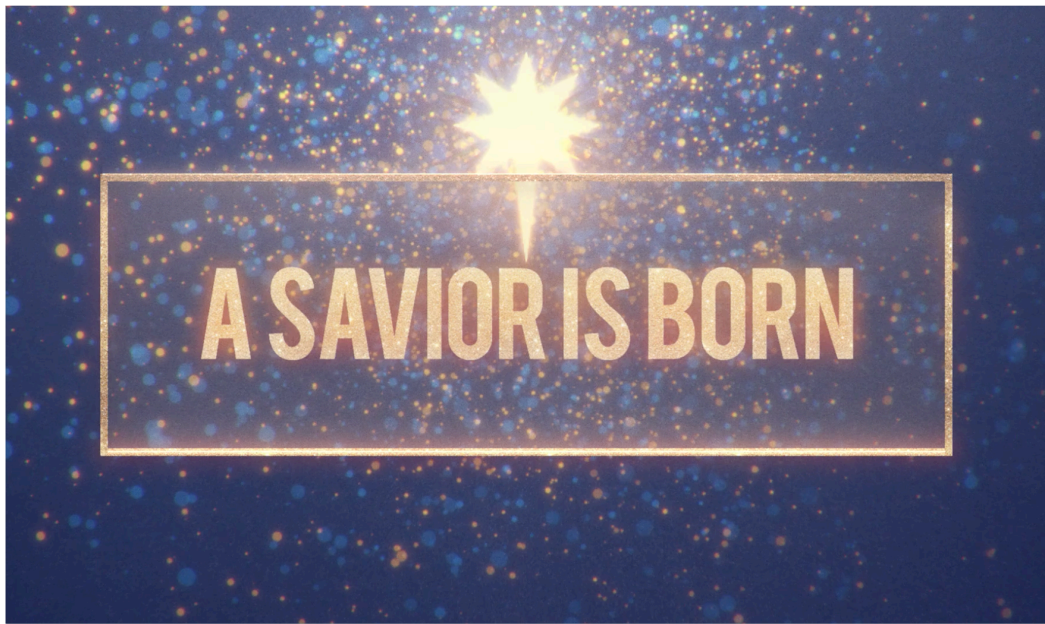


# Born at Home



## A Savior is Born Series is about Christmas

This guide is split up into two sections; activities for families and activities for adults; single or couple.

Families are not confined to only family activities and adults are not confined to only adult activities. You are welcome to do the activities that will give you the most benefit. Additionally both sections will further be divided into three categories...

1

### CRAWL

These activities are quick and can be done while doing other things.

2

### WALK

These activities require some time and are simple things to do.

3

### RUN

These activities require dedicated time and are more complex.

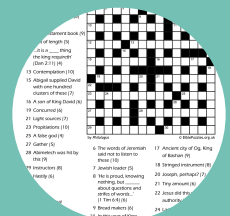
## A QUICK GLANCE



**Family Movie**  
"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Pg. 2



**Family Craft**  
Make a wreath for Christmas Pg. 2



**Crossword**  
Try the Christmas puzzle Pg.6

# A Guide for Families

1

## CRAWL

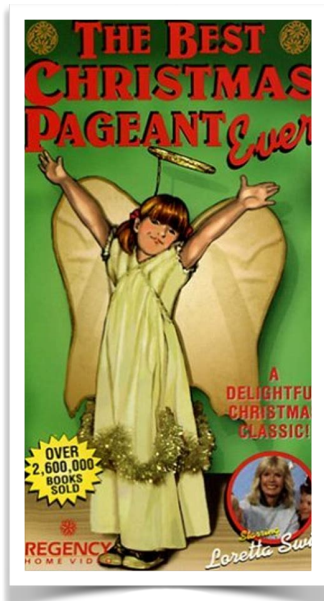
**Pajama Doughnut Party:** Here's a family tradition you might want to try... On Christmas Eve or maybe another non-school-night take the family out for a late night dessert like doughnuts. You could give everyone brand new, matching pajamas and drive around and look at Christmas lights. Of course your trip would not be complete without cranking up Christmas songs as loud as you can!

