

Your Morning Basket



MORNING TIME PLANS

Christmas Celebration

BY JESSICA LAWTON

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HOW TO USE THESE PLANS

Thanks so much for downloading our Christmas Celebration Morning Time plans. Our hope is that these plans will guide you as you do Morning Time with your family.

While they can be followed to the letter, they are much better adapted to your family's preferences and needs. Move subjects around, add your own special projects, or leave subjects out entirely. These are meant to be helpful, not stressful.

The poems, prayer, and memorization sheets in this introductory section can be copied multiple times for your memory work binders. Feel free to print as many as you need.



COMPANION WEB PAGE

For links to all the books, videos, resources, and tutorials in these plans, please visit: [Christmas Celebration resource page](#).

CHOOSING A SCHEDULE

We have included two different schedules for you to choose from. You can choose the regular weekly grid that schedules the subjects onto different days for you, or you can choose the loop schedule option.

With the loop schedule you will do Prayer and Memorization daily. Work on the prayer and Bible passage until your family has it memorized and then move on to the next.

After Prayer and Memorization each day choose one to three other activities from the Loop List. Skip the ones you don't want to do and keep track by checking off the subject square.



SUBJECT BY SUBJECT

Prayer - This Christmas season we will use The "O Antiphons" Of Advent. The Church has been singing these since about the eighth century. They are a beautiful way to prepare your heart for Christmas and also the second coming.

[You can learn more about them here.](#)

Read the entire prayer each day of the week. After a couple of days have children recite with you what they know. You will be surprised how quickly they learn it.

Memorization - The Bible passages we have chosen for memorization correspond to the theme of the week.

Week 1: Gifts

Week 2: The Promise

Week 3: The Magi

You can also access [Your Morning Basket Episode 2](#) for more memorization help or try a new memory technique by listening to [Your Morning Basket Episode 24](#).

Poetry - Read the poem with your family. Enjoy. It's really that easy! You might also:

- Have them close their eyes and after the reading tell what they pictured in their mind.
- Draw a picture to go with the poem.
- Ask what was their favorite part.
- Ask what was their favorite word.

For more on poetry listen to [Your Morning Basket Episode 8](#) and download our [poetry cheat sheet here](#).

Music Appreciation - The Nutcracker is an American Christmas tradition with its music heard throughout the Christmas season. We will be enjoying *The Nutcracker* from Maestro Classics for these three weeks.



Picture Study - The link in the plans goes to a copy of the picture to study that you can display or print.

More information on how to do picture study can be found by listening to [Your Morning Basket Episode 22 with Emily Kiser](#) and download our [age-appropriate narration expectations for picture study](#).

Nature Study - Use the activities scheduled or those from *NaturExplorers Advent: Nature Study Through the Holidays*. Some of these can be done from the warmth of your Morning Time table, but we encourage you to venture out at least once during the term for a nature walk. We have spread the activities over two days in the schedule so you can choose which day is best for you.

Art Tutorials - To go with our music appreciation we will create with [Nutcracker Video Art Lessons](#) from Chalkpastel.com.

Chalk pastels are washable, forgiving, and even the youngest child can be satisfied with their paintings. Check out the included supply list for materials you will need as well as the resource page for our product recommendations.

Simple chalk pastel drawings will make great gifts!

Math - Complete the suggested activity and remember to keep it light and fun!

Reading Suggestions - Read the chapter book of choice and/or the picture books depending on the ages of your children and how much reading aloud you want to do in Morning Time. Feel free to substitute your own family-favorite Christmas books. If you read a lot be sure to break up reading time with other activities. Discuss:

- Favorite parts of the story.
- Should character X have done Y?
- Which character is most like or unlike you?



NEEDED RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES

If an additional resource is needed to complete the subject, we have listed it below.

If you choose not to use a particular resource, you can omit that subject from your plans or make your own substitution. Be sure to check your library for some of these resources as well.

We have included links to these for easy access on the [resource page for these plans](#).



