



The  
Christmas  
Planner

JESUS IS THE REASON  
FOR THE SEASON

# The Christmas Planner



Created for  
Crossroads Christian Fellowship  
Croydon, Victoria  
by  
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2010

## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SONG

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...  
A Partridge in a Pear Tree.

The second verse:

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...  
2 Turtle Doves  
And a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

The third verse

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...  
3 French Hens  
2 Turtle Doves  
And a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

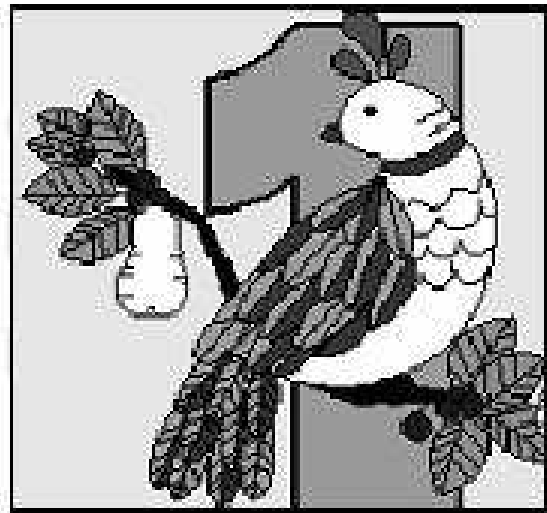
...and so forth, until the last verse:

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...  
12 Drummers Drumming  
11 Pipers Piping  
10 Lords-a-Leaping  
9 Ladies Dancing  
8 Maids-a-Milking  
7 Swans-a-Swimming  
6 Geese-a-Laying  
5 Golden Rings  
4 Calling Birds  
3 French Hens  
2 Turtle Doves  
And a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

# 1 A partridge in a pear tree

And Jesus said unto him  
The foxes have holes and  
the birds of the air have  
nests but the Son of Man  
hath not where to lay His  
head Matt 8:20

Jesus came to save us in a  
borrowed cradle and a  
borrowed grave.  
Is there room in your heart  
for Him this Christmas?










Christmas time is a very busy time of the year  
People love to celebrate by decorating their homes, participating in  
Christmas plays and carol services, gathering together for Christmas  
meals and giving gifts.

People can feel burdened and confused by the amount of time and  
planning involved with preparing the celebrations.

Some people use Advent calendars to count down the number of days  
until in December until Christmas and some churches celebrate the  
season of Advent and light an Advent candle during the service on the  
four Sundays before Christmas

To put things in perspective it helps us to remember that  
**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**  
Our Christmas celebrations are a remembrance of Jesus' birth.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

-  Cooking/Baking
-  Entertaining
-  Gift selection/making
-  Decorating
-  Rehearsals
-  Performances
-  Other

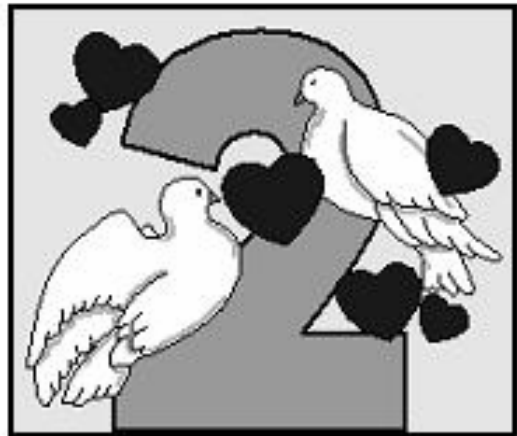




## 2 Turtle Doves

O deliver not the soul of thy  
turtledove unto the  
multitude of the wicked :  
forget not the congregation  
of thy poor forever Ps  
74:19

Remember charities such as  
the Christmas Bowl Appeal



Some charities such as The Christmas Bowl Appeal have their main fund raising for the year at Christmas time.

The Salvation Army and some other charities pack and distribute hampers of Christmas food and toys.

# The Christmas Bowl Appeal

- On Christmas Day in 1949, the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the table during Christmas dinner. He asked everyone sitting at the table with him to think about their good fortune and their safe, happy lives. Then he asked them to think about those around the world who had to go without. He invited everyone to put in the bowl what they thought their Christmas dinner had cost to raise money for Eastern European refugees displaced from their homes due to World War II. This was the very first Christmas Bowl!

