

# THE ADVENT TREE

*by Jan Brown*



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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# The Advent Tree

A pre-Christmas children's program

by Jan Brown

**CAST**

**READERS**

*For twenty-four readings (Divide up parts according to the size of the group you're working with)*

**HELPERS**

*Nursery children to display twenty-four ornaments*

**MARY**

**JOSEPH**

**ANGELS**

*Two to four speaking parts*

**SHEPHERDS**

*Two to four speaking parts*

**WISE MEN**

*Three speaking parts*

**NARRATOR**

*The pastor or a teacher*

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

This program may be used by three- to twelve-year-olds. The older children act as readers while the smallest children take the ornaments from the calendar and hang them on a tree with a little help from a teacher or assistant. The middle grade children are in costume and present the Christmas story after the tree is trimmed. The readers can play parts in the Christmas story too, if necessary.

The ornaments are removed one by one from the calendar, and then they are hung on a Christmas tree. Use a small artificial tree placed to one side of the calendar, or hang the ornaments on the church Christmas tree. It's helpful to have a teacher or assistant stand by the calendar and another by the tree to help the little ones get the right ornament.

Since the small ornaments may be hard to see from the back of the sanctuary, you may wish to furnish large versions of each ornament as a visual aid. You may either make a large version of the item out of cardboard or tagboard, or use real items—a real drum or a stuffed and mounted fish, for example. One Helper can hold up the large item while the other can take the small ornament from the Advent calendar and hang it on the tree.

### **PROPS**

Large Advent calendar hung with twenty-four ornaments—directions provided (see *Ornament Instructions* book).

Small Christmas tree to decorate with the ornaments from calendar.

Electric candles, small flashlights, or paper cutouts of candles— one for each member of the nursery class.

### **COSTUMES FOR CHRISTMAS STORY CHARACTERS**

Simple and inexpensive costumes may be made from lengths of material. Make a hole for the neckline and tie the garment around the waist with rope, twine, or a scarf.

Rough-looking material like burlap tied with plain rope or twine works well for the shepherds and Joseph. Use a dish towel or square of plain cloth tied with a strip of the same

material for a head covering. Shepherds' crooks may be cut out of heavy cardboard.

Make Mary's costume from softer fabric with a belt of the same material or a scarf tied around the waist. For Mary's head, hem a square of matching fabric and sew a hair comb to the center front, or use a plain scarf and fasten it with hairpins.

Use old drapes or fancy bathrobes for the wise men, with gold or silver rope ties or scarves for belts. Kingly head coverings may be made from lightweight cardboard covered with foil. Use small boxes or fancy bottles (empty perfume bottles are ideal) for their gifts.

The angels can wear acolyte or choir robes, or lengths of white sheet tied with white cord or material. Silver or gold Christmas tree garland makes great halos.

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INTRODUCTION

1  
2  
3 **NARRATOR:** There's so much to do to get ready for  
4 **Christmas:** cards to address and mail, presents to buy  
5 and wrap, cookies to bake and eat, a tree to pick out and  
6 decorate. The church has been getting ready for  
7 **Christmas, too** — during the time we call **Advent**. One  
8 way we get ready during **Advent** is to use the **Advent**  
9 **calendar**. Each day, from **December** first until **December**  
10 **twenty-fourth**, a new symbol is revealed and explained.  
11 Today we're going to use these symbols to decorate our  
12 **Christmas tree** and when we're finished, we'll really be  
13 ready for **Christmas** and the **Christmas story**. (*READER 1*  
14 *comes to the microphone and HELPER gets the owl from the*  
15 *calendar, holds it up, and then hangs it on the tree as the*  
16 *NARRATOR speaks. Do the same with each ornament.*)

OWL

17  
18  
19 **READER 1:** We put the owl on the **Christmas tree** because  
20 owls are supposed to be wise. They look wise because  
21 they have such big eyes. The owl goes on the tree first to  
22 remind us to keep our eyes open so we'll be wise, too,  
23 and see the real meaning of **Christmas**. (*HELPER has hung*  
24 *the owl on the tree.*)