Music Appreication	<i>The Nutcracker</i> from Maestro Classics
Nature Study	<i>Advent: Nature Study Through the Holidays</i>
Art	Nutcracker Video Art Lessons

ART SUPPLIES

- Chalk pastels
- Damp paper towels
- Copy paper



PRINTABLE BOOK LIST

**Chapter Books**

- Three Wise Cats* by Harold M. Konstantelos
- Nancy and Plum* by Betty MacDonald

Week 1

- The Twelve Days of Christmas* by Laurel Long
- The Nativity* by Ruth Sanderson
- The Story of Christmas* by Pamela Dalton
- Ella Bella Ballerina and The Nutcracker* by James Mayhew
- Gifts of the Heart* by Patricia Polacco
- The Nutcracker* by Susan Jeffers
- The Friendly Beasts: an old English Christmas Carol* by Tomie dePaola

Week 2

- The Promise: How God Told the World about Jesus* by Carine MacKenzie
- The Nutcracker Comes to America: How Three Ballet-loving Brothers Created a Holiday Tradition* by Chris Barton
- Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914* by John Hendrix
- The Nutcracker* by Janet Schulman

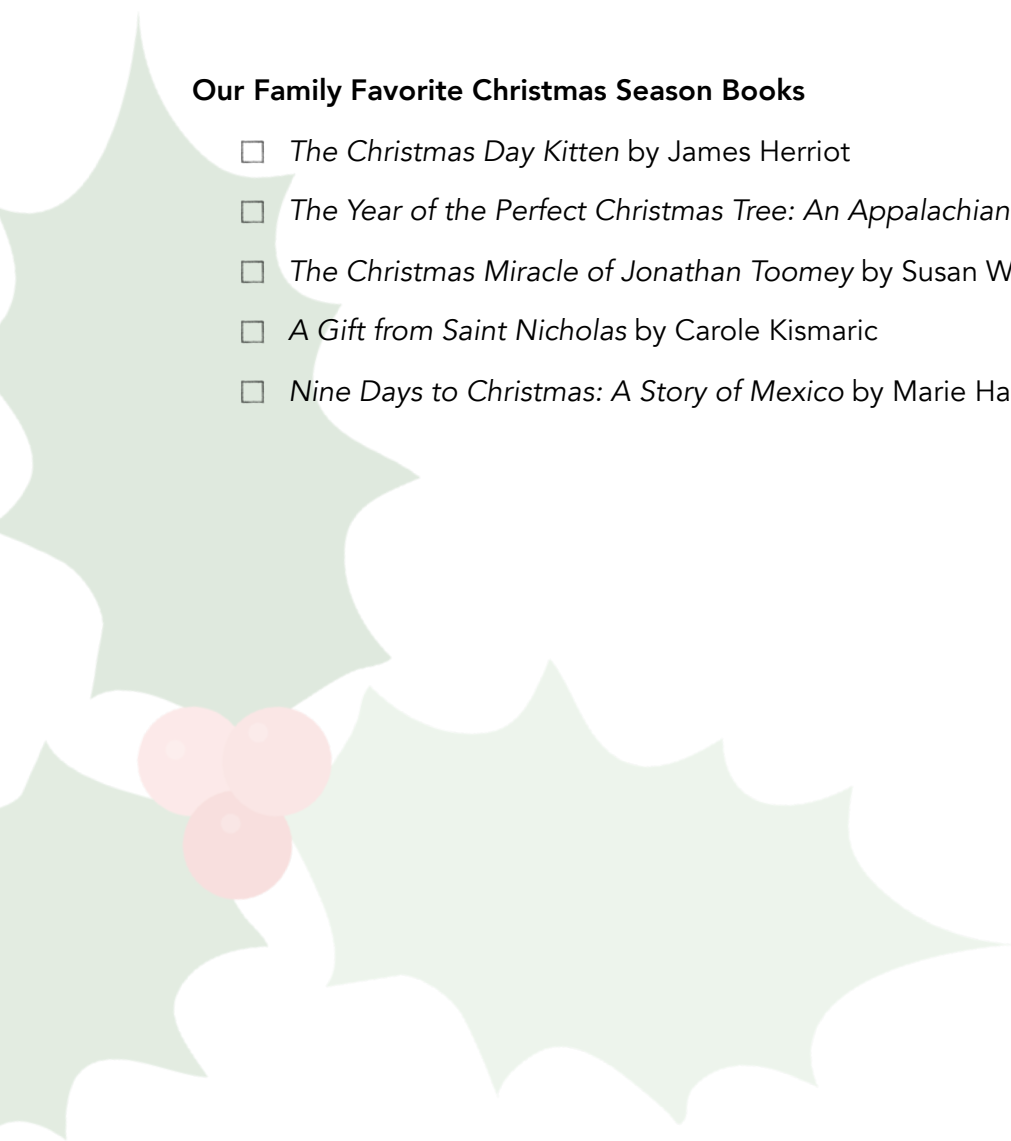


Week 3

- The Nutcracker Ballet: A Book, Theater, and Paper Doll Fold-out Play Set* by Mara Conlon
- The Visit of the Wise Men* by Martha Jander
- The Third Gift* by Linda Sue Park
- Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- Small Camel Follows the Star* by Rachel W. N. Brown
- The Christmas Mouse* by Stephanie Jeffs

**Our Family Favorite Christmas Season Books**

- The Christmas Day Kitten* by James Herriot
- The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree: An Appalachian Story* by Gloria Houston
- The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski
- A Gift from Saint Nicholas* by Carole Kismaric
- Nine Days to Christmas: A Story of Mexico* by Marie Hall Ets



PRAYER

○ Wisdom, ○ holy Word of God,
 you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:
 Come and show your people the way to salvation.

○ Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
 who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,
 who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:
 Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

○ Root of Jesse,
 you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;
 kings stand silent in your presence;
 the nations bow down in worship before you.
 Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

○ Key of David, ○ royal Power of Israel,
 controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
 Come, break down the prison walls of death
 for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;
 and lead your captive people into freedom.

○ Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
 Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
 and the shadow of death.

○ King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart;
