

December 1

Decorate and place your bag in a prominent place as a reminder of your Reverse Advent Calendar.

December 2

READ: 1 John 3:17-18, If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion – how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

***ADD A Box of your Favorite Cereal to your Advent Bag.**

December 3

READ: Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

***ADD 2 Cans of Meat (chicken/tuna) to your Advent Bag.**

December 4

WATCH: YouTube video “The Face of Hunger.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lw2FKSnIpc>

After watching, discuss as a family who the hungry are in San Diego.



December 4 continued ...

Did you notice it could be anyone? Your postman, the student you sit next to in class, the mom at the park, the elderly. For so many people Christmas is a time of eating; Christmas cookies, Christmas pies, Christmas dinner. Yet for 467,054 people here in San Diego, Christmas is yet another day that they will feel hungry. Thank-you for being willing to share your abundance with those who are hungry this Christmas season.

December 5

READ: Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

***ADD Rice (brown or wild) to your Advent Bag.**

December 6

READ: Acts 20:35 ... Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

LEARN: According to San Diego Food Bank, single mothers are a large part of the population served and they come with specific concerns. Among them is the high cost of diapers. The Food Bank is moving toward offering a “diaper bank” that receives diaper donations and also purchases them in bulk and provides them free-of-charge to needy mothers.

***ADD Infant Formula or Diapers to your Advent Bag.**

December 7

READ: Matthew 5:42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

***ADD Beans (black, pinto, or kidney) to your Advent Bag.**

December 8

READ: Deuteronomy 15:7-11 If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need... Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

ASK: When it comes to the poor that “live in your town”, do you think you are more tightfisted or openhanded?

ACTIVITY: Make a fist, then make an open hand. Which is more able to receive a gift from God or from someone else?

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you continue to have open hands.

December 9

READ: Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

***ADD Toothbrush and Toothpaste to your Advent Bag.**

December 10

READ: Acts 20:35 ...Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

WATCH: YouTube video Kids Respond to Hunger.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwluOVJAn-0&feature=youtu.be>

What idea would you add to the wall?

***ADD Granola Bars to your Advent Bag.**

December 11

READ: Matthew 5:42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

***ADD Raisins to your Advent Bag.**

December 12

LEARN: Did you know that Jesus was Poor?

The New Testament teaches that Jesus was poor and that he came from a family with limited wealth. At the time of his birth, Jesus was born in a cave. This may or may not indicate how wealthy Joseph and Mary were. However, when Jesus was presented in the temple, his parents sacrificed two turtle doves which, according to the Book of Leviticus (Leviticus 12:2-8), was the sacrifice offered by poor people. When a scribe came to Jesus and declared his intentions to follow him, Jesus said to that man: “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but I, the Son of Man, have no home of my own, not even a place to lay my head” (Matthew 8:20).

December 12 continued ...

Jesus did not have a home to call his own. In 2 Corinthians 8:9 Paul wrote that Jesus, “though he was very rich,” yet for our sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make us rich. However, Paul is not speaking about finances but of spiritual matters. Jesus became poor by leaving his riches in heaven and by humbling himself and by becoming a servant of all.

Isn't it interesting that we often celebrate Jesus' coming to earth in very lavish, expensive ways; gifts under the tree, decorations, big dinners, fancy parties, Christmas outfits, Christmas pajamas, etc. Yet, Jesus gave up His riches in heaven to come here. Perhaps, if we desire our Christmas to be about Jesus, we would better celebrate his life by reflecting his life through acts of sacrifice and generosity. That is what he did the very first Christmas. If our desire at Christmas is to celebrate the life of Jesus, then perhaps we would better celebrate his life by reflecting his life.

CONSIDER: Besides participating in the Reverse Advent Bag which reflects the heart of Jesus, what is another way you can reflect Jesus more this Christmas?

December 13

READ: Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.

