



For a more in-depth look at this idea, use Lisa Appelo's book, *Countdown to Christmas: Unwrap the Christmas Story With Your Family in 15 Days*. Each day offers a scripture, a devotional reading, a prayer, and the instructions to add one piece from a standard nativity set. Appelo also includes a suggested Christmas carol that coincides with the day's scripture.

Your Nativity Advent Devotional

Start this season with a new tradition, breathing new life into the meaning of Christmas. Begin your Nativity Advent devotional by considering these questions with your family as you unpack your nativity set.

What does the word *nativity* mean?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, nativity means "the process or circumstances of being born" and is the most relevant word for the birth of Jesus.

What were the names of the gifts brought by the Wise Men? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What is the significance of each gift?

Gold symbolized kingship and royalty. Frankincense was a holy oil and represented godliness. Myrrh was an anointing oil and was used for embalming. They were a reminder that Jesus was a gift from God, our King.*

Your next step is to set up the stable and read the verse for **Day 1**. Leave the rest of your nativity pieces in the box or stored away until the day you unveil the next piece.

Then follow the devotional guide for the additional 14 pieces of your nativity set. By the time December 25th arrives you will have shared the meaning of Christmas together as a family.

**Why the Nativity?* (2006)
by David Jeremiah

