

CHRIST
is
the **Heart** of
CHRISTMAS



Written by **David Mead** • Illustrated by **Chris Sharp**

December's here! Let's decorate,
Put up the tree, fill cookie plates!
Let's rush out to the shopping malls,
Sing Christmas carols, deck the halls!

I'm glad that Christmas Day is near.
I love this special time of year,
Because I know, right from the start,
That Jesus' birth is at the heart.



Each moment with my family,
Like when we trim the Christmas tree,
Is a reminder of the love
Our Father sends from heaven above.



And at the heart, each decoration
Is for the birthday celebration!



When I see candles glowing bright,
Or any other Christmas light,
I think of Jesus Christ who comes
To shine God's Light on everyone!

Even the winter snow I see
Reminds me of God's gift to me.
Christ makes me clean and new, I know.
My heart is bright like fallen snow.



CHRIST is the Heart of CHRISTMAS

An Advent
Activity Sheet



Christmas comes
with colored lights,
Snowmen, trees and other sights.
But there is a better part,
Something special at the heart.

Silver bells are jingling.
Carolers join in and sing.
My heart starts to beat along.
Every note a welcome song.

Greeting cards are being sent.
Presents wrapped like peppermint.
Giving helps remind me of
Our great gift from God above.

What's the heart of all this joy?
God sends us a baby boy!
Christ is born! And now we say
He's the heart of Christmas Day!



This side
shows the
FRONT of
the centerpiece.

Slot A

in you and through you to the glory of God!

Whenever you hear a jingle bell, a hand bell or a doorbell, think, "Here comes Jesus!"

Put all your cards on new cards of Jesus' birth? Which cards share the

Place some kind of symbol (maybe a heart with a cross) on each envelope

Are there old favorites that you've packed? Isn't it fun to see them again?

PRAY TODAY that you hear the story of Christmas in a new way.

PRAY TODAY that the story of Christmas is shared in your home.

PRAY TODAY that you share the story of Christmas with those who are far away from home this holiday.

What smells like Christmas to you? Talk about what the first Christmas may have smelled like.

PRAY TODAY thanking God for his gift of love which is always good.

As you look, try to picture Jesus in each scene. He is there—loving, caring, blessing and sharing the celebration.

PRAY TODAY giving thanks for those who fill your good memories.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for those in need of special treats shared with someone you care for or care about.

PRAY TODAY for people who have not yet found the Savior.

Make a point to look at the manger scene. Make sure each day. Make sure the figures are looking at the manger, too!

the faces in the crowded stores, Jesus came for every person that you see!

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

PRAY TODAY that the crowds of Christmas know it is Jesus' birthday.

When you put gift tags on your presents, write the words, "Christ is the Heart of Christmas!" on each one.

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

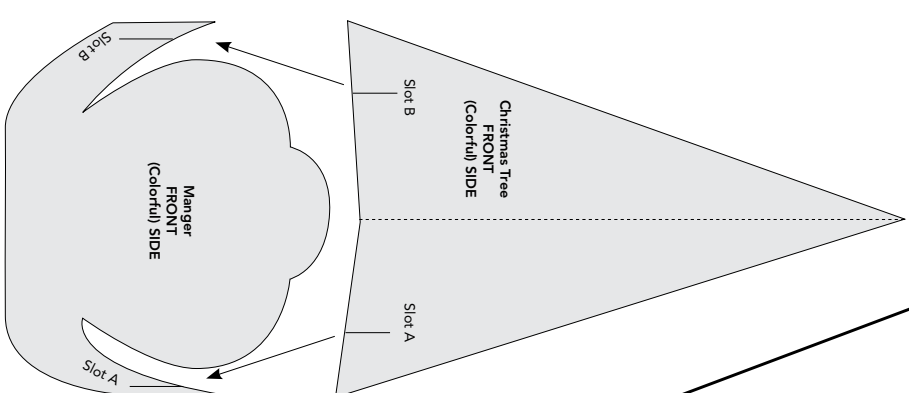
PRAY TODAY and thank God for giving you the greatest Christmas gift. Jesus!

Christ is the Heart of Christmas

This side shows the BACK of the centerpiece.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out the Christmas Tree and Manger pieces along black lines.
2. Assemble the centerpiece by first gently creasing the Christmas Tree piece forward along the scored line.
3. Gently bend back the long base "arms" of the Manger piece so that Slot A and Slot B of the Manger piece align with the corresponding slots on the Tree piece.
4. Slide the two pieces together.
5. Put your centerpiece on display on the dining room or kitchen table.
6. Cut out the 24 heart pieces. Mix them up and place them heart-side-up inside the ring formed by the Tree and Manger pieces.
7. Each day of December, pick a heart from the display. Follow the directions for the day, remembering that the true centerpiece of all of our Christmas activities is Christ Jesus, whose birth is the reason for all of our celebration!



Read the Christmas story from the Bible.
Do the words of Luke 2:1-18 sound familiar? What is your favorite way to tell this story? **PRAY TODAY** that God's Word moves you to act and share!

Open a gift.
It may be early, but let this one gift remind you that our greatest, most needed gift is "a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." **PRAY TODAY** thanking God for the only gift that you truly need.

Give an offering or donation.
Give your gift without sharing who it is from. Instead, write "Christ is the Heart of Christmas" on each gift. **PRAY TODAY** that God blesses those who collect for those in need.

An Advent Activity Sheet

Christ is the Heart of Christmas

Slot B

CHRIST is the HEART of CHRISTMAS

As a child joins her family in festive holiday activities, she learns the happy news that God's loving gift of Jesus is truly the centerpiece—the heart—of our Christmas joy and celebration.

Prepare for Jesus' birthday in a new and meaningful way as you celebrate the news that *Christ is the Heart of Christmas*. Find the *Christ is the Heart of Christmas* activity sheet at the center of this book and follow the instructions for assembly. Display your *Christ is the Heart of Christmas* centerpiece throughout the season.



Each day of December, choose a heart-shaped piece from the display. Follow the directions for the day, remembering that Jesus is at the heart of all our Christmas joy and celebration.