

CROSSWAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



**ELEMENTARY**

Holiday traditions can create some of the most nostalgic, treasured memories for you and your family.

We know it's likely you already have an awesome list of things you do every year—maybe even some things you did as a kid! But we also know that as your kids grow and change, traditions need to grow and change, too.

That's why we've created a list of holiday traditions and organized them by phase. (But don't worry—we've included some suggestions that will work for all ages, noted by an \*.)

Check out these ideas on how to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with your family.



## ELEMENTARY

If there is a “golden age” of building traditions, this is it. In this phase, kids have enough context for Christmas and New Year’s to really ramp up their excitement level as the holidays approach.

Their energy is endless and their faith is BIG! Your major challenge with an elementary-schooler will be to remind them of the true meaning behind all the FUN! But don’t get too caught up in creating serious moments... those happen best when they happen naturally. Feel free to get swept away by the momentum of their infectious joy this holiday season!

### **BOOK IT**

Search your local thrift stores or discount shops and find as many Christmas-themed books (each short enough to be read in one sitting) as you can. Wrap them up and take turns letting your family choose a book to open and read aloud every few nights leading up to Christmas Eve. Bundle up on the sofa with blankets and pillows and read your way through the month together.

### **THE BIG GIVE**

Make serving part of your holiday traditions by choosing a day on the calendar to give big. Maybe it’s December 1, or maybe it’s the first Saturday of the month. Whichever day you choose, mark it on the calendar and prepare by organizing and labeling bins as “KEEP,” “TRASH,” or “GIVE.” Challenge your kid to go through their toys and clothes, giving away as many items as they keep. This will create space for any new things they might receive, as well as teach your kids to think about others during the holiday season.

### **MEASURING UP**

Every New Year’s Eve, make a big production out of measuring your kid’s height. Paint or stain a piece of timber (a 2’ X 4’ is fine) and store it under a bed or in the garage—or even put it on display! Every New Year’s Eve, break out the “measuring stick” and see how much your child has grown since last year.