***ADD Powdered Milk to your Advent Bag.**

December 14

READ: Proverbs 22:2 Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

***ADD Pasta to your Advent Bag.**

December 15

READ: Psalm 82:3-4 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

***ADD Nuts and/or Seeds to your Advent Bag.**

December 16

READ: Jeremiah 22:16 He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. “Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the LORD.

***ADD A Bar of Soap or Deodorant to your Advent Bag.**

December 17

A Story of Hunger:

Interviewer: Jay, I think it's very brave that you're willing to talk to us. Tell us what it's like when you had to go to school hungry? How did it affect you?

Jay: I wasn't able to focus on my schoolwork and that kind of affected my report card grades. It was very frustrating, because all I could think of was food when I went to school because I wasn't able to eat breakfast at home.

Interviewer: Did you tell your teachers that you were hungry?

Jay: Yes, in 6th grade, I told one of my teachers, Kathy. She did something about it.

Interviewer: What did she do?

Jay: When I told her, I didn't ask her to do it, but she did it out of kindness. Everyone morning she would bring in snacks and chips for the whole class, not just me.

Interviewer: That part of it being for the whole class, not just for you, how important was that to you?

Jay: It was important to me, because it felt like she didn't just care about me, she cared about the entire class because she didn't know how many students were going hungry.

December 17 continued ...

Interviewer: Jay, you said the hardest times were when you would have something to eat, but your mom wouldn't.

Jay: Yeah, she would sacrifice for me and my little brother. And sometimes I would try to push her, or try to make something to eat for her, so she could still have something to eat.

Interviewer: How did that affect you when you were at school?

Jay: It kind of affected me, because also, food is on my mind, but my mom is on my mind too, because she's not really eating as much as I am. So it kind of bothered me too.

ASK: You might have a "Jay" at your school. What is something you could do to help them?

PRAY: Would you take time right now to pray for children, like Jay, that are hungry here in San Diego?

December 18

READ: Luke 14:13-14 ...when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

***ADD Peanut Butter (prefer no sugar) to your Advent Bag.**

December 19

READ: Isaiah 58:7 Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.

***ADD A Can of Vegetables to your Advent Bag.**

December 20

READ: Galatians 2:10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

***ADD A Can of Fruit to your Advent Bag.**

December 21

READ: Proverbs 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

***ADD A Can of Soup to your Advent Bag.**

December 22

Christmas is a time to celebrate Christ's birth. Would you like to give Jesus a gift on His birthday? Did you know that when you feed others you are feeding Christ?

READ: Matthew 25:34-40 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "The King will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters

December 22 continued ...

no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.'

Jesus says that when we give to those in need, we are giving to Him. Your Reverse Advent Bag is a great gift to give Jesus.

December 23

LEARN: Did you know 5-10% of homeless people have dogs and/or cats. Why do the homeless have pets when they can barely take care of themselves? Pets provide a deep comfort. Pets are non-judgmental. They are loyal. They provide warmth and security. Some homeless would sacrifice their own food for their pets. Then there is the protection factor. Living on the streets is dangerous especially for women and the disabled. For many on the streets these animals provide them with security from other homeless or from those that discriminate against the homeless with beatings or from others who may steal their modest possessions. Homeless people are as tenacious about finding food for their dogs as they are for themselves. Likewise, they probably know ways to stay warm, and find good spots to snuggle. When you love another being, you find a way to take care of them. You just do.

***ADD Pet Food to your Advent Bag.**

December 24

THINK ON: Earlier we saw that Jesus came to earth and became poor. Read and reflect on the following verses that describe all that Jesus gave up in order to save us.

December 24 continued . . .

READ: Philippians 2:5-11 (*Memory verse challenge for 2018*)

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAY: Say a prayer of Thanksgiving for the Greatest Gift ever given, JESUS!

***ADD YOUR Favorite Food to your Advent Bag.**

(No glass containers or homemade items please.)

Bring your Advent Bag to one of our Christmas Eve Services on December 24th at Marshall Middle School (9:00, 11:00, or 1:00) and we will deliver all the bags to the San Diego Food Bank.

Merry Christmas!

