

CAN'T CANCEL  
CHRISTMAS

# Christmas in a Bag Guide





## Christmas Eve Service

Join us online for a special Christmas Eve Service.  
 Visit Ellerslie Road Baptist Church YouTube for the link to the Service.  
 This service will be made available to stream starting Monday, December 21st.

## Ellerslie in December!

december

NOV

**29**  
SUN week 1 advent begins

**6**  
SUN week 2 advent begins

**10**  
THU junior high christmas banquet

**11**  
FRI senior high christmas banquet

**13**  
SUN week 3 advent begins

**20**  
SUN week 4 advent begins

**21**  
MON christmas eve service available for streaming

**27**  
SUN family christmas service (online only)

## **Merry Christmas from Ellerslie Church!**

Christmas is a season of bright lights, beautiful trees, delicious baking, heart-felt stories, and so many exciting plans. It is a wonderful time to celebrate hope, love, joy, peace, and Jesus' coming to earth as a baby. Although Christmas may look different this year, Christmas is not cancelled. We pray your Christmas in a Bag will help you celebrate Christmas well at home!

Over the next four weeks we will take you on a journey through the meaning of Christmas. Each week has a Christmas treat to enjoy, a story to read and talk about, and an activity to do together. There are a few supplies you will need to have available (see list attached to your bag) but everything else should be included in your bag.

A great way to enjoy Christmas in a Bag is to share your experience with the wider Ellerslie community. Join our Ellerslie Road Baptist Church Community Facebook Group to interact with other individuals as we go through this journey together. If you have any questions throughout the next four weeks, please contact Kelsey at [keichelt@erbc.ca](mailto:keichelt@erbc.ca) or 780-437-5433 (ex: 6223).

**We can't wait to start  
Christmas in a Bag with you!**

## Week 1

starting  
nov 29

# Can't Cancel Christmas...Plans

Sit around your kitchen table while you enjoy the peppermint kiss from your treat bag and follow the story guide below.

### **What part of Christmas are you looking forward to the most?**

*“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’” **Isaiah 46:9,10***

The kitchen table is typically the place many families sit to make plans. No matter how good a plan may be, sometimes plans change or are even cancelled. This may irritate us for a little while and we get over it. Other times it is devastating and totally changes life.

It's interesting, in a year when many of our plans for Christmas have either been cancelled, or significantly changed, to realize that many things and many people tried to cancel Christmas. King Herod (Matthew 2) was a man who tried to cancel God's reason for making Christmas happen after it was over! But God's real enemy, Satan, had tried to cancel God's plans throughout history ... many times. Christmas is a reminder to us that God's plans cannot be cancelled. Nothing can stop him!

### **What Christmas plan might you have to change this year because of COVID-19?**

### **What new plan can you create to help you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas better this year?**

*Father God, we are so glad Christmas is not cancelled! Thank you for keeping your promise to fix the sin problem in our world through Jesus. Help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate this year. Amen.*

## Week 1

# Activity: Merry Christmas Windows

Christmas is not cancelled and neither are God's plans. Help share this good news by leaving a Christmas message on your window!

**Supplies from Bag:** Chalk Markers

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a window that faces your street.
2. Shake the chalk marker upside down until the chalk starts to run. \*If it is taking too long you may need to rest the marker upside down for ten minutes.
3. Using the chalk markers, fill your window with Christmas sayings and pictures.
4. If you would like, share a photo of your window on our Ellerslie Road Baptist Community Facebook Group.

*\*When ready to clean windows, use a damp cloth to wipe off chalk. If stubborn, soak chalk 3-5 minutes before wiping to remove.*

## Week 2

starting  
dec 6

# Can't Cancel Christmas...Lights

Either go for a walk down your street or find a place to view Christmas lights from a window in your house. While you enjoy your hot chocolate from your treat bag, complete the story guide below.

### **What was your favourite light display you saw?**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." **John 1:1-5***

On June 23, 2018, twelve members of a Thai soccer team, along with their coach, entered a cave following practice. Shortly afterwards, heavy rains flooded the cave, blocking their way out. What do you think went through their mind while they sat in darkness for nine days? How do you think they felt when the light shone from the rescue team on the tenth day?

For hundreds of years, darkness settled across the land as Israel waited for God to rescue them. Then, in the form of a baby, God entered the world and brought light to the darkness. As the Light of the World, Jesus also encourages us to be the light to our neighbours.

### **How do you feel knowing Jesus is the Light of the world?**

### **How can you reflect Jesus this Christmas?**

### **Kids: How can you be like Jesus?**

*Jesus, thank you for being the Light of the World! You bring us joy for the present and hope for the future. Help us to be a better light in our family, friend groups, and community. Amen.*

## Week 2

### Activity: Be the Light!

Not only is Jesus the Light of the World but he invites all of us to also be a light in the world through the good things we do. Choose one of the options below and light your world!

#### **Directions:**

Choose one to do:

1. Shovel your neighbours sidewalk
2. Write and mail a Christmas Card (card in bag)
3. Donate to the Food Bank

Share a photo of your “Be the Light” activity on the Ellerslie Road Baptist Facebook Group!