 ○ Keystone of the mighty arch of man:
 Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

○ Emmanuel, king and lawgiver,
 desire of the nations, Savior of all people:
 Come and set us free, Lord our God.

MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Luke 2:29-32

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Matthew 2:10-11

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.



TO THE INFANT JESUS

by St. Alphonsus

O King of Heaven! from starry throne
 descending,
 Thou takest refuge in that wretched cave;
 O God of bliss! I see Thee cold and
 trembling,
 What pain it cost Thee fallen man to save!

Thou, of a thousand worlds the great
 Creator,
 Dost now the pain of cold and want endure;
 Thy poverty but makes Thee more
 endearing,
 For well I know 'tis love has made Thee poor.

I see Thee leave Thy Heavenly Father's
 bosom,
 But whither has Thy love transported Thee?
 Upon a little straw I see Thee lying;
 Why suffer thus? 'Tis all for love of me.

But if it is Thy will for me to suffer,
 And by these sufferings my heart to move,
 Wherefore, my Jesus, do I see Thee
 weeping?
 'Tis not for pain Thou weapest, but for love.

Thou weapest thus to see me so ungrateful;
 My sins have pierced Thee to the very core;
 I once despised Thy love, but now I love
 Thee,
 I love but Thee; then, Jesus, weep no more.

Thou sleepest, Lord, but Thy heart ever
 watches.

No slumber can a heart so loving take;
 But tell me, darling Babe, of what Thou
 thinkest,
 "I think," He says, "of dying for Thy sake."

Is it for me that Thou dost think of dying!
 What, then, O Jesus! can I but love Thee?
 Mary, my hope! If I love Him too little,----
 Be not indignant,----love Him thou for me.



THE PROMISE

By Oliver Wendell Holmes

Not charity we ask,
Nor yet thy gift refuse;
Please thy light fancy with the easy task
Only to look and choose.

The little-headed toy
That wins thy treasured gold
May be the dearest memory, holiest joy,
Of coming years untold.

Heaven rains on every heart,
But there its showers divide,
The drops of mercy choosing, as they part,
The dark or glowing side.

One kindly deed may turn
The fountain of thy soul
To love's sweet day-star, that shall o'er
thee burn
Long as its currents roll.

The pleasures thou hast planned, -
Where shall their memory be
When the white angel with the freezing
hand
Shall sit and watch by thee?

Living, thou dost not live,
If mercy's spring run dry;
What Heaven has lent thee wilt thou freely
give,
Dying, thou shalt not die.

HE promised even so!
To thee his lips repeat, -
Behold, the tears that soothed thy sister's
woe
Have washed thy Master's feet!



THE THREE KINGS OF COLOGNE

By Eugene Field

From out Cologne there came three kings

To worship Jesus Christ, their King.

