



Countdown to Christmas

A Plan for 24 Days of Celebrating the Season



Disclaimer: This document contains affiliate links. I get a small referral fee from vendors such as Amazon. If you prefer not to click through when you make a purchase, just go to the site directly.



Countdown to Christmas

The days of December leading up to Christmas are traditionally filled with much anticipation. The season of [Advent](#) represents the long years that the Israelites awaited the coming Savior.

There are many different ways to observe the advent time. This “Countdown to Christmas” printable makes it easy for you to plan 24 days of family activities. These are “fun things,” not necessarily “spiritual” activities, that on a good day, give us sweet times and sweet memories together as a family. You don't need to make a #25. Christmas Day is a party all in itself!

You will end up with 24 sealed envelopes with a secret activity for each day. Your children will love opening an envelope per day and the ensuing family fun.

This Countdown to Christmas Printable includes:

- 34 printable cards with Christmas activities; 6 blank cards to complete with your own activities
- A Countdown to Christmas Chart that you can complete with the activities that you've scheduled for each day.
- Printable labels for marking the envelopes. Templates are based on Avery Mailing Label #5160 and Avery High Visibility Label #5294 (2.5" diameter circles)

What you will need to make your own Countdown to Christmas:

- Cardstock or printer paper
- Printer & printer ink
- [Invitation envelopes](#)— They should measure 4 3/8" x 5 3/4" so that they can accommodate a 1/4 sheet of paper.
- [Avery Mailing Labels #5160/#8160](#) or [Avery White High Visibility Circle Labels #5294](#) (optional)

To create your own personalized Countdown to Christmas:

- 1) Print out the Christmas activity cards. Customize your own if desired with the template on page 18.
- 2) Cut the cards out. Four cards will print on each 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Cut them at 4 1/4" (on the shorter side) and then at 5 1/2" (on the longer size. Each card should measure 4 1/4" x 5 1/2".
- 3) Print out the envelope labels on a sheet of labels. Different options are available on pages 19-24. Be sure to use the type of labels that is suitable for your printer (ie. Do NOT use ink jet labels in a laser printer).
- 4) Label the envelopes. Alternatively, if you don't have labels, you can print the labels out onto paper, cut them out and then glue them onto the envelopes. Or simply use a colored marker, crayon, or pencil to mark the envelopes by hand.
- 5) Decide what day you wish to do each activity, and complete the Countdown to Christmas Chart (page 8) accordingly. Print it out and

keep it in a safe (and secret) spot so you remember what you've got planned for each day.

- 6) Place the activity cards into the appropriate envelopes and seal.
- 7) Have fun with your family on each day leading up to Christmas!

The Christmas Countdown Activities

This kit provides pre-designed cards for you to choose from. Here are the activities that are included on the cards. Links are included to resources that may help you in your planning.



- Get and decorate a Christmas Tree.
- Plan to attend a local Christmas Tree lighting.
- Go to a Christmas Parade.
- Backwards dinner—eat dinner first
- Crash Supper—Plan with another mom ahead of time that you are going to bring dinner and spend the evening with them. The kids will be so excited to surprise their friends!
- A Treasure Hunt Dinner—Hide the different courses throughout the house and give the kids clues to gather their dinner.
- Eat out at your favorite restaurant.
- Family Game Nights—there are several options of games, but you can make your own with the cards on pages 17-18. Check out these [board games](#) and these [card games](#).
- Family Movie Nights—there are several options of movies, but you can make your own with the printable cards on pages 17-18. Check out these [good family films](#) and these [holiday films](#).
- Draw or paint a picture. Hang your creations in a special “gallery” in your home.

- Make Christmas cards for friends.
- Make Christmas ornaments.
- Make a nativity.
- Make Fudge. Try this [Super Simple Fudge](#) recipe.
- [Bake and decorate Jesus Cookies](#). (We use these [Nativity Cookie Cutters](#).)
- Bake and decorate sugar cookies. Kids will love [“painting” cookies](#) with a simple frosting made of powdered sugar and water.
- Make [a Gingerbread House](#).
- Go out for donuts.
- An “impromptu” ice cream run—have the kids wear their jammies!
- Have a camp-out inside. Let the kids build a fort OR set up a tent.
- Let the kids choose the special activity for the day!
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Buy toys to donate to Toys for Tots or other charitable organization
- Sing Christmas carols at the local nursing home
- Take coloring pages and crayons to the local Children’s hospital or doctor’s waiting room
- Do something nice for a neighbor
- Go shopping for the local food pantry

Christmas Countdown Activity Chart

Don't forget what activities you've planned for your Countdown to Christmas! Fill in your chosen activities and keep it in a safe (and secret) spot.