BELL

25  
26  
27 **READER 2:** Bells ring to get our attention. The bell-ringers  
28 outside the stores at **Christmas** time remind you to pay  
29 attention to people who don't have as much as you have.  
30 The jingle bells on the sleigh get your attention because  
31 they sound like fun. The church bells ring to make us  
32 pay attention to **Christmas**, so we hang a bell on the tree  
33 to remind us that we are celebrating **Jesus' birthday**.  
34 (*HELPER has hung the bell on the tree.*)

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## FISH

**READER 3:** We hang a fish on the Christmas tree to remind us of the first Christians. They were persecuted for following Jesus, and they had to be careful who they trusted. They needed a secret sign, so they drew the outline of a fish on the ground. Only other Christians knew what it meant. When we put this symbol on the tree, we remember those brave Christians, and we remember that Jesus told us to be fishers of men and use his love to catch others. (*HELPER has hung the fish on the tree.*)

## CANDLE

**READER 4:** We hang a candle on the tree because candles give light. Light was the first thing God created. And Jesus says to us, “You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men” (Mt. 5:14, 16). A candle on the tree reminds us to let our lights shine like candles — candles for his birthday cake. (*HELPER has hung the candle on the tree. The NURSERY CLASS comes to the front and sings, holding electric candles, small flashlights or paper candles*)

**SONG:** “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don’t let Satan blow it out! I’m gonna let it shine.

Don’t let Satan blow it out! I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.



**DIAMOND**

1  
2 **READER 8:** A diamond is a precious stone. We're hanging the  
3 diamond shape on the Christmas tree because it helps us  
4 remember the precious gift God gave the world on the  
5 first Christmas — his Son. The diamond is also a sign of  
6 joy — the kind of joy we sing about in the song "Joy to  
7 the World"! Please sing with us. (*HELPER has hung the*  
8 *diamond on the tree.*)

9 **SONG:** "Joy to the World"

10 Joy to the world, the Lord is come.  
11 Let earth receive her King.  
12 Let every heart prepare him room,  
13 And heaven and nature sing,  
14 And heaven and nature sing,  
15 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**CLOVER**

16  
17  
18 **READER 9:** The four-leaf clover is a good luck symbol. We're  
19 hanging it on our Christmas tree today to remind us how  
20 lucky we are. God loves us so much that he sent his Son  
21 to us on Christmas. We are also lucky to have our  
22 church, our Sunday school, our families, and our friends.  
23 (*HELPER has hung the clover on the tree.*)

**DRUM**

24  
25  
26 **READER 10:** There's a song about a little boy who wanted to  
27 give baby Jesus a present. He had no money to buy a  
28 gift, but he could play the drum, so he played his drum  
29 for baby Jesus. He played his best, and the Baby smiled  
30 at him. We put a drum on the Christmas tree to remind  
31 us of the little drummer boy and to help us remember to  
32 give our best to Jesus — not just at Christmas time, but  
33 every day. (*HELPER has hung the drum on the tree.*)

**HEART**

1  
2 **READER 11:** The heart is a symbol of love. The heart is also  
3 an organ that beats inside each of us. Jesus is love, and  
4 he is in the heart of everyone who loves him. As we put  
5 the heart on the Christmas tree, remember that just as  
6 we can't live without our hearts, we can't have eternal  
7 life without Jesus in our hearts. (*HELPER has hung the*  
8 *heart on the tree.*)

**FLOWER**

10  
11 **READER 12:** There is a Christmas carol called "Lo, How a  
12 Rose is Growing." Hanging a flower on the Christmas  
13 tree reminds us that Jesus is the rose—the perfect  
14 flower we sing about. (*HELPER has hung the flower on the*  
15 *tree. Teachers or audience sing.*)

16 **SONG:** "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing"  
17 Lo, how a rose is growing,  
18 A bloom of finest grace;  
19 The prophets had foretold it:  
20 A branch of Jesse's race  
21 Would bear one perfect flower  
22 Here in the cold of winter  
23 And darkest midnight hour.  
24  
25 The rose of which I'm singing,  
26 Isaiah had foretold.  
27 He came to us through Mary,  
28 Who sheltered him from cold.  
29 Through God's eternal will  
30 This child to us was given  
31 At midnight, calm and still.