Just as Rev. Frank Byatt placed a bowl on his Christmas Dinner table over 60 years ago, you can too. Place a bowl on the Christmas table and put an object that means peace or Christmas to you in the bowl. Explain the story of the first Christmas Bowl to your guests and then

ask the guests to consider **giving the cost of the meal to the Christmas Bowl**. Pass the bowl or Christmas Bowl gift envelopes around the table and then collect all the gifts and pass them on to

your church treasurer/administrator for tax-deductible receipts.

The money you raise will help Act for Peace empower war-torn communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict. For more fundraising ideas visit [www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)



# Share Christmas!



**GIVE** to the Christmas Bowl

Free Call: 1800 025 101 [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)



The Christmas Bowl is a program of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795



# The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal



**Christmas is empty when you have  
nothing**



Please help us give hope



# 3 French hens

How often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings Matt. 23:37

Make Christmas a time for enjoying gathering with each other and the Lord



Who will you spend Christmas with you?

Is there a lonely person you could include in your celebrations?

Some people use Christmas as a time to send cards or emails and family news to friends and relatives who do not live nearby.

Who will you give Christmas greetings with a phone call?





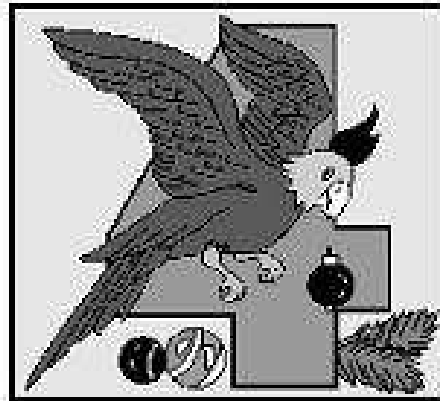




## 4 Calling birds

The time of the singing of birds  
is come Song of Solomon  
2:12

Be reminded of all God's gifts  
to you when you hear the  
birds singing



Hearing the birds singing reminds us of God's  
gifts to us and also about  
the Australian Christmas carol  
The Carol of the Birds

### CAROL SERVICES

Many churches and communities celebrate  
Christmas with Carol Services

The Service of the Nine readings tells the  
Christmas story and the prophecies relating to  
the birth of Christ with Christmas carols and nine  
readings from the Bible.

Some carolers go from door to door or stand on  
street corners to sing carols

# Readings for Carol Service of the Nine Lessons

First Lesson from [Genesis](#) 3: 8–15; 17–19

Second Lesson from Genesis 22: 15–18

Third Lesson from [Isaiah](#) 9: 2; 6–7

Fourth Lesson from Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9

Fifth Lesson from the [Gospel of Luke](#) 1: 26–35;  
38

Sixth Lesson from Luke 2: 1; 3–7

Seventh Lesson from Luke 2: 8–16

Eighth Lesson from the [Gospel of Matthew](#) 2: 1–  
12

Ninth Lesson from the [Gospel of John](#) 1: 1–14



# Carol Service

• Date: -----

• Time: -----

• Venue: -----

• -----

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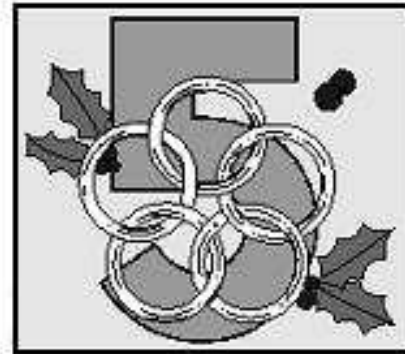
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# 5 Gold rings

How much better it is to get  
wisdom than gold!  
Proverbs 16:16



What Christmas gifts do you  
want to give and receive?

## **Acts 20:35 (New King James Version)**

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said,  
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Giving and receiving gifts is one of the most enjoyable aspects of celebrating Christmas. Many people treasure gifts that have been made especially for them by the giver.

Christmas is also a good time to think about people from less fortunate situations and give gifts to them or give gifts to friends and family the proceeds of which go to charities. Consider giving to Christmas Tree in Reverse programs such as K Mart Wishing Tree and international gift programs such as Operation Christmas Child.









## How to Donate

### Gift Donation

- 1.** To participate in the Appeal simply place a gift (wrapped or unwrapped) under the Christmas Wishing Tree located at the front of any Kmart store.
  - 2.** Take a gift tag from the Wishing Tree to specify the age and gender of a suitable recipient and place it with your gift.
  - 3.** Don't forget to tear off the thank you section from the tag and display it on your own Christmas tree.
- The Appeal's charity partners collect the donated gifts from our stores on a regular basis and oversee their distribution to people in need.
  - Gifts do not need to be purchased from Kmart. Our stores simply act as facilitators, enabling our charity partners to reach the wider public.

