

Resources to share with families

The Intergen team would like to invite you to get familiar with our website. Have a browse, refer parents to it and share the resources with families. We would love to hear what other resources you share with families too.

In this document, the Intergen team would like to direct you to some specific resources that you can use in your ministry with families including: some seasonal resources that can be shared with families, particularly with children under 12 years old, to encourage faith formation and healthy family connections. An easy way to share is to copy/paste the relevant section into your church e-news or website. We hope these resources bless your families.

[Family Resources](#) is a section of the Intergen website that includes:

- general [Parenting](#) resources, including links to websites, books and articles
- [Faith Formation in Families](#) with articles about “Faith Development in Families” and “Helping children deal with natural disaster/tragedy” as well as information on starting a Family Huddle and exploring Family Practices to encourage faith formation at home.

Keep an eye on [UC e-News](#) for future updates to these resources.

1. November/December Family Resources

Advent, 3 – 24 December 2017 a time of waiting and preparing for Christ’s birth.

Advent Calendars and Activities

- ◆ [Intergen Team’s Advent Activities](#) for families or church use, includes crafts, decorations, puppets, Advent Calendars, Advent candle liturgies and more.
- ◆ [Uniting World’s Advent Actions Calendar](#)
On this page, scroll beneath the Advent resources for churches and you will “**Love over tinsel – a journey through Advent in 25 actions**” that is free to download and/or sign up to get a daily email to inspire you to action. This resource challenges you to take one action each day that puts the focus on Joy, Hope, Peace & Love in the midst of all the busyness
- ◆ [Advent Activities and Advent Calendar ideas](#)
Activities for homes and churches collated by Uniting Church NSW/ ACT:
 - an Advent Treasure Hunt,
 - Advent Story Box,
 - Advent Paper Chain,
 - and two Advent Calendars. (You may want to check dates/days are correct for 2017 and that the activities will work for families in your context.)
- ◆ [Edible Christmas Story](#)
This activity could be done in a home or church, with children or people of all ages.
- ◆ [Advent Calendar Candle Idea](#)
A simple candle with numbers 1 – 24 attached. Once a day as a family light the candle then chat, pray or be thankful while the number burns down.

1- continued- November/December Family Resources for Advent

Advent Books

◆ **Lost Sheep** Christmas favourites...

- [Bethlehem Town](#)
- [Jed and Roy McCoy](#)
- [Tonight in the Palace](#)
- [The Three Wise Camels](#)

◆ **'The Very Good News of Christmas' – a free book for families**

The [Bible Society](#) is offering a free book that shares the Christmas story with bright illustrations that is particularly for children aged 5 – 7 years old but suitable for all ages (see a sample on the website). Individuals can order up to three free copies per Australian household. Churches are invited to order as many copies as they need. When churches order the books, they'll also receive links to:

- The **'Instant Nativity'** – a complete, downloadable Nativity play & resource pack. It contains everything they'll need to put on a fun, gospel-centred Christmas event.
- ***The Really Good News animated video*** that churches and youth groups can use to promote a Christmas event. It's also suitable for use during a Christmas service.

To order:

Churches can follow the prompts at www.biblesociety.org.au/goodnews

Individuals can order up to three (3) copies by using www.biblesociety.org.au/reallygood

◆ **Christmas Resources for churches to purchase (nominal cost) and give away to families**

The following links were shared in the *SA & NT Children & Families Ministry Update – November*. This monthly email is sent by Chris Barnett, Children & Families, Centre for Theology and Ministry, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. To join the mailing list, email [Chris Barnett](mailto:Chris.Barnett@unitedchurch.org.au).

- [Kidzone Christmas](#) (Salvation Army) for primary school age children.
- [Christmas Book Set](#) (Salvation Army) for preschoolers.
- [Christmas at Home](#) (NSW/ACT Baptist) A family resource to create faith shaping times together at home in the weeks leading up to Christmas.
- [Christmas Family Time](#) (Messy Church) for families to use over the Christmas holiday period.
- [Christmas Countdown](#) (mainly music) for preschoolers.
- [ADVENTure Family Devotions](#) (Ali Campbell) 26 devotions for families reflecting on key scripture passages for the advent season (free).

2. December/January Family Resources

Christmas and Summer

◆ 200 ideas for families during Christmas and Summer holidays

Each of these booklets provide parents with 100 ideas for things to do with their children. They are free to download! Please note these were produced in 2010 so it's time to share them with a new bunch of families!

- [100 ways to celebrate Christmas](#)
- [100 ways to spend quality time with your kids](#)



100 ways
to celebrate Christmas

◆ Faith formation ideas in daily family life

- [Messy Lyfe: Living Life with Jesus](#) by Rob Hare and Lucy Moore
6 week devotional for families at home about how Jesus is always with us so how do we learn how to be with him? Each week gives things you could do or ways to respond that are already part of your day/week. These simple actions won't add to your to-do list. Could also be used by a family life group.
- [God centred Mom](#) "This blog chronicles my messy journey of "relentlessly replacing 'me' with 'He'. Sharing the daily struggle of remaining God-centered while mothering four wild-at-heart, energetic and often stubborn boys." writes Heather MacFadyen. "This site has really good resources to use at home, using resources that are around the house. And good Lenten resources too", recommends Laura Carson.

3. February/March Family Resources

KCO 2018

◆ [Family activities for exploring the KCO 2018 theme](#)

In the lead up to KCO, families may like to explore the 2018 KCO theme "Welcome: A Place to belong." This theme aims to celebrate living life together and living into God's generous and hospitable ways.

Lent and Easter

- ◆ [Intergen Team's Activities for Lent and Easter](#) for families or church use, includes crafts, family activities, ideas for intergenerational elements in worship and more. Also includes links to other resource websites for Lent and Easter.
- ◆ <http://childrensministry.org.au/category/lent/>
A variety of Lent activities for homes and churches collated by Uniting Church NSW & ACT, including Families Lent calendar, grace cube and family blessings (devotions).
- ◆ We would recommend closer to Lent revisiting some of the websites listed under Advent (see previous page) such as Uniting World.