**Dance Party:** This one is pretty simple. Turn off the lights, turn on Mannheim Steamroller, and have a crazy Christmas dance party. Strobe lights and glow sticks recommended.

2

## WALK

**Movie Night:** Gather everyone together, get some popcorn and some drinks. Watch the movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever movie was released in 1983 and is a made for TV adaptation of Barbara Robinson's novel of the same name.



Loretta Swit of M\*A\*S\*H stars as Grace Bradley who inherits the job of running her church's Christmas pageant when the woman who usually does it breaks her leg. Grace is indifferent about running the pageant. While she doesn't want one more thing to do, she also understands that she is needed, and so she takes on the challenge. And a challenge it is sure to be! Not only does Grace inherit this disaster, but it gets worse when the Herdman kids - all six of them - decide they want to be in the Christmas pageant as well. You can find the movie for free on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1111111111)

**Family Craft:** This Christmas craft takes almost no time to put together, and it only cost about \$9, which is what the festive bulbs cost. Not only does it look gorgeous, but it's also a brilliant way to use items you already have at home. If you wanted to bring the cost down even more, you could use spare ornaments you already own and intersperse freshly cut pieces of pine from your backyard. Ready? Warm up the glue gun and go to town! Just make a wire hanger into the shape that you want and start stringing things on it. See the photo for the instructions...



**Advent Wreath:** The most traditional project to prepare us for the new liturgical year is to create or acquire and advent wreath. An Advent wreath typically consists of greenery with four candles, three purple and one pink. Each candle has a specific meaning:

Candle one (purple) represents hope. It is often called the prophets' candle.

Candle two (purple) represents peace. It is often called the angels' candle.

Candle three (pink) represents joy. It is often called the shepherds' candle. Candle four (purple) represents love. It is often called the Bethlehem candle. Many advent wreaths also include a Christ candle in the middle of the wreath. To celebrate with an Advent wreath, you light a candle on each Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday, you light candle one; the second Sunday, you light candles one and two, etc. You can often find readings to go along with the candle lightings on the internet or at Christian bookstores. Or, find a Christmas book that represents the theme of the week and read it with your children. There are lots of ways to make Advent wreaths. It is a fun craft to do with kids and adults alike and may establish a new family tradition for you.

**A Savior is Born Calendar:** On page 7 inside this packet you will find a small image for every activity in this packet. Cut out the images and stick them on a calendar on the days you would like to do them. After you fill in your calendar with the activities, fill in all or some of the blank calendar spaces with at least one Bible verse for each blank day. Use the calendar every day, such as at dinner time.

**Christmas Shop:** Find a place to partner with like a pregnancy crisis center or Angel Tree and go shopping for their needs. You could make a fun day out of it as a family. The Salvation

Army has angel tree locations at most Walmart stores.

### 3



## RUN

**The Giving Manger:** Instead of, or in addition to, the tradition of Santa Claus or Elf on the Shelf consider the tradition of The Giving Manger. The included picture book, The Giving Manger, will help your family understand the tradition and get children excited about participating. Once you have read the story, place the empty manger in a prominent spot in your home. In the days leading up to Christmas, family members can place a piece of straw in the manger each time they perform a kind deed or act of service. Filling the manger will become a fun, interactive project for your family, prompting even young children to look for ways to love and serve others. As your family works together to fill the manger with straw, your hearts and home will fill with the joy and contentment that comes not from wish lists and getting, but from giving and loving others. On Christmas Day, your family can place the Baby

Jesus in the manger — now full of the straw that represents the acts of love and service done in honor of Jesus' birth. The cost of this kit is \$32.69 at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) You can also go to [thegivingmanger.com](https://thegivingmanger.com) to get free service idea printables and make your own manger if you don't want to buy the kit.



## A Guide for Adults

Please take a look at the family activities and feel free to do any of them that you wish. We have included a few more activities just for adults.

1

### CRAWL

**Bible Crossword:** There is a Christmas crossword puzzle on page 6. Go check it out. The answers are on page 7.

**Ugly Sweater:** If you have that “ugly” Christmas sweater in the back of your closet, don’t forget to show it off at least once. Whether you wear it around the office to bring a smile to a colleague’s face or broadcast it to the world at a social gathering or virtual webinar/party, Christmas sweaters have a way of spreading holiday joy. If you don’t have an ugly sweater in your wardrobe yet, maybe this is the year to add it to the wish list. We have some other great ideas for your Christmas outfits in a separate post you may enjoy reading through.