### Monetary Donation

As an alternative to donating a gift, you can make cash contributions at any register or place coins in the collection boxes located in stores. These contributions are converted into Kmart gift cards and distributed by our charity partners, allowing Appeal recipients to choose their own Christmas gift



*the Power of a  
Simple Gift*

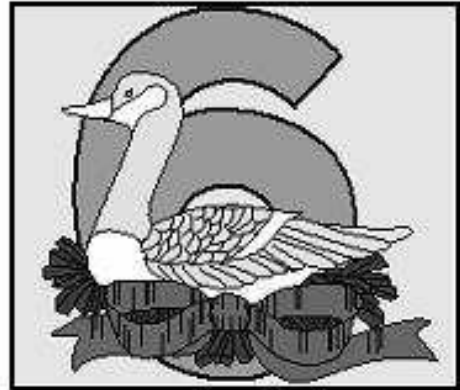


<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.au/>

# 6 Geese a-laying

Or if he shall ask an egg, will  
he offer him a scorpion?  
Luke 11:12

God wants to give His children  
the Holy Spirit and gifts  
which will be for their good



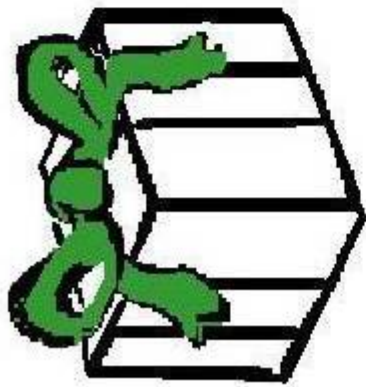
God gives us many wonderful gifts

- The abundance of creation – nature
- The gifts of the Spirit
- His Word – the Bible
- Most importantly His Son Jesus

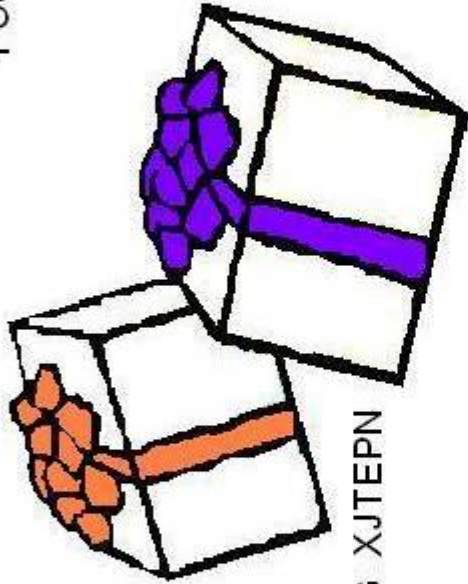
John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in  
Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

If B = A, C = B, D = C etc what is in each of the gifts?

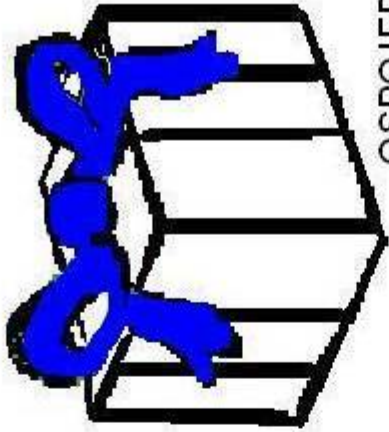
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11



