

THE ARISE SCOOP

A Christian Newsletter for Kids & Parents



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KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The number one way to keep Jesus Christ in your Christmas celebrations is to have him present in your daily life. It's about the way you live your life; daily revealing the character, love and spirit of Christ that dwells in you, by allowing these traits to shine through your actions. Here are simple ways to keep Christ the central focus of your life this Christmas season.

- 1) *Give God one very special gift just from you to him:* a personal sacrifice such as forgiveness of someone who has hurt you or spending time with God daily.
- 2) *Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story.* Look up Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25; and Matthew 2:1-12.
- 3) *Set up a Nativity scene in your home.* From drawing the scene with paper and crayons to creating a large manger display in the front yard; retelling the Christmas story beyond just words is always fun.
- 4) *Plan a project of good will this Christmas.* Perhaps you can volunteer at a homeless shelter, play with other kids who seem to be alone, or help an elderly neighbor.
- 5) *Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital.* Some of the loneliest people reside in long-term care facilities. Help bring them joy by letting them know they are loved.
- 6) *Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family.* Jesus taught us to serve others by washing the disciple's feet. You might consider giving a back rub, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful.
- 7) *Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.* Give praise and thanks to God. He sent us his son, Jesus Christ!
- 8) *Attend a Christmas church service with your family.* Invite a friend(s)! Churches are a place to gather with others to learn about and worship the Lord.
- 9) *Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message.* Help remind others the true meaning of the Christmas season.
- 10) *Write a Christmas letter to a missionary and/or a veteran.* Thank them for giving their life and service to the Lord.

Found and edited for purposes of this newsletter: <http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/p/keepchristmas.htm>



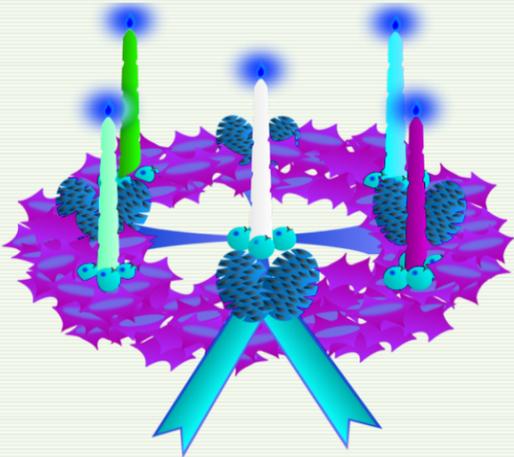
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Join Us for Christmas Eve Service!

On Thursday, December 24th, Arise Church will be holding two Christmas Eve services. Our 5:30pm service is directed more towards children and families. Pastor Don will give a Children's Message and the kids of Arise church will be performing the Christmas Nativity Scene. If you are interested in being a part of the play, please contact our Youth Ministry Leader, Carrie Germain, at carrie@germain.us. Even if you walk through our doors for the first time on the 24th, ALL kids who would like to be a part of the play, are welcome to join in the fun. Just try to come a bit early so you may select an available part and be fitted for a costume.

We will also have another service at 7:30pm. Both services will have a beautiful string quartet directed by our renowned Music Director, Paul Ventimiglia, and a candlelight vigil. Please join us for a wonderful night in worshipping our Savior. And don't forget to invite a friend!



What is Advent?

This day in age, the Advent season is a Christian way to celebrate the preparation and the coming of Christ, while also commemorating the First Coming of Christ at Christmas. It occurs during the fourth Sunday before Christmas and is symbolized by the lighting of four candles. This year, Advent started on November 29th, a Sunday. We lit the first of the four candles. Then we lit a second candle on the 6th, a Sunday. The third shall be lit on the 13th, a Sunday, and all four on the 20th of December.

Traditions associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying Advent devotionals, and having a 'hanging of the greens' ceremony (Christmas decorations).

Just For Fun

1. Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
A. It's Christmas, Eve.
2. Q. Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden?
A. Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!
3. Q. What happened when the snowman got angry at the snowman?
A. She gave him the cold shoulder.
4. Q. How is the Christmas alphabet different from the ordinary alphabet?
A. The Christmas alphabet has NO EL.
5. Q. What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?
A. Sandy Claws!
6. Q. Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?
A. They are always dropping their needles.
7. Q. What do you when if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?
A. A pineapple.
8. Q. Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?
A. Because it soots him.
9. Q: I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and on special occasions I shine bright. What am I?
A: A candle.
10. Q. What kind of ball doesn't bounce?
A. A snowball!



Parenting/Marriage

Support Group:

Please consider attending a small group of Arise parents and couples to discuss the natural occurrences in raising a family in the Christian faith. We meet monthly, for a potluck meal, at alternating homes, the kids play, and the parents discuss whatever is on their hearts. We need strength in the Lord and in each other for support, guidance, and love. We would love to meet new people; all are welcome! Contact Carrie Germain at carrie@germain.us for the next meeting, location, and further details if you're interested. carrie@germain.us for details.

