



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



From Christmas to Epiphany:

Family resources for journeying on with the star.

This will be available as an interactive calendar on the Church of England website

- 1. Star followers:** rather than adding the Magi (kings/wise men) to your crib set in Advent, start them on a journey round the house on Christmas Day, until they arrive at the crib on Epiphany. Find different places for them each day.
- 2. Star search:** each day, someone in the family places a star in a different place around the house. Younger children can search for it and then move the Magi to that place.
- 3. Star countdown:** stick 14 stars on a chart dated from 24th December to 6th January. Take one down each day as a reminder to do something to bless a family member/friend.
- 4. Star journey:** make your own Epiphany Posada by creating some wise men figures and a star to follow. Invite families to welcome the wise men each night between Christmas and 6th January. See churchofenglandchristenings.org/posada for more.
- 5. Star name:** on Christmas Eve, look out and choose one star to follow. Step outside each clear night that follows and try to spot that star. Remember those who followed the stars to find Jesus.
- 6. Star tour:** make a string of 14 stars. Label each one with a different word: homeless, fighting, hungry, lonely, frightened, hurting, laughing, crying, hiding, running, working, singing, loving, searching. Choose one each day and pray that God's star light would be close to those in that situation.

7. Star lead: give each person a star to hold and talk together about what your family would like to do next year. Ask God to bless your family as you move into 2019 and to guide anyone who feels a bit lost, especially at this time of the year.

8. Star gift: make a small gift box and decorate it with stars. Place a simple gift inside or a promise of something such as tidying up or walking the dog. Offer it as a gift to someone on one of the 12 days of Christmas.

9. Star guide: sailors use the North Star to help them find their way at night. Make a paper boat to float in water. Ask God to protect everyone who is travelling for work, for their safety, for their joy as they travel, and also when they arrive.

10. Star light: as a family, light a candle in a darkened room. Look at the shape of the light from the flame. See how many star shapes you can see. Then invite each person to whisper their hopes for Christmas as a prayer.

11. Star point: place a large star in an open space. As you turn from the North to the East to the South and to the West, ask God to protect people who are travelling to be with friends and family for Christmas. Thank Him for people who you love and who you might see at Christmas.

12. Star turn: as the Christmas season ends with Epiphany, choose one star to keep shining in your home all year round as a reminder that the light of Jesus Christ is with you every day.

Visit www.churchofengland.org/christmas to find out more

#FollowTheStar



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