



## Holidays as Homeschool Curriculum

Vicki Bentley

Thank you for visiting [www.EverydayHomemaking.com](http://www.EverydayHomemaking.com).

Here are a few links to resources mentioned in Vicki Bentley's workshop:

### Need ideas?

Websites for *Family Fun* and other family magazines highlight budget craft ideas, holiday recipes, and holiday how-to videos.

<https://www.parents.com/familyfun-magazine/>

Scavenger hunts for **Columbus Day**

[https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/hunt/hunt048.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/hunt/hunt048.shtml)

Scavenger hunt for **homeschool day at the state fair**

[http://everydayhomemaking.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/state\\_fair\\_scavenger\\_hunt\\_forEH.pdf](http://everydayhomemaking.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/state_fair_scavenger_hunt_forEH.pdf)

## Not-so-ordinary holidays

<https://funfamilycrafts.com/special-days-and-holidays/>

Silvana Clark's book, ***Every Day a Holiday***, includes food, craft, and fun ideas for the usual—and not so usual!—holidays throughout the year.

<https://www.amazon.com/Every-Day-Holiday-Celebrations-Whole/dp/0800758773>

Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson share ideas for **building family traditions** and togetherness in their *Let's Make a Memory* series

<http://store.gaither.com/MEMORYPK.item>

*Celebrations of Faith* – Instead of drawing upon calendar holidays, Randy and Lisa Wilson encourage you to **celebrate the milestones in your own family**. This creative resource shows parents how to implement simple, memorable ceremonies in their family for passing on the faith.

In *Homespun Memories for the Heart*, authors Karen Ehman, Kelly Hovermale, and Trish Smith share more than two hundred ideas for unforgettable family moments. These resources remind us to “**celebrate ‘just because’ events** like rainy days, road trips, bedtime, and book reading—because even ordinary moments are reason enough to celebrate.” (Ehman)

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/homespun-memories-for-the-heart/235211>

*The Teaching Home* magazine's e-newsletter archives include suggestions for **many different holidays**.

<http://teachinghome.com/back-issues-index/#holid>

***A Day of Delight: Making Sunday the Best Day of the Week***

<http://www.doorposts.com/details.aspx?id=11>

***A Night of Reformation: Celebrating the Reformation with Family and Friends***. The Forsters have a long enjoyed our tradition of celebrating Reformation Night (October 31), an evening of games, music, and learning about Luther, Calvin, and other reformers (see a short [video of their celebrations](#)).

<http://www.doorposts.com/details.aspx?id=46>

Find educational and inspirational ideas for celebrating Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles, and more in ***A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays*** by Robin Sampson and Linda Pierce.

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/0970181604/ref=rdr\\_ext\\_tmb](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0970181604/ref=rdr_ext_tmb)

**Holiday Devotionals/Bible Studies** (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter) —Bible lessons and a craft for kids! Holidays always presented the same dilemma for Katherine and Cris Loop. How could they truly use them as a time to focus on the Lord instead of getting lost in all the worldly trappings? Their holiday Bible studies are designed to provide you with a fun and meaningful way to take advantage of the holidays to draw closer to the Lord. Each of the Bible studies comes as a set that includes an easy yet meaningful craft for children to complete as they listen. Little or no preparation needed for kits.

<https://www.christianperspective.net/devotionals>

**Thanksgiving** ideas

<https://www.countryliving.com/entertaining/g1201/thanksgiving-kids-table-ideas/>

Amanda Bennett's **holidays unit studies** <https://unitstudy.com/search?type=product&q=holiday>

**Celebrate Thanksgiving** by Charlene Notgrass is a unit study exploring the history of our American Thanksgiving holiday from it's Pilgrim and Native American beginnings through the 18th and 19th centuries and into modern times.

<https://history.notgrass.com/celebrate-thanksgiving/>

The Learning Parent has several other Thanksgiving resources, including a CD: *Uncle Rick reads The Story of the Pilgrims for Children*.

Check out their "Holidays" section:

[https://characterconcepts.com/store/index.php?id\\_category=103&controller=category](https://characterconcepts.com/store/index.php?id_category=103&controller=category)

**Christmas / Advent**

**Countdown to Christmas** by Amy Puetz. Stories, recipes, games, and activities for the whole family.

[http://amypuetz.com/store/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=5&products\\_id=57](http://amypuetz.com/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=5&products_id=57)

Creative **advent calendar** ideas

<https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/activities-for-the-advent-calendar>

**Advent & Christmas in Family Worship** For each day of the four weeks leading up to Christmas, this booklet gives you Scripture readings, a short devotional reading, and suggested carols and hymns, weaving together the Old Testament prophecies of Christ the King and their New Testament fulfillments.

<http://www.doorposts.com/search.aspx?search=advent>

Check out the "Holidays" section of **The Learning Parent** for nativity kits, nativity cookie cutter sets, craft kits, story books, and audios.

[https://characterconcepts.com/store/index.php?id\\_product=24&controller=product](https://characterconcepts.com/store/index.php?id_product=24&controller=product)

**Holiday Devotionals/Bible Studies** (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter) —Bible lessons and a craft for kids! Holidays always presented the same dilemma for Kate Hannon and Cris Loop. Little or no preparation needed for kits. (See section above for more details.)

<https://www.christianperspective.net/devotionals>

**Christ in the Christmas Tree** Do you wonder how to keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration, even while the tree seems to be the center of attention? In this eBook, learn how to use the tree to celebrate the Savior! This will give you all the details of how one family's Advent tradition utilizes the Christmas tree.

<http://store.titus2homemaker.com/christ-in-the-christmas-tree/>

## Organizing Your Units

Are you interested in **documenting your holiday studies and adventures**? Find activities, templates, worksheets, and other helps by searching online for *holiday notebooking*, *lapbooking*, or *unit studies*.

<https://homeschoolhelperonline.com/notebooking/holiday-notebooking-pages/>

Rachel Ramey's "Choosing Topics for a Unit Study" includes seven tips to plan a unit study.

<https://titus2homemaker.com/2011/09/choosing-activities-for-a-unit/>

## Holiday-of-the-Month Club

Want to give your kids a gift that says, "You're special and I want you to celebrate life!" all throughout the year? Create your own **holiday-of-the-month club**. Using an idea-packed resource such as Silvana Clark's *Every Day a Holiday* or one of the others listed, select a holiday (or two or three) from each month and make holiday activity bags. To help them anticipate the learning fun, mark the dates on a calendar with stars—but don't give away the surprise. (Site below shows how Vicki put hers together.)

<http://everydayhomemaking.com/holiday-of-the-month-club/>

### For more information, try searching:

Holiday music

Holiday games

Holiday recipes

Holiday crafts

Holiday books

Holiday read-alouds

Homeschool + holidays

Holiday unit study (ies)

History of holidays

(For specific holidays, substitute the holiday name in the search, such as:

*Advent music* or *History of St. Patrick's Day*.)

Or go to sellers you already appreciate and type in Holidays (for example, [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) has many, many resources listed under Holidays!).

**"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

- Psalm 118:24

**See our gallery of fun family holiday moments!** [*envira-gallery id="1325"*]

*Photos by Vicki Bentley, Rebekah McBride, and Rachel Ramey*