2

### WALK

**Gingerbread:** Make some cookies and give them out in decorative baggies to everyone who helps you during the holidays! Make some for your family and mail them if you can’t be with them this year.

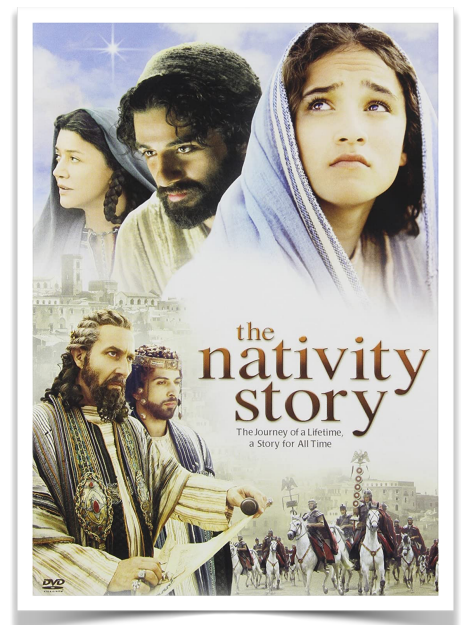
**Virtual Christmas Party:** Here’s a fun socially distanced Christmas activity idea for those with

type A personalities. Grab a calendar and start to plan a virtual meeting with 12 different friends or family members spread out over 12 days. Send out your meet-up requests in advance so you can have your “12-Days of Christmas Calls” all finalized well in advance. This will make the two weeks leading up to Christmas seem to fly by. Minted has some great themed virtual backgrounds you can download for free. Use a different one for each call! You could prepare a bunch of holiday-themed questions that each virtual attendee can answer in a trivia challenge. You could also act as a DJ and play popular holiday jingles to see who will be the first to correctly name the popular Christmas song.

3

### RUN

**The Nativity Story:** Even though this study is meant for youth I wanted to recommend it to you. Head to the [youthsource.com](http://youthsource.com) and check out the Bible Study: The Nativity Story. It’s just a simple reading plan that goes along with the movie: The Nativity Story (2006) with discussion questions. The movie is available for rent for \$2.99 at various streaming sites. There is also a free shortened edition on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)