Day of the Month	Activity
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

Get & decorate a
Christmas tree.

Go to a Christmas
Parade.

Go to the
Christmas Tree
lighting.

Go look at
Christmas lights.

Dine out at our
favorite restaurant.

Have a Crash
Supper with friends.

Have a Treasure
Hunt Dinner.

Eat dinner
backwards.

Game Night!

Play a card game,
like Uno, together.

Game Night!

Play a card game,
like Skip Bo together.

Game Night!

Play a game, like Dominos,
together.

Game Night!

Play a game, like
Monopoly, together.

Movie Night!

Enjoy a special
treat and watch
“It’s A Wonderful
Life”



Movie Night!

Enjoy a special
treat and watch
“A Christmas
Carol”



Movie Night!

Enjoy a special
treat and watch
“A Charlie Brown
Christmas”



Movie Night!

Enjoy a special
treat and watch
“How The Grinch
Stole Christmas”



Draw or paint a
picture.

Make Christmas
cards for friends.

Make Christmas
ornaments.

Make a nativity.

Make fudge.

Bake and
decorate Jesus
cookies.

Make a
gingerbread
house.

Bake and
decorate sugar
cookies.

Go out for ice
cream.

Go out for donuts.

Kids' Choice!

Have a living room
camp-out!

Volunteer at a
soup kitchen or
homeless shelter.

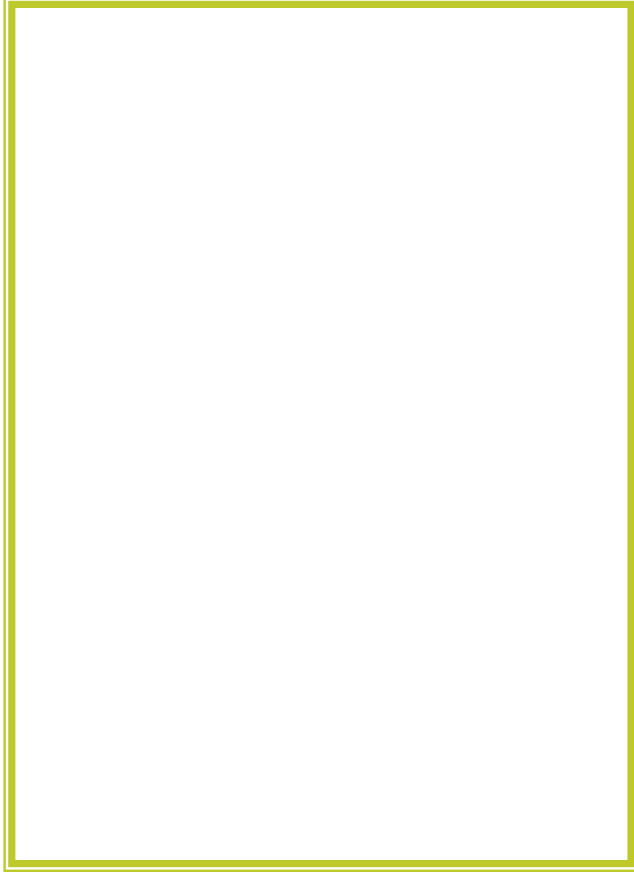
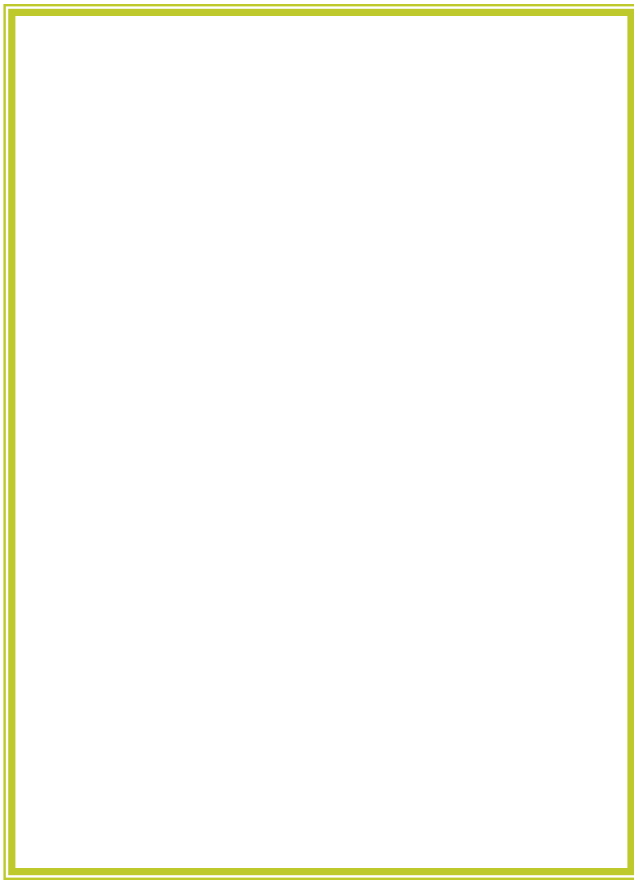
Buy toys to donate
to Toys for Tots or
another charitable
organization.