## Week 3

starting  
dec 13

# Can't Cancel Christmas...Trees

Sit around your Christmas tree as you enjoy the candy cane from your treat bag and complete the story guide below.

### What is your favourite ornament on the tree? Why?

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6,7*

Did you know that, other than human beings, the living organism that is referred to most in the Bible is **trees**? It is the most used word picture in the Bible.

Although that is not how the tradition of the Christmas tree came to us, maybe having a Christmas tree is a good reminder that...

- God wants us to be planted and deeply rooted in him (Psalm 1);
- God wants us to continually depend on... draw our life from him inside of us (John 15);
- God's desire is that we have a “flourishing life... in Him (Psalm 1; Psalm 92:12)

**How much do you try to make yourself feel good on the inside by looking good on the outside, just like a Christmas tree?**

**How might God want you to put your roots deeper into Him and trust Him more fully?**

**Kids: How can you know God more?**

*Jesus, thank you for being the Light of the World! You bring us joy for the present and hope for the future. Help us to be a better light in our family, friend groups, and community. Amen.*



## Week 3

# Activity: Praise God Ornament

No matter what life brings our way, God has shown us throughout the Bible that He loves us and will never leave us. Create an ornament for your Christmas tree as a way to praise God for what he has done and is doing.

**Supplies from Bag:** Ornament, Glitter, Red Paper, Green Paper

**Items you still need:** Permanent Markers, Pencil or pen, and scissors

### Directions:

1. Cut the red and green paper into strips.
2. On each strip, write or draw a picture of something you want to thank God for.
3. Fold up the strips and place inside the ornament.
4. Add glitter to the inside of your ornament, close, and shake well.
5. Using a permanent Marker, write on the ornament "Praise God 2020"
6. Hang your ornament on the tree.
7. If you would like, share a photo of your tree on our Ellerslie Road Baptist Community Facebook Group.

## Week 4

starting  
dec 20

# Can't Cancel...going home for Christmas

Find the coziest part of your house and hang out there as you enjoy the Lindt Lindor chocolate from your treat bag and complete the reading and questions below.

### **What is one of your favourite Christmas memories or traditions?**

*“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” **Luke 2:4-7***

Many of us look forward to going home for Christmas and seeing friends, family, and the festivities that it brings. Others of us find ourselves longing for home at Christmas and find it one of the most difficult times of the year.

In an incredible act of love and sacrifice, Jesus left his heavenly home and entered our world as a helpless babe with a new and not so perfect family. He was willing to offer that kind of exchange in order to bring us to his home and experience a happily ever after.

### **What does “being home” mean to you?**

### **What makes you excited about a heavenly home?**

### **Kids: What do you love about your home?**

*Jesus, thank you for being willing to leave your heavenly home and enter our world as a baby born for sacrifice. Thank you for not just providing homes for us to live in today, but preparing a heavenly home for us to one day enjoy. Help us to never forget the true meaning of Christmas. Amen.*

## Week 4

# Activity: Gingerbread Nativity

Jesus came to live among us in our homes so that one day we can live with him in his home. Let's celebrate him coming to earth by making a Gingerbread Nativity!

**Supplies from Bag:** Gingerbread Nativity Kit (We added things to the store bought kit so do not be surprised to see that your box has been pre-opened!)

**Items you still need:** Baking sheet

### Directions:

1. **Toast the shredded coconut:** Spread coconut flakes on a baking sheet in a thin layer and bake in the oven at 325°F for 5-10 minutes. Stir the coconut to help ensure even colour.
2. **Prepare Icing:** Knead/massage icing pouch for 1 minute to a soft consistency. Cut the icing bag at the corner with a ¼" opening from one end of pouch. Be sure not to cut the opening too large.
3. **Stable:** Place the cardboard pad down for a base. Arrange the house pieces but leave one of the long sides and one of the roof pieces aside. Attached the three side pieces together with icing and place on the base. Let the sides set for a but before attaching the roof. With the spare house pieces, break it into smaller pieces and use to form the manger. Place a thin layer of icing on the base and cover with the toasted coconut to represent straw. Add multicoloured candy as desired.
4. **People:** Place 3 marshmallows/round gummies on to a toothpick to form the body leaving part of the toothpick exposed on the bottom. Use the fruit-by-the-foot for head pieces, clothing, and blankets. Candy Canes can be used for the shepherd staff and angel wings. Add people to the nativity by pushing the bottom of the toothpick into the base.
5. **Animals:** This is the easy part! Using the animal crackers provided, place your animals in the stable. You may have to use icing to keep them standing.



Leave your Gingerbread Nativity out to enjoy during Christmas. If you would like, share a photo of your nativity on our Ellerslie Road Baptist Community Facebook Group.

## **Bonus Christmas Fun!**

### **Candlelight Service**

Included in your bag is a candle to light while you watch the Christmas Eve Service.

### **Christmas Baking**

Use the sugar cookie mix to bake some treats to enjoy during the Christmas break.

### **Online videos**

For more activities, watch our Fun Friday and Hope for Today videos on our Ellerslie Road Baptist Church YouTube channel.