# Seasons Greetings!

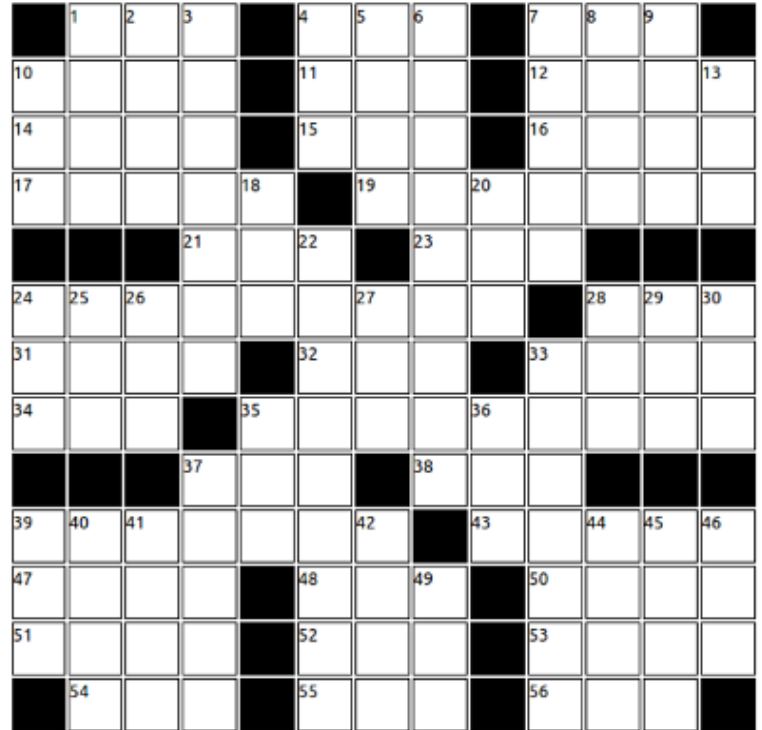
## Across

1. Evergreen shrub
4. Former British rule over India
7. Tiny farm worker?
10. Type of hoop
11. Mimic
12. Horse color
14. Gift to the poor
15. Way off aways
16. Tractor-trailer
17. Like many a teenager's room
19. Santa's team leader?
21. Leo's mo.
23. \_\_\_ Antonio
24. Stipend for some workers during a walkout
28. When doubled, a Latin dance
31. Command to Fido
32. Vinegar's partner
33. Pursues, romantically
34. Conclusion
35. Seasonal sentiments
37. 'To' and 'From' indicator
38. Bell, Kettle, and Barker
39. Like the choirs in "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

43. Unleaded brew
47. Night light
48. One who floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee?
50. Manger visitors
51. Editor's mark
52. Turkey time, briefly
53. Always
54. Banned pesticide
55. Maxwell Smart, for one
56. Homer Simpson's neighbor Flanders

## Down

1. Christmas season
2. Shady trees
3. Festive Christmas beverage
4. WWII flyers
5. On \_\_\_ with (as good as)
6. Holy city
7. Result of a burning desire?
8. Christmas carol
9. Pack, as a pipe
10. Christmas dinner splurge
13. Medical research agcy.
18. Big laugh
20. Dawn to dusk



22. Jimmy Carter and family
24. That girl
25. Decimal system base
26. Uniform color for a jolly old elf
27. Chocolate pecan or mince
28. Not pro
29. Certain big motorcycle, slangily
30. Creature often depicted in a Nativity scene
33. Another name for 50 Across
35. Pump unit: abbr.
36. Smidgen
37. You can believe it
39. Common conjunction
40. Must have
41. Gift of 50 Across
42. Hoof-on-cobblestone sound
44. Place for bats or Batman
45. Like sharp cheddar
46. Good choice for a Christmas tree
49. Green church wall climber

solutions: <http://worldofcardgames.com/hol15.html>



DOUGHNUTS



DANCE



MOVIE



CRAFT



WREATH



SHOP



GIVING MANGER



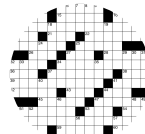
UGLY SWEATER



CALENDAR



GINGERBREAD



CROSSWORD



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS



NATIVITY STORY

Crossword Answers:

		D	E	N		Y	P	S		T	D	D	
	R	E	V	E		V	O	N		E	D	E	
	I	A	G	I		L	I	A		N	E	O	N
	F	A	C	A		D		C		L	E	L	
				S		M	A	G		T			
	S					E	T	E		G		N	D
	S		O	S		W		L		O		L	
	A		H			C		A		P		A	
						N		S		A			
	H					O		L		D			
	I					S		E		M			
	N					R		O		A			
						A		P		E			
						T		A		N			

# Announcements

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

All ages are welcome to Born's Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 6:00pm for a time of worship, message, and candle light. You can also join us on December 21st as Mercy Unleashed hosts an ADULT ONLY Blue Christmas Service at 6:30pm.

## NEXT SERIES

Our next series will start January 2nd. The theme will be 'Parables.'

## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

As you are going through this guide it is the hope that you will open up spiritual conversations with your family and with others. As this happens questions may arise that you are not sure how to answer. This is okay and in fact it's a great opportunity for you to grow. In the case of spiritual questions I would encourage you to reach out to faith leaders as opposed to your own research. Online you can find hundreds of ways to answer a single question and most of them are wrong.

If someone asks you a spiritual question that you don't know, just tell them that you do not know. Also say this would be a great question for a pastor, let's go ask together. Always take your question to scripture.

Most of us use social media now. This is a great way to share your faith with someone. Talk about the activities that you are doing in this packet on social media. Show others that you are putting your faith first!

If you take photos while doing any of these activities, we want to see them! Send them to

the church by email.

Zac.schwartz@born.church

You can also tag Born Church on your Facebook posts.

Any photos you send may be used for promotional purposes.