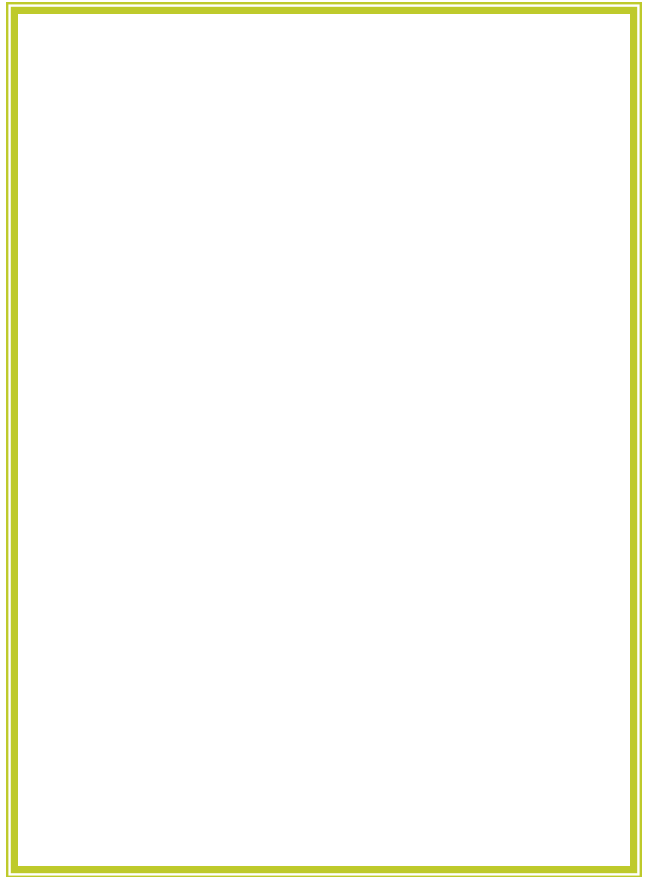
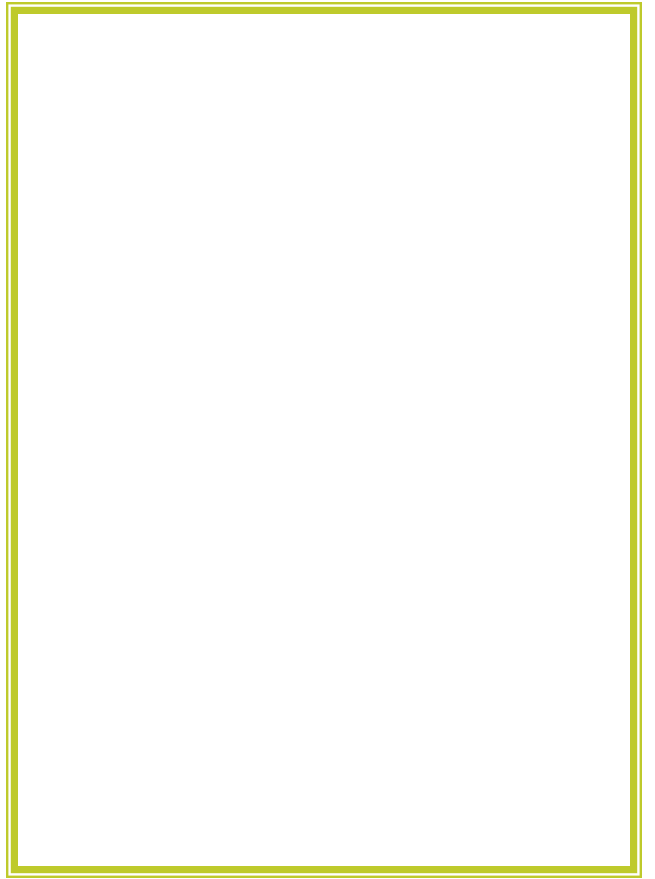
Sing Christmas
Carols at the local
nursing home.

