

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, 2 – 24 December 2018 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](#) usually provide Advent resources for churches. We would recommend closer to Advent visiting their website to see what’s available for 2018.
- ◆ [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 this year 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](#)

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

- 'The Very Good News of Christmas' for 5- 7 year olds but suitable for all ages. In 2017 the Bible Society released this book and provided free copies for families. They are currently preparing 2018 Christmas and 2019 Easter little books. You can find out more here: <https://www.biblesociety.org.au/goodnews>

The following links were shared in the *SA & NT Children & Families Ministry Update – November 2017*. This monthly email is sent by Chris Barnett, Children & Families, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. To join the mailing list, email [Chris Barnett](#). Probably closer to Advent 2018 he will send an updated list of resources.

- [Kidzone Christmas](#) (Salvation Army) for primary school age children.
- [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 Holidays

◆ **200 ideas for families during Christmas and Summer**

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.