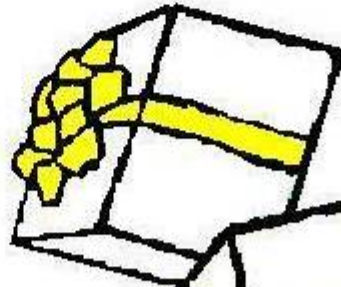
GBJUI



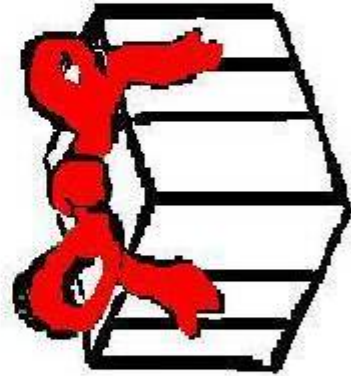
XPSE PG XJTEPN



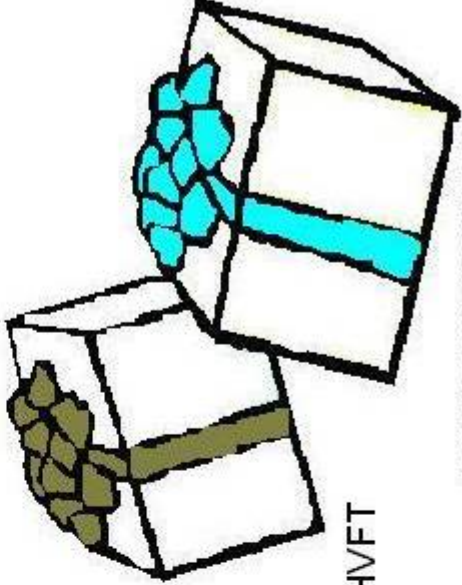
QSPQIFDZ



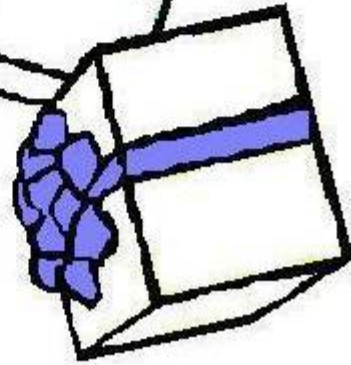
NJSBDMFT



EJTDFSONFOU



UPOHVFT



IFBMJOHT

XPSE PG LOPXMFHF

JOUFSQSFUBUJPO



ANSWERS :What is in each of the gifts

////////////////////////////////////  
If B = A, C = B, D = C etc what is in each of the gifts?

WORD OF WISDOM XPSE PG XJTEPN

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE XPSE PG LOPXMFHF

FAITH GBJUI

HEALINGS IFBMJOHT

MIRACLES NJSBDMFT

PROPHECY QSPQIFDZ

DISCERNMENT EJTDFSONFOU

TONGUES UPOHVFT

INTERPRETATION JOUFSQSFUBUJPO



John 3:16



# Welcome to The Tithing Tree

An inspirational idea, not a business.



Creating a simpler, more humanitarian Christmas

## The Tithing Tree



### Making it work

#### Christmas Combinations

This Christmas you may decide to:

- ▶ give your entire Christmas budget.
- ▶ donating an equal amount of money to organisations as you have spent on gifts.
- ▶ spend less on presents and tithe the remainder.
- ▶ buy one present each as a 'Kris Kringle' exchange with your family, and jointly tithe to something you all care about.
- ▶ suggest a present that your family can buy "for you" that you can then pass onto the organisation of your choice. ie dog baskets for an animal shelter.
- ▶ ask your family and friends who choose not to tithe, to give you money instead of a present, so you can tithe it yourself.
- ▶ inspire your company to tithe some of their Christmas party money to a worthy cause.

# 7 Swans a-swimming

Ye may not eat of the swan:  
but of all clean fowls may  
ye eat Deut 14:16

Be wise and temperate with  
your Christmas fare



Christmas Dinner is one of the highlights of the Christmas celebrations. Much planning and preparation goes into the selection and cooking of the meal.

There are certain foods which are traditional fare for the Christmas meal in different countries. Discuss.

The verse above is from the food laws in Deuteronomy and was based in wisdom for good health. Swans were considered unclean as they were bottom feeders and often had parasites

When planning the meal it is necessary to consider any food allergies or restrictions that the guests may have. Some people observe specific diets eg vegetarian and their values need to be honoured and accommodated even if you do not observe the same restrictions.

Unfortunately many people over indulge in food and drink at Christmas time and then do not feel well!

Be wise and temperate with your Christmas fare and you will have a very enjoyable feast!





# 8 Maids a-milking

Desire the sincere milk of the  
Word that ye may grow  
thereby 1 Peter 2:2

Read the Bible for Christmas  
messages from God



**All Scripture is** given by inspiration of God, and **is**  
profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,  
for instruction in righteousness [2 Timothy 3:16](#)

The story of the birth of Jesus is found in the New  
Testament of the Bible in

Matthew Chapters 1 and 2

Luke Chapters 1 and 2

And John 1:1-14 (also called the Prologue)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend] it.

