

**“Put Christ back into Christmas” Check List**  
**by Caryl Krueger**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. To start the season, tell the Christmas story or read it from Matthew 2: 1-12 and Luke 2: 1-14. You can do this "round robin style," letting each person tell part of the story. Perhaps you will assemble a nativity set (a crèche or cradle scene) as the story is told.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Do something helpful each week without being asked! This shows love!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Look at your possessions and find something that's in good shape that you would like to give to someone else. You may want to "adopt" another family and provide food and gifts. If you do this, put a Bible in with the gifts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Say something to promote peace in your family. Have a Peace Dinner and talk about peace as needed in your schools, sports, business, community and in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Attend a church service as well as Sunday School each week. Encourage youngsters to speak to older church attendees and wish them a merry Christmas. You may want to include someone who does not have family nearby in your family gathering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Take part in a Christmas Carol Sing. While Rudolph and Santa are cheery songs, be sure that carols with deeper meanings are included. If you don't know the carol, "I heard the bells on Christmas day," find it in a carol book. It is wonderful even just to read the verses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Put a short love note under someone's pillow once a week during this month. It can be as simple as, "With you, everyday is like Christmas."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Encourage the family to think about Jesus' life as you all fall asleep on Christmas Eve. See how many of the wonderful things he did you can remember.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Christmas night, look up at the stars and think of the star of Bethlehem. And don't forget to sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Talk with your family about the real meaning of Christmas -- how every day can feel like Christmas. And remember to listen for angel thoughts! God's messengers are with you every day of the year.