Take coloring
pages & crayons
to the local
Children's Hospital
or doctor's waiting
room.

Go shopping for
the local food
pantry.

Do something nice
for a neighbor.







Day 24



Day 23



Day 22



Day 21



Day 20



Day 19



Day 18



Day 17



Day 16



Day 15



Day 14



Day 13



Day 12



Day 11



Day 10



Day 9



Day 8



Day 7



Day 6



Day 5



Day 4



Day 3



Day 2



Day 1



Day 24



Day 23



Day 22



Day 21



Day 20



Day 19



Day 18



Day 17



Day 16



Day 15



Day 14



Day 13



Day 12



Day 11



Day 10



Day 9



Day 8



Day 7



Day 6



Day 5



Day 4



Day 3

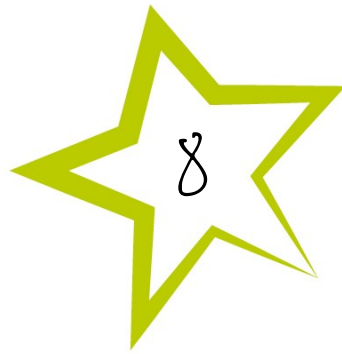


Day 2



Day 1





a simpler
season

**Looking for other ways to
slow down and celebrate
a simpler season?**

Visit [Life as MOM](#) throughout the coming months for a range of ideas as well as “grab and go” recipes, gift ideas, and family fun. As long as you have a computer, a printer, and some paper, I’ve got you covered.

Together we’ll:

- [Plan ahead for a simpler season](#)
- [Think through the holidays](#) and reflect on Christmases past
- [Count our blessings](#) and practice thankfulness
- Make the days count with [holiday time management](#)
- [Keep the kids happy](#) while the turkey cooks
- Countdown until Christmas with easy family fun
- Bake someone happy — in a simpler way
- Plan to have fun and make memories
- Wrap presents in style without a lot of stress
- Create a simple and inexpensive gift for children
- Get supper in the bag
- Serve a make-ahead Christmas breakfast
- Ring in the New Year with kids

Don’t miss a bit of the fun! You can [subscribe for free emails](#) or [get LifeasMOM in your feed reader](#) each morning

This series is brought to you, in part, by:



About the Author

Jessica Fisher is a busy mom of six young children, aged toddler to teen.

(Homeschool) mom by day, she moonlights as a freelance writer, blogger, and cookbook author.



Published in over 85 regional parenting publications, Jessica enjoys writing for periodicals as well as the web. She writes about ways to manage a home and family and still keep a smile on your face at LifeasMOM.com and posts “delicious ways to act your wage” at Good Cheap Eats. She is a regular contributor on Life Your Way and Simple Homeschool. Her writing has also been featured on 5 Dollar Dinners, Money Saving Mom, Organizing Junkie, and Simple Mom.

Jessica is the author of a forthcoming cookbook in the *Not Your Mother's* series, published by the Harvard Common Press. She has also authored a number of ebooks, including Organizing Life as MOM, Summer Survival Guide, and FishMama's Guide to Cooking with Children.

For more information about Jessica, go to Fishmama.com or visit her at either of her two blogs, LifeasMOM.com and GoodCheapEats.com.