#### **John's Witness: The True Light**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world]

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own] and His own] did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

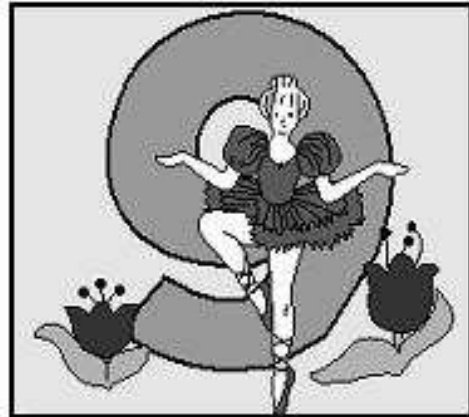
#### **The Word Becomes Flesh**

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:1-14 New King James Version

## 9 Ladies dancing

Let them praise His name in the  
dance Ps 149:3



Churches, schools and community groups often celebrate the Christmas season by giving performances of plays (especially Nativity plays), pantomimes, ballets and other dances, choral performances, (eg Handel's Messiah) oratorios, and carol services.

Attending rehearsals and performances make a busy season even busier and need to be included in the Christmas Planner calendar so that no important dates will be missed.

# Christmas Performances

- Performance and Rehearsal Dates and Venues

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# 10 Lords a-leaping

Serve the Lord with gladness  
Ps 100:2



"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for **one** of the **least** of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

[Matthew 25:40](#)

New King James version

Some people will give up their Christmas day in order to serve or care for others.

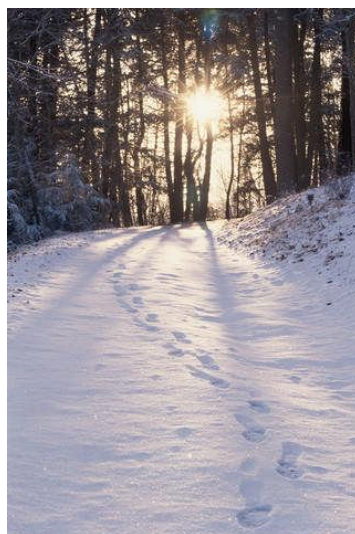
Police, firemen, ambulance crew and workers in other essential services must work on Christmas day.

Some will give up their Christmas day to provide a Christmas meal for the homeless and underprivileged.

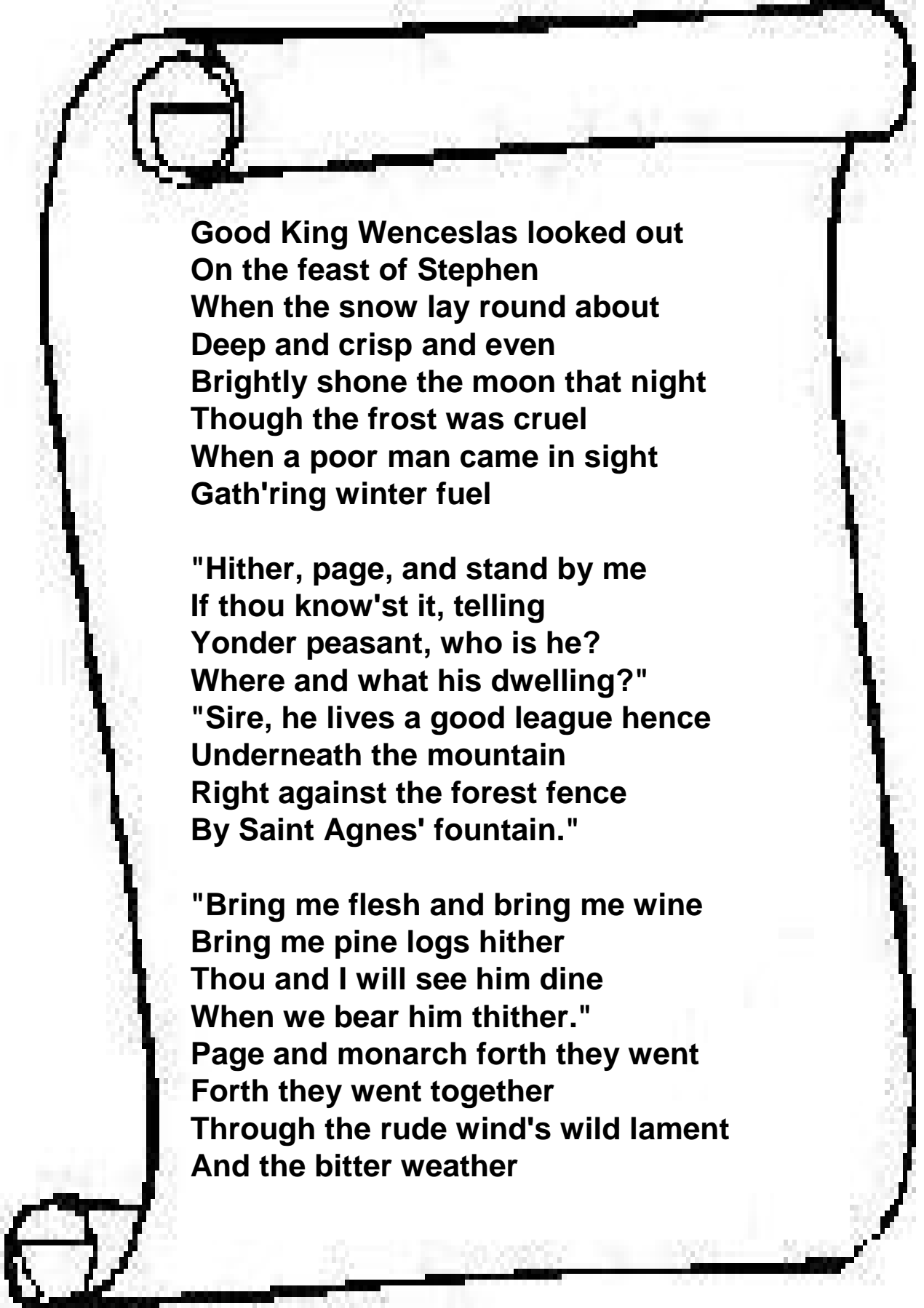
What can we do for the ones who are giving up their Christmas day to serve others?