To Him they sought fine herbs they

brought,

And many a beauteous golden thing;

They brought their gifts to Bethlehem

town,

And in that manger set them down.

Then spake the first king, and he said:

"O Child, most heavenly, bright, and fair!

I bring this crown to Bethlehem town

For Thee, and only Thee, to wear;

So give a heavenly crown to me

When I shall come at last to Thee!"

The second, then. "I bring Thee here

This royal robe, O Child!" he cried;

"Of silk 'tis spun, and such an one

There is not in the world beside;

So in the day of doom requite

Me with a heavenly robe of white!"

The third king gave his gift, and quoth:

"Spikenard and myrrh to Thee I bring,

And with these twain would I most fain

Anoint the body of my King;

So may their incense sometime rise

To plead for me in yonder skies!"

Thus spake the three kings of Cologne,

That gave their gifts, and went their way;

And now kneel I in prayer hard by

The cradle of the Child to-day;

Nor crown, nor robe, nor spice I bring

As offering unto Christ, my King.

Yet have I brought a gift the Child

May not despise, however small;

For here I lay my heart to-day,

And it is full of love to all.

Take Thou the poor but loyal thing,

My only tribute, Christ, my King!

WEEK 1	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Prayer	The "O Antiphons" Of Advent				
Memorization	Ephesians 2:8-9				
Poetry	"To the Infant Jesus" by St. Alphonsus				
Fine Arts		Music Appreciation: Listen to the <i>The Nutcracker</i> from Maestro Classics. While you listen, color these puppets .	Picture Study: <i>The Mystic Nativity</i> by Botticelli		Art Tutorial: Nutcracker Video Art Course - Clara and the Christmas Tree
Nature Study				The Greatest Gift - Can you think of anyone who might be cheered by a nature gift? Make some of these nature ornaments for your local nursing or children's home. OR Do the second activity on pg. 23 and the first activity on pg. 24 of NaturExplorers Advent Study . Enjoy Showing love with these simple gifts.	
Math	12 Days of Presents Bedtime Math				
Picture Books	<i>The Twelve Days of Christmas</i>	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	<i>The Nativity</i> <i>The Story of Christmas</i>	<i>Gifts of the Heart</i> <i>The Friendly Beasts: an old English Christmas Carol</i>	<i>Ella Bella Ballerina and The Nutcracker</i>
Chapter Book Reading Suggestions: <i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch 1-6 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 1-4					

WEEK 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Prayer	The "O Antiphons" Of Advent				
Memorization	Luke 2:29-32				
Poetry	"The Promise" by Oliver Wendell Holmes				
Fine Arts		Music Appreciation: Listen to Tchaikovsky's "March" from <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> — Listening Map. Can you name the instruments as they come up?	Picture Study: <i>Simeon the Godreceiver</i> by Alexei Yegorov		Art Tutorial: Nutcracker Video Art Course - Nutcracker
Nature Study			Winter seems like a strange time to look for signs of spring, but try and you might. Look for birds nests, easier to see now that leaves are gone, and even very small buds in between the branches of trees. OR Do the second and third nature walk activities on pg. 14 of <i>NaturExplorers Advent Study</i> . If you can't go for a walk, simply step outside in your yard. Record your findings in your nature journal.		
Math	<u>Magic Puzzle</u> - I promise it will work every time.				
Picture Books	<i>The Promise: How God Told the World about Jesus</i>	<i>The Nutcracker Comes to America</i>	<i>Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914</i>		<i>The Nutcracker</i>
Chapter Book Reading Suggestions: <i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch. 7-12 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 5-9					

WEEK 3	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Prayer	The "O Antiphons" Of Advent				
Memorization	Matthew 2:10-11				
Poetry	"The Three Kings Of Cologne" by Eugene Field				
Fine Arts		Music Appreciation: Listen to the <i>The Nutcracker</i> from Maestro Classics. This time, enjoy moving your puppets along to the story.	Picture Study: <i>The Adoration of the Magi</i> by Giotto di Bondone		Art Tutorial: Nutcracker Video Art Course - Mouse King
Nature Study				The Star: Read Mathew 2:1-12. The wise men were guided by a star just as many throughout history have used stars for navigation. Can you find the north star? If you live in the northern states, look for the big dipper to guide you. The lower states can use Cassiopeia. Learn more here. OR Do the first activity in this section on page 9 of <i>NaturExplorers Advent Study</i> . Use the notebooking page to record your findings.	
Math	Counting the Stars Bedtime Math				
Picture Books	<i>The Visit of the Wise Men</i>	<i>The Nutcracker Ballet: A Book, Theater, and Paper Doll Fold-out Play Set</i>	<i>The Third Gift</i>	<i>Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story</i> <i>Small Camel Follows the Star</i>	<i>The Christmas Mouse</i>
Chapter Book Reading Suggestions: <i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch. 13-17 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 10-13					

