

Examples of 'Jesus Traditions'

Jesse Tree

A large piece of felt with a tree design on it, a branch, or small structure on which various bible story symbols are hung, one for each day of Advent. Choose a time each day—mealtime when all are together, bedtime—and take turns placing the symbol. This is often accompanied by the telling of the story. As children grow and learn the stories, they are eager to share them with the younger ones.

Preparing a Manger for Jesus

Watch for (and do!) good deeds and random acts of kindness throughout the day. Each family member gets to put one piece of 'hay' in the manger for each good deed witnessed or done during the day.

Setting up the Manger

Rather than setting up the manger scene all at once, choose to put it up one or two pieces at a time. Younger children enjoy adding animals to the scene throughout Advent. Save baby Jesus for Christmas morning.



Love Chain

Help the children in your life make a paper chain with one link for each day of Advent. Write a special message of love or a word/phrase that reflects the true meaning of Advent on each link. Hang the chain where it is seen by all and undo and read one 'link' each day.

Advent Candle

Each time a person or family sits down for a meal, a 'Jesus Candle' is lit acknowledging the light of Christ present within them and around them.

Mealtime Environment

Dim the lights. Light a candle. Add one candle each week. Talk about how Jesus is the "light of the world" and how we all bring light to the world and to each other.

Mealtime Prayer

Sing a verse of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* or a favorite song of peace.
Choose an age appropriate bible verse to begin the prayer.
Read a short Advent reflection and talk about it over the meal.

Mealtime Conversation

Each person shares one experience of Jesus felt or seen during the day.