

A Simple Plan for Celebrating Christmas 2023 as a Church

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We realise that Christmas can be an extremely busy time of year for church leadership and staff. To try to make things simpler for you, we've put together a plan that might help you coordinate your church's celebration of Christmas.

Date	What's Happening
November 1	Finalise Christmas Planning
November 10	Place Advent and Christmas Evangelism Resource Orders
November 26	Last Sunday Before Advent, Announce Christmas Outreach Plans
November 30	Place Orders for New Year Evangelism and Small-Group Resources
December 3	First Sunday of Advent
December 10	Second Sunday of Advent
December 17	Third Sunday of Advent
December 24	Last Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

Finalising Your Christmas Planning

How will your church celebrate Christmas together this year? We've put below what you'll need to make these ideas happen. You can cross out the ideas you won't be implementing: it won't hurt our feelings.

Outreach Event for Christmas

- November 1: Decide type and nail down details
 - Carolling
 - Nativity
 - Kids' festival
 - Craft fair
 - Dessert exchange
 - Concert
 - Other _____
- November 10: Create invitations to the event
- November 10: Order resources to give away
 - [Christmas Uncut](#) by Carl Laferton (NEW edition)
 - [The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist](#) by Rico Tice
 - [Searching for Christmas](#) by J.D. Greear
- November 26: Encourage your congregation to hand out invitations
- December: Host the event
- December 24: Set extra resources out for visitors to take for free

Advent Reading Plan for Your Congregation

- November 1: Decide on/coordinate a churchwide Advent reading plan
- November 10: Order Advent devotionals, or request a custom discount code for your congregation so they can order their own
 - For Adults:
 - [The Advent of Glory](#) by R.C. Sproul
 - [Love Came Down at Christmas](#) by Sinclair Ferguson
 - [The Christmas We Didn't Expect](#) by David Mathis
 - [Gifts of Grace](#) by Jared Wilson
 - For Families:
 - [The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar](#) (includes devotional)
 - [The God of Amazing Gifts](#) by Lizzie Laferton
 - [The Adventure of Christmas](#) by Ed Drew
 - [A Better Than Anything Christmas](#) by Barbara Reaoch
 - [A Jesus Christmas](#) by Barbara Reaoch
- November 26: Distribute Advent devotionals

Christmas Curriculum for Kids in December

- November 10: Order a Christmas curriculum or plan your own
 - [*The Christmas Promise Sunday School Lessons*](#)
- December 3: Host the first session of the curriculum
- December 10: Host the second session of the curriculum
- December 17: Host the third session of the curriculum
- December 24: Include a read-aloud slot in your Christmas Eve service
 - An outline for a family Christmas Eve service is included in *The Christmas Promise Sunday School Lessons Curriculum*
 - Download free illustrations for the big screen [here](#)

Christmas Eve Service

- November 1: Decide what you'll do for Christmas Eve and begin coordinating the details
 - Who will give the talk?
 - Will there be special music beyond the usual?
 - Will you invite church members to participate in special readings, prayers, or lighting an Advent candle?
 - Will you be doing a read-aloud for kids?
 - Do you need candles and holders?
 - Who will decorate? When do decorations need to be done by?
- November 10: Order resources you'd like to give away at Christmas Eve service (you may be doing this for an outreach event as well)
 - [*Christmas Uncut*](#) by Carl Laferton (NEW edition)
 - [*The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist*](#) by Rico Tice
 - [*Searching for Christmas*](#) by J.D. Greear
- November 10: Order a kid's book to read aloud during the service
 - [*The Christmas Promise*](#)
 - [*The Christmas Surprise*](#)
 - [*A Noisy Christmas*](#)
 - [*There's a Lion in my Nativity*](#)
- November 30: Download free illustrations to project on the big screen during the read-aloud time
 - [*The Christmas Promise Free Illustrations*](#)
 - [*The Christmas Surprise Free Illustrations*](#)
 - [*A Noisy Christmas Free Illustrations*](#)
 - [*There's a Lion in my Nativity Free Illustrations*](#)

- December 17: Encourage your congregation to invite others to the Christmas Eve service
- December 24: Host your service and set out evangelistic resources for visitors to take for free

Christmas Gifts for Your Congregation

- November 1: Decide if you'll be giving members of your congregation a Christmas gift
- November 10: Order Christmas gifts based on the number of families in your church, plus a few extra for visitors
 - Simple gifts for families:
 - [*The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar*](#) (includes devotional)
 - [*The Christmas Promise Colouring Book*](#)
 - [*God's Big Promises Advent Calendar*](#) (includes devotional)
 - [*God's Big Promises Christmas Sticker Book*](#)
 - [*Seek and Find Christmas Activity Book*](#)
 - [*Come Along, Christmas! Sticker Advent Calendar*](#)
 - Keepsake gifts for families:
 - [*Seek and Find Christmas: Lift the Flap*](#)
 - [*God's Big Promises Bible Storybook*](#)
 - [*Seek and Find Christmas*](#)
 - [*A Noisy Christmas*](#)
 - [*The Christmas Promise*](#)
 - [*All About Christmas*](#)
 - [*The Promise and the Light*](#)
 - Gifts for those without children or who children have grown up:
 - [*Truth for Life*](#) Daily Devotional
 - [*Truth on Fire*](#)
 - [*Essential Christianity*](#)
- December 3: Prepare the gifts if you plan to wrap them, fill out cards, or put them in a package with other goodies
- December 17: Consider setting out the gifts for people to grab this Sunday, in case they are travelling on Christmas Eve
- December 24: Set out gifts for your congregation to grab on their way out, or assign volunteers to hand them out

Follow-Up Evangelism in the New Year

- November 30: Order resources for New Year evangelism, including the invitations that come with some kits
 - [Christianity Explored Course](#) (7 sessions)
 - [Hope Explored Course](#) (3 sessions)
 - [Hymns We Love Course](#) (5 sessions)
- December: Hand out New Year evangelistic course invitations at your Christmas outreach event for those who might like to come back
- December 24: Set out New Year evangelistic course invitations alongside any resources you are giving away. You might also invite visitors back at the end of the service by announcing the course taking place in the New Year.

Small Groups in the New Year

- November 30: Order resources for New Year small groups so you're not scrambling in December or January
 - [Love Your Church](#) Series (6-8 Sessions, depending on the book. Free videos, discussion guides, and worksheets.)
 - [The Air We Breathe](#) (10 sessions. Free video series by Glen Scrivener)
 - [Good Book Guides](#) (Multiple topics, books of the Bible, and session lengths)
- December 17: Announce New Year small group signups to your church

Your Own Advent Reading

- November 10: Order your own Advent devotional to spend time with the Lord daily during the busy season ahead. Use PASTOR23 to order a free copy of one of the following from our site. We're grateful for you!
 - [The Advent of Glory](#) by R.C. Sproul
 - [Love Came Down at Christmas](#) by Sinclair Ferguson
 - [The Christmas We Didn't Expect](#) by David Mathis
 - [Gifts of Grace](#) by Jared Wilson

Check out all of our Christmas resources [here](#), with easy sorting of Advent devotionals, Christmas gift ideas, outreach resources, and more.