## LET'S CELEBRATE WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Answers on page 12

### WORDS

**CANDLES CELEBRATION CHAMPAGNE CHANUKAH CHRISTMAS** COUNTDOWN **CROPS DECEMBER** DREIDEL **EVERGREEN FAITH** FAMILY F00DS **FRIENDS GIFTS** HOLIDAY KINARA KWANZAA LATKES LIGHTS **MENORAH** MIRACLE MISTLETOE NEW YEARS EVE OIL **PRINCIPLES** REFLECTION RELIGION **RESOLUTION SHOPPING SNOW TEMPLE TRADITIONS** TREE WORSHIP

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# **Spiritual Christmas traditions to embrace**



The holiday season is a special and spiritual time of year. It can sometimes be easy to get lost in the more commercial aspects of the holiday season, and there's certainly nothing wrong with shopping for gifts that will show your loved ones how much you love and appreciate them.

For those who want to focus back on the spiritual

side of this special time of year, the following suggestions can help in those

### Share the story of Christmas

The Gospels of Mark and Luke offer differing accounts of the birth of Jesus Christ. Both indicate that Jesus was born to Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. Mary became pregnant through immaculate conception, as she was a virgin when visited by an angel who informed her that she was to carry God's son. At the time of Christ's birth, all Jewish people had to be counted by Roman soldiers for tax purposes. That required people to return to their places of birth. As a result, Mary and Joseph set out on an arduous journey to Bethlehem. Upon arriving in Bethlehem, inns had no vacancies, but Mary and Joseph were given shelter in a stable where Jesus was ultimately born.

### Attend Mass

Churches traditionally hold religious services on Christmas Eve and Christmas. These services are joyful expressions of faith, music and community spirit. But Christmas mass is

not the only time to head to church. During Advent, the four-week period preceding Christmas, Catholics prepare and repent. Advent calendars help count down the days until Christmas

### Set out a nativity scene

Make a nativity scene the primary focus of Christmas decorations and encourage children to play with the figures and act out the Christmas story.

### Focus on gifts for

Families can focus their energies on faithful endeavors and the spirit of giving that's synonymous with the season. Do good deeds for others, embrace peace and love and share special time with others.

### Sing carols

Spread the holiday spirit through song. Get together with a group of friends or neighbors and go door-to-door, or hold a caroling performance at a centralized location. Select religious hymns, but also include some secular favorites.

The holiday season is a great time of year to reconnect with one's faith and spirituality.



