

Countdown to Christmas Paper Chain Links

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1. Give someone in your family a hug, just because you love that person.
2. Offer to help your parents. For example, offer to set the table. Help make their bed—and make your own.
3. Tell your teacher “thank you” for teaching you. Simply say thanks or write a thank-you note.
4. Sing your favorite Christmas carol for your family—and invite them to sing along with you!
5. Read what happened that first Christmas in the Bible with your family. Read Luke 2:1-20. Talk about how exciting that time must’ve been.
6. Before you go to sleep tonight, think about three things that happened in your day that you’re thankful for.
7. Go to the library and check out a Christmas movie to share with your family and/or friends.
8. Read about the Magi (or Wise Men) in Matthew 2:1-12. The Bible says they felt overjoyed when they saw baby Jesus. Imagine how you would’ve felt to see him.

9. Pray. Thank God for the many blessings you have. God is your friend and loves you. You can tell God anything and everything.

10. Write a letter to a friend. Everyone loves getting mail!

11. With a parent's permission, call a family member who lives far away just to say "hi" and to visit with that person.

12. Draw a picture of what Jesus means to you. Display it in your room so you have a constant reminder.

13. Take a walk outdoors with your family to enjoy the fresh air. Look around you and soak in the wonders God has created.

14. Play the Humming Game. Hum a favorite Christmas song and have your family try to guess which song it is. The person who guesses correctly gets to hum next! *(This is a fun game to play in the car!)*

15. Pray for peace. Ask God to give you peace in your heart. Ask God to give you wisdom when you make choices every day.

16. Make a gift for a friend or family member. This can be as simple as a hand-made card or drawing. Gifts that come from the heart are the best gifts of all.

17. Share your smiles today. Give your smiles away freely to your classmates, teachers, friends, and family. Smiles are contagious!

18. Think of a service project your family can do together. Perhaps it's cleaning up litter in your neighborhood or school or taking dinner to a neighbor.

19. Write a thank-you note to someone who's made a positive difference in your life and mail it. Let the person know how much he or she means to you.

20. Listen to music today and give thanks to God for the gift of music. Dance, sing, and make a joyful noise!

21. Do your chores without being asked. Think about other children around the world who maybe don't have a bed to make, toys to put away, or clean clothes to fold. Consider how having work to do is a blessing.

22. Pray this prayer tonight before you go to bed: "Dear God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus into the world. Help me to share your love with everyone I meet. Amen."

23. Consider starting a journal. This could be a simple notebook from a discount store. In your journal, you can record your ideas, dreams, and prayers.

24. Find a quiet, comfortable spot. Sit and rest for a few moments. Take a few deep breaths. Thank God for sending Jesus. Invite him into your heart.

25. Smile and know that God loves you!