just like this design,

They each intertwine

To one godhead—our Heavenly host.

Just as the circle's one eternal line, the godhead's eternal and pure.

First, back when time begins

To the time when it ends,

Their oneness will always endure.

PRAYER

PRAYER

God, the Father, we love you and praise your holiness. We are glad we can call you Abba Father. Thank you for giving your one and only son for us. Jesus, Thank you for being willing to die on the cross. Thank you for giving up your will to the father. Holy Spirit, thank you for your comforting and love. Thank you for dwelling in us.

ACTIVITY

Using the patterns on the following page, cut out the Triquetra circle. (Chrismon symbols could be cut from white fun foam found in craft stores.) Decorate with gold glitter. Add it to the Chrismon tree.

ADVENT WREATH

Scripture verse:

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9:2

The people that walked in darkness, rejoice, they have seen a great light.

Without using his name,

Isaiah proclaimed

His coming to brighten our night.

Here is a wreath called the advent wreath. Coming is what Advent means.

We celebrate

As we anticipate

Christ's birthday and all that it brings.

The first time he came as our Savior and Lord, his birth brought us liberty.

His death brought us life

And freedom from strife,

Broke sins chains and set us free.

His second coming is close at hand. Each day brings it nearer it seems.

We celebrate

As we anticipate

His coming and all that day brings.

PRESENT THE ADVENT WREATH

(Tune: Joy to the World)

He came to earth to give us life
And liberty as well.
This wreath was made to show
Wherever we may go
He's coming very soon
He's coming very soon
He's coming, He's coming very soon.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we celebrate Your birth, death and soon coming as we display this advent wreath. This Christmas season may others come to know You and learn of Your soon coming. We see all the signs that Your coming is near. May we all be ready.

ACTIVITY

Make an advent wreath. Using a Styrofoam circle as your base, insert four purple candles evenly spaced around the circle. (These can be tapered candles or votives.) These purple candles represent royalty. If you can't find purple candles, blue can be used as well. Place a large white candle in the center of the circle. The white candle is to represent Christ. Fill in around the candles by covering the Styrofoam with greenery and Christmas berries. Begin five weeks before Christmas. The first week do pages 67-70. Recite the Advent Wreath poem and sing the song. Then light one purple candle as you recite the promise poem. The second week light the promise candle again and light a second purple candle, and so forth until the last week. On Christmas day (or Christmas week) light all four purple candles and the white one as well.

PEACE

Scripture:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

(Read the whole Christmas story) Luke 2:1-16

Pace that passeth all understanding came down that very night.

The angels proclaimed

His holy name

Would bring joy, peace and light.

Everything about this magical night was joyful, peaceful and holy.

The manger of hay

Where the sweet baby lay

No longer seemed so lowly.

Angels sang their joyful song. The shepherds knelt and praised.

The stars were brighter.

The world seemed lighter,

Everyone at the baby gazed.

Christmas is a time we remember the birth of God's own precious Son.

The babe in the manger

Was never a stranger.

Those who met Him knew He was the one.

Every Christmas remember just why He came and celebrate His wondrous birth.

He came not for fame.

This sweet Lamb was slain

For our sins—that's why He came to earth.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the peace you have brought into our lives. Help us always remember this feeling of contentment we can have even during stressful times.

SING "SILENT NIGHT"