**MUSHROOM**

32  
33  
34 **READER 13:** Have you ever seen mushrooms growing in your  
35 yard? It seems like they pop up magically overnight.



1 **SONG:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
 2 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the  
 3 plain,  
 4 And the mountains in reply echoing the joyous strain.  
 5 Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
 6

### 7 GINGERBREAD BOY

8 **READER 17:** The gingerbread boy on the tree reminds us of  
 9 how we celebrate Christmas with food. We make Christmas  
 10 cakes, Christmas breads, Christmas pies, and Christmas  
 11 cookies. Different families and different nationalities  
 12 make different kinds, but they are all made for the same  
 13 reason — to celebrate a birthday. Every time you eat a  
 14 special Christmas treat, remember whose birthday you  
 15 are celebrating. (*HELPER has hung the gingerbread boy on*  
 16 *the tree.*)  
 17

### 18 BIRD

19 **READER 18:** In the Old Testament, God used a dove to guide  
 20 Noah to land after the flood. In the New Testament, a  
 21 dove appeared when Jesus was baptized. We place a bird  
 22 on the Christmas tree to remind us what Jesus said —  
 23 that God knows if even one tiny little sparrow falls. God  
 24 cares for the birds, and God cares for us, too. He cares  
 25 so much that he sent Jesus on Christmas day. (*HELPER*  
 26 *has hung the bird on the tree.*)  
 27

### 28 BALL

29 **READER 19:** We hang a ball on the tree to remind us that  
 30 God is like a circle. A circle has no beginning and no  
 31 end.  
 32 God began before the beginning, and God never ends.  
 33 Remember the endless circle of God’s love when you see  
 34 the Christmas balls on the tree. (*HELPER has hung the*  
 35 *ball on the tree.*)



1 of Easter, we can have a new life, too. We put an Easter  
 2 egg on the Christmas tree to remind us that Jesus was  
 3 born, that he died, and that he rose on Easter to give us  
 4 a new life with him. (*HELPER has hung the Easter egg on*  
 5 *the tree.*)

6

7

### BLUE STOCKING

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**READER 23:** When we see a stocking at Christmas time, we  
 think about all the presents that can be stuffed into it.  
 We hang this blue stocking to remind us that Jesus was  
 our present from God — the greatest present ever given.  
 It's blue like the sky and the heavens to remind us that  
 even though Jesus was born on earth, he came from  
 heaven and from God. (*HELPER has hung the blue stocking*  
*on the tree.*)

17

### RED STOCKING

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**READER 24:** We hang this red stocking on the tree to remind  
 us that when Jesus lived here on earth, he was human.  
 He had all the problems and temptations everyone else  
 had. He was a kid, too. He went to school. He had  
 brothers and sisters and parents. When he grew up, he  
 taught everyone around him how to live by his example.  
 This Christmas, when you hang up your stocking,  
 remember that the best gift you will ever get is Jesus —  
 and the best gift you can give is to follow his example  
 and live with love for others. (*HELPER has hung the red*  
*stocking on the tree. Sunday school children or just nursery*  
*class goes to the front and sings.*)

