

Gather Round The Christmas Tree

It's fun decorating the Christmas tree each year, isn't it? Did you know that many decorations we hang on the tree each year have a story that can help us remember the story of Jesus' birth? Each day of December read the question for the day below. The Bible verses listed will help you. Then open the numbered window on the front of this calendar to find an image and a Bible verse that answer the question. When Christmas Eve arrives, all the windows will be open and you will be ready to gather round your Christmas tree to celebrate Christ, who came to decorate our lives with love and grace and peace forevermore.

1. What animal announces the start of a new day on a farm and signals the beginning of the holiday season for us? Lamentations 3:22-23
2. What mixture of almond paste, sugar and water is often pressed into wooden molds, baked and put on "sugar trees" at Christmas? Psalm 119:103
3. What is called "the Christmas flower" because the flowers in its center are thought to resemble the Christmas star? Luke 12:27
4. What are hung by the chimney with care or put on Christmas trees to remind us of the little blessing of the season? 1 Thessalonians 5:18
5. What Christmas carol reminds us to give of our talents to praise Jesus? Acts 20:35
6. What is something that babies wear that is hung on Christmas trees to recall for us that Jesus was a real human baby? Ephesians 6:15
7. What shape helps us to remember that "Love came down at Christmas"? 1 John 4:21
8. What items tell us Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem to be taxed? Luke 20:25
9. What is green and round and symbolizes new life and God's never-ending love? Isaiah 51:6
10. According to an old European legend, what insects transformed a bare branch into a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with the strings of their webs? Genesis 1:25
11. What animal grazed on the hills outside Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born, and appears on many ornaments? John 10:27
12. What sea creatures are at the heart of the story about a man who saves them from dying on the beach by throwing them back into the water, just as Jesus saves us? Luke 19:10
13. What fruit was first hung on Christmas trees in Germany in the 1880s to symbolize friendship? John 15:5
14. What sweet-smelling tasty treat was brought to the United States by monks who gave them away for the holidays? 2 Corinthians 2:15
15. What fruit is linked to an old story about St. Nicholas, who tossed gold coins into the windows of a home where three very poor sisters lived? 2 Corinthians 9:10
16. What fruit was eaten by Adam and Eve, causing them to fall into sin? Genesis 4:7
17. What candy has red and white stripes to remind us of the blood Christ shed on the cross and the purity of Christ that makes our sins as white as snow? 1 Peter 2:24
18. What flower grows all year and blooms during the darkest time of the year, symbolizing that the beauty of Christ brightens every darkness in our lives? Song of Songs 2:1
19. What bird is often pictured cooing a lullaby in the rafters above the baby Jesus? John 14:27
20. What musical instrument do people ring, jingle and gong to celebrate Christ's birth? Psalm 150:5
21. What heavenly beings commonly appear as tree toppers because they appeared high in the sky the night Jesus was born? Luke 2:9
22. What animal (that can go without water for a long time) reminds us that Jesus offers living water that gives us everlasting life? John 4:14
23. What light in the sky led the Wise Men right to where Jesus was? Matthew 2:10
24. What does the French word *creche* mean? Luke 2:7