



Just Be...Festive!

Christ-Centered Christmas Ideas

The best way to be festive this year, is to remember the reason we celebrate Christmas. It isn't about the trees, lights, carols or presents, but about the fact that Jesus was born to be our Savior from sin. Here are some easy ideas to keep Christ a part of your celebration.



<https://equippinggodlywomen.com/homemaking/christian-christmas-crafts-kids-star-bethlehem-ornament/>



<https://renovatedfaith.com/diy-nativity-christmas-ornament/>



<http://www.delightfulmomstuff.com/2012/12/recipe-mondaymerry-christmas-eve-baby.html>



<https://burntendsforbreakfast.blogspot.com/2019/07/he-is-reason-for-season.html?spref=pi>

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Estrella Mountain, AZ when they were able to meet together in person the first project they did was tie dyed facemasks as a project in an effort to make the best out of a challenging situation.

Grass Valley, CA 's card group is given a challenge each month and then they present their projects to the group at the end of the month by e-mail.

Napa, CA has been holding monthly tea parties on-line. The corps officer and her 7-year-old daughter are using this as an outreach to reach other little girls and their mothers.

Phoenix Citadel, AZ had 8 ladies who came and socially distanced in the corps gym, and they spent 2 days making children's masks that were distributed before the school year began.

Phoenix South Mountain, AZ have done some online zoom tours of some famous landmarks.

Sacramento Citadel, CA ladies do a weekly Home League program via Facebook Live. They also meet with the table groups weekly on video messenger.

San Rafael, CA started a new group, "Tuesday Talks," where the ladies talk about concerns and then spend time in prayer.

Tucson Amphi, AZ delivers a weekly "Women's Kit" with a devotional and a craft or project. They also delivered 40 "Tea in a Box" kit since they couldn't meet together for their annual tea party.

Wrangell, AK did a socially distanced hike with a devotional.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

31 Days of Christ in Christmas

Spend the month of December by focusing on verses that tell the real reason we celebrate Christmas!

1. Genesis 3:1-21
2. Genesis 12:1-3
3. Genesis 17:1-9
4. Genesis 22:1-18
5. Psalm 72:1-11
6. Psalm 72:12-20
7. Isaiah 7:10-17
8. Isaiah 9:1-7
9. Isaiah 11:1-10
10. Isaiah 40:1-11
11. Jeremiah 33:12-18
12. Micah 5:1-5
13. Malachi 3:1-3
14. John 1:1-9
15. John 1:10-18
16. Luke 1:26-33
17. Luke 1:34-38
18. Luke 1:46-55
19. Matthew 1:1-17
20. Matthew 1:18-25
21. John 3:16-21
22. Romans 5:12-17
23. Romans 5:18-21
24. Luke 2:1-7
25. Luke 2:8-20
26. Philippians 2:5-8
27. Philippians 2:9-11
28. Titus 3:3-7
29. James 1:16-18
30. Matthew 2:1-6
31. Matthew 2:7-12

Jesus is the Sweetest Gift

Christmas and sweets seem to go together. What is a holiday without delicious holiday foods and baking? Sometimes it is the only time of year we indulge in such treats. The sweets of Christmas makes our celebration much more enjoyable and delicious. The sweetest treat of all is the delicious gift God gave to all of us – the gift of His One and Only Son – Jesus. Using the word **SWEET**, let's see how sweet the gift of Jesus truly is.

S – Savior. Jesus is our Savior from sin. That is why God gave His Son for us – to pay the price for our sin. Mary and Joseph each received an angelic visit and were told of this baby that would be born. And both were told his name was to be Jesus. They didn't get to choose the name of this baby; it was given by God. In Matthew 1:21, the angel told Joseph, ***She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.***

Jesus was a form of the name Joshua, which means God saves. The reason for the gift was the world needed salvation. Romans 3:23 says ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*** Romans 6:23 ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

W – Wonderful Counselor. 700 years before Jesus was born, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and gave some beautiful names and descriptions of the coming Messiah in Isaiah 9:6 ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

The Hebrew word for wonderful indicates something uncommon or out of the ordinary, incomprehensible. It also means a sense of awe. Jesus will cause us to be "full of wonder." Jesus demonstrated His wonderfulness in various ways when He was on earth, beginning with His conception in the womb of a virgin. He showed He is the Wonderful One in His power to heal, His amazing teaching, His perfect life, and His resurrection from the dead. He is our Wonderful Counselor which means we can trust Him to listen to our problems and guide us in the right direction.

E – Everlasting Father. Another of the names mentioned in Isaiah 9:6. In the Hebrew, the phrase is literally "the Father of Eternity." This speaks of the purpose of His coming. He is before, above, and beyond time. He is the possessor of eternity. He is eternally like a father to His people. Because He is everlasting, He is unchanging. Hebrews 13:8 ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*** What comfort that is to know that unlike everything else in the life, He is unchanging.

E – Emmanuel. Matthew quotes Isaiah in Matthew 1:22-23: ***All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us."*** Jesus left the throne of Heaven, and chose to live among us, to live with us. For 33 years He lived among us, and experienced everything we will experience, but was without sin. After His resurrection and ascension into Heaven, He gave His Holy Spirit to dwell among us, to live in us. We are never alone. If we have received Christ as our Savior, we have Him with us, and He promises to ***never leave nor forsake us.*** Wherever I go, whatever I face, He is with me!

T – Truth, Way and Life. John 14:6 ***Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*** The devil has fed us a lie. From the beginning he has lied; Adam and Eve fell for his lie in the garden of Eden and since then we have been paying the price of sin. But Jesus brings us the Truth – we can have our sin forgiven, and we can have peace with God, all through Him – Jesus Christ who was born to die. He is the only way to have a restored relationship with God our Father. Through Him we can have eternal life.

