

A stylized illustration of Santa Claus's face, showing his nose, beard, and a smiling mouth with an arrow pointing to the right. The background is red with white snowflake patterns.

Countdown to **CHRISTMAS**

FAMILY ADVENT CHAIN

25 Days

The Gift of Time...
Spend a few minutes
each day doing
the family activity

**FAMILY FRIENDLY
ACTIVITIES**

Free

Download a free copy at www.hopeshousewi.com

December 1

Take time today to look at an old photo album, or sit down together to look at past digital photos.

December 2

Random act of kindness: think together on something you can do to pay it forward to do something nice for someone else.

Donate old clothes, make a card to mail out, order a book on Amazon as a gift for someone, bake cookies and drop them off on a neighbors door, pay for someone's lunch, stop and pick up flowers for an elderly neighbor, donate to Toys for Tots or a local non-profit.

December 3

Make a family Christmas playlist or CD, fill it with songs everyone loves... make sure you play it on car rides or when you are getting ready in the morning.

December 4

Eat a meal together and talk about your "rose and thorn"

Rose= the best part of your day

Thorn= the worst part of your day

December 5

Make a family tree – see how far you can go back.

A fun twist is to get out old photos and make a family tree with pictures.

December 6

Make something to decorate an outside tree together...

Birdseed ornaments, string of popcorn, pine cones with peanut butter and bird seed, toilet paper roll with peanut butter and bird seed, hang an apple slice or orange slice, string raisins or cranberries, string cereal on string and tie to make a circle wreath, or freeze fruit and hang it on the tree tomorrow.

December 7

Find an old Christmas book or movie and spend time reading it or watching the movie.

Some classics: Charlie Brown Christmas, Elf, A Christmas Story...

December 8

Recreate an old family photo or funny picture. Find similar clothes or just pose in the same positions, in the same order.

Could be fun to show people the two photos side by side!

December 9

Trip down memory lane...

Take time during a meal or when you are together to talk about some memories you had with the person who died, or something fun you did as a family.

December 10

Video chat or call someone you haven't talked to in awhile and spend some time being present with them. You can do this as a family or individually.

December 11

Look up “Minute to Win it” game, pick one (or more) to try as a family

December 12

Oldest person in the room gets to pick the activity of the day

December 13

Game day! Pick a puzzle, game, video game or card game to do together.

(Making your own charades is a fun idea if you don't have any games at home.)

December 14

Take a drive after dark to look at all the Christmas lights in the area... or do one better and find a local lights display.

December 15

Joke day: Ask Siri, Google, Alexa or look it up- Each person should find one Christmas/Winter joke. Spend time together or text each other your joke...

Q. Where do snowmen keep their money? A. A snow bank J

December 16

Write a letter to the person who died. Share it with family or keep it for yourself. If you want to keep it private, rip it up and throw it away when you are done.

December 17

Bucket List: Make a list or share with each other your bucket list items.
Place you want to go, things you want to see or do before you die.
Dream big, the sky's the limit!

December 18

Second oldest person in the room gets to pick the activity of the day.

December 19

Creative snowman day: You have until 7PM to create a snowman... some ideas: with snow, on paper, out of socks, draw it on your phone or computer, out of mashed potatoes, decorate your bedroom door and make a large snowman, stack blocks or legos...
Fun twist- take pictures and have friends and family vote on the most creative.

December 20

Write on a piece of paper a gift of time you can give someone this Christmas.
Then wrap it up in a box or in an envelope and place it under the tree.
Ideas: Help with homework, You pick movie night, 10 minute foot massage, You pick dinner night, Read 3 books to you at bedtime, frost cookies together, two bike rides together...

December 21

Recharge: To spend quality time with others, you need to and slow down.
Take 10-30 minutes to relax today (yoga, meditation, stretching, Cosmic Kids app, reading, doodling, breathing, take a relaxing bath...)

December 22

Decide as a family what the activity should be.
Talk about your favorite past days you did... maybe repeat a favorite day.

December 23

Round 2 of Christmas movie or book time:
Find an old Christmas book or movie and spend time reading it or watching the movie.
Some classics: Charlie Brown Christmas, Elf, A Christmas Story... or google a new movie this year

December 24

Each person thinks of or look up a funny Christmas activity like "What's Your Favorite Elf Name" or "Christmas Riddles" and shares with each other what you find.

December 25

Merry Christmas!
Remember to tell your loved ones why you like spending time with them