DAILY SUBJECTS

Prayer	The "O Antiphons" Of Advent
Memorization	Ephesians 2:8-9 Luke 2:29-32 Matthew 2:10-11

LOOP SUBJECTS

Subject	Activity	Related Books
Poetry	"To the Infant Jesus" by St. Alphonsus	
Math	<u>12 Days of Presents</u> Bedtime Math	<i>The Twelve Days of Christmas</i>
Music Appreciation	Listen to the The Nutcracker from Maestro Classics. While you listen, color <u>these puppets</u> .	<i>The Nutcracker</i>
Picture Study	<u>The Mystic Nativity</u> by Botticelli	<i>The Nativity</i> <i>The Story of Christmas</i>
Art	Nutcracker Video Art Course - Clara and the Christmas Tree	<i>Ella Bella Ballerina and The Nutcracker</i>
Nature Study	The Greatest Gift - Can you think of anyone who might be cheered by a nature gift? <u>Make some of these nature ornaments for your local nursing or children's home.</u> OR Do the second activity on pg. 23 and the first activity on pg. 24 of <u>NaturExplorers Advent Study</u> . Enjoy Showing love with these simple gifts.	<i>Gifts of the Heart</i> <i>The Friendly Beasts: an old English Christmas Carol</i>
Chapter Books	<i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch 1-6 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 1-4	
Poetry	"The Promise" by Oliver Wendell Holmes	<i>The Promise: How God Told the World about Jesus</i>
Math	<u>Magic Puzzle</u> - I promise it will work every time.	
Music Appreciation	Listen to Tchaikovsky's "March" from <u>The Nutcracker Suite</u> — Listening Map. Can you name the instruments as they come up?	<i>The Nutcracker Comes to America</i>
Picture Study	<u>Simeon the Godreceiver</u> by Alexei Yegorov	
Art	Nutcracker Video Art Course - Nutcracker	<i>The Nutcracker</i>

LOOP SUBJECTS

Subject	Activity	Related Books
Nature Study	Winter seems like a strange time to look for signs of spring, but try and you might. Look for birds nests, easier to see now that leaves are gone, and even very small buds in between the branches of trees. OR Do the second and third nature walk activities on pg. 14 of <i>NaturExplorers Advent Study</i> . If you can't go for a walk, simply step outside in your yard. Record your findings in your nature journal.	<i>Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914</i>
Chapter Books	<i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch. 7-12 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 5-9	
Poetry	"The Three Kings Of Cologne" by Eugene Field	<i>The Visit of the Wise Men</i>
Math	<u>Counting the Stars</u> Bedtime Math	
Music Appreciation	Listen to the <i>The Nutcracker</i> from Maestro Classics. This time, enjoy moving your puppets along to the story.	<i>The Nutcracker Ballet: A Book, Theater, and Paper Doll Fold-out Play Set</i>
Picture Study	<u>The Adoration of the Magi</u> by Giotto di Bondone	<i>The Third Gift</i>
Art	Nutcracker Video Art Course - Mouse King	<i>The Christmas Mouse</i>
Nature Study	The Star: Read Mathew 2:1-12. The wise men were guided by a star just as many throughout history have used stars for navigation. Can you find the north star? If you live in the northern states, look for the big dipper to guide you. The lower states can use Cassiopeia. Learn more here. OR Do the first activity in this section on page 9 of <i>NaturExplorers Advent Study</i> . Use the notebooking page to record your findings.	<i>Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story</i> <i>Small Camel Follows the Star</i>
Chapter Books	<i>Three Wise Cats</i> Ch. 13-17 <i>Nancy and Plum</i> Ch. 10-13	