• Good King Wenceslas is a great example of a person in a position of authority leading by example and giving help and support to the young person as he instructs him in an area of common interest which will bring benefit to others







Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather

# Serving the Servants

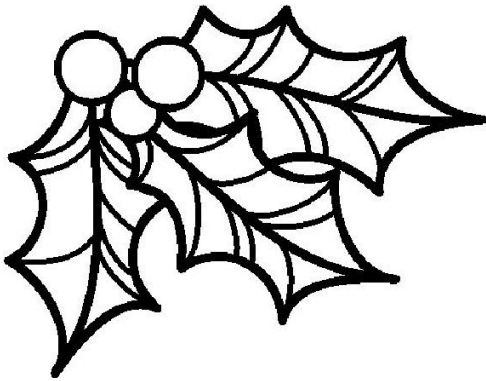
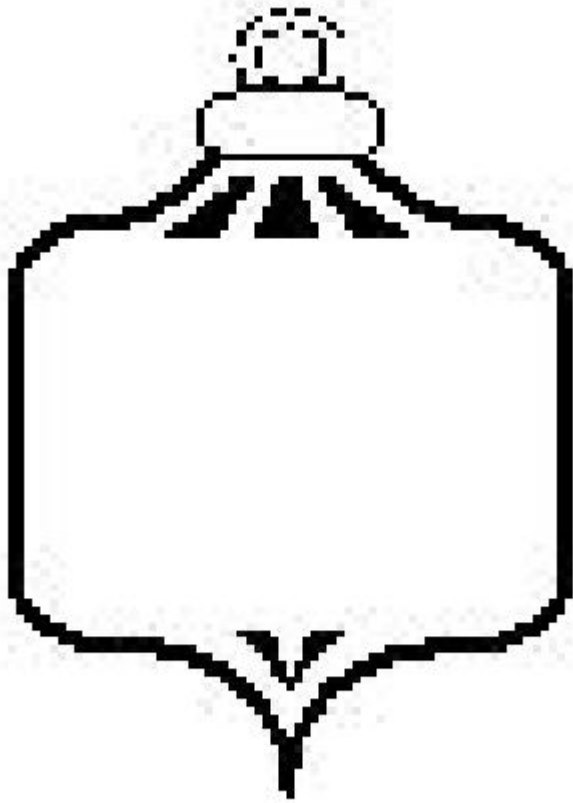
A green rectangular border contains eight rows of handwriting practice lines. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, with a black dot on the left side of each row.

# 11 Pipers piping

And the people piped with  
pipes and rejoiced with  
exceeding joy 1 Kings 1:40



As Christmas Day approaches we continue the happy anticipation with music, rehearsals for performances and putting up Christmas decorations





# 12 Drummers drumming

Praise Him upon the loud  
cymbals Ps 150:5



Our Christmas Plans reach a great crescendo with the performances we have been rehearsing and the joy of celebrating the remembrance of the Birth of Christ on Christmas Day!