# 12 Days of Christmas Activities

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Western Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings’ Day).

## 12 Days of Christmas Paper Chain

During the season of Christmas, you are invited to pause and reflect on the non-material gifts you can give to others in your family and your neighbourhood. You can create the chain over the twelve days following Christmas.

Materials:

* 12 strips of paper
* markers
* glue stick

Directions:

1. Using markers, draw or write what you might offer to others this Christmas—gifts such as the gift of time or patience or listening—onto each piece of paper.
2. Use the glue stick to link the pieces of paper together in a chain.
3. As you create your chain links, give thanks to God and ask for God’s guidance in sharing the gift.

## 12 Books of Christmas

Sharing stories together is an important Christian tradition. Through story, we can come closer to the mystery of Christmas and spend time with one another. Each day, read one story together as we move from Christmas towards Epiphany. Here are some suggestions:

“Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem” by Maya Angelou

*Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto

*Tree of Cranes* by Allen Say

*Who Built the Stable?* by Ashley Bryan

*The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski

*Why I Love Christmas* by Daniel Howarth

*Jesus' Christmas Party* by Nicholas Allan

*The Christmas Menorahs* by Janice Cohn and Bill Farnsworth

*When God Made Light* by Matthew Paul Turner and David Catrow

*The Last Straw* by Frederick Thury and Vlasta Van Kamopen

*Three Wise Women* by Mary Hoffman

*The Legend of Old Befana* by Tomie dePaola