30

**SONG:** "Away in a Manger"

31

32

33

34

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

35

**NARRATOR:** Now that we have seen and learned about all

1       the symbols on the Advent calendar, we are really ready  
2       for Christmas. It's time to tell the Christmas story.  
3       (*TEACHERS or HELPERS move calendar and tree, if*  
4       *necessary, and place a manger at Center Front. The*  
5       *SHEPHERDS go to one side of the front where they begin*  
6       *watching over their flocks. MARY, JOSEPH, the ANGELS,*  
7       *and the WISE MEN go down side aisles to the back with a*  
8       *TEACHER or HELPER who will tell them when to enter. The*  
9       *Christmas story narration is taken from Luke 2:1-17.) In those*  
10       days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all  
11       the world should be enrolled. And all went to be  
12       enrolled, each to his own city. Joseph went up from  
13       Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of  
14       Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of  
15       David, to be enrolled with Mary, who was with child.  
16       (*MARY and JOSEPH come up center aisle.*)

17   **MARY:** No room in the inn, there was no place to stay.

18   **JOSEPH:** We found a warm stable and camped in the hay.  
19       (*MARY and JOSEPH sit beside manger.*)

20   **NARRATOR:** And when they were there, the time came for  
21       her to be delivered. She gave birth to her first-born son  
22       and wrapped him in swaddling cloths. She laid him in a  
23       manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.  
24       (*SHEPHERDS step forward. The ANGELS come up the center*  
25       *aisle.*) And in that region there were shepherds out in the  
26       field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an  
27       angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the  
28       Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

29   **FIRST ANGEL:** I smiled at the shepherds and said, "Have no  
30       fear."

31   **SECOND ANGEL:** I said, "I have good news — just wait till  
32       you hear."

33   **THIRD ANGEL:** God's Son has been born! In a manger he  
34       lays.

35   **FOURTH ANGEL:** In a Bethlehem stable you'll find him

- 1           today.
- 2   **NARRATOR:** When the angels went away from them into  
3           heaven, the shepherds said to one another...
- 4   **FIRST SHEPHERD:** God's Son is in Bethlehem? Let's go and  
5           see.
- 6   **SECOND SHEPHERD:** God's Son in a manger? How could  
7           that be?
- 8   **THIRD SHEPHERD:** God's Son in a stable on a cold winter  
9           night?
- 10   **FOURTH SHEPHERD:** We heard it from angels, and they're  
11          always right!
- 12   **NARRATOR:** And they went with haste, and found Mary and  
13          Joseph and the babe lying in the manger. The shepherds  
14          glorified and praised God for all they had heard and  
15          seen, as it had been told them. *(The WISE MEN begin their*  
16          *journey down the aisle to Bethlehem.)*
- 17          When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a star appeared  
18          in the East. The three wise men followed the star until it  
19          came to rest over the place where the child was. When  
20          they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went  
21          into the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary.  
22          They fell down and worshiped him and they gave him  
23          gifts — (Mt. 2:1a, 9b-11)
- 24   **FIRST WISE MAN:** Dear Jesus, please take this gold that I  
25          bring. *(Gives gift.)*
- 26   **SECOND WISE MAN:** I bring you frankincense — fit for a  
27          king. *(Gives gift.)*
- 28   **THIRD WISE MAN:** Myrrh is my present — I wish I had  
29          more. *(Gives gift.)*
- 30   **ALL THREE WISE MEN:** *(Together)* This is the Christ child  
31          we love and adore.
- 32   **NARRATOR:** Please sing with us as we welcome the baby  
33          Jesus this Christmas. *(Audience joins in singing "Silent*  
34          *Night" — all verses.)*
- 35   **SONG:** "Silent Night"

1           **Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright**  
2           **Round yon virgin mother and child.**  
3           **Holy infant so tender and mild,**  
4           **Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**  
5

6           **Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,**  
7           **Glories stream from heaven afar,**  
8           **heavenly host sing alleluia;**  
9           **Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**  
10

11           **Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light**  
12           **Radiant beams from thy holy face,**  
13           **with the dawn of redeeming grace,**  
14           **Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**  
15

16           *(Children march out during last verse of song — MARY and*  
17           *JOSEPH first, then rest of COSTUMED CHARACTERS,*  
18           *NURSERY CHILDREN and READERS.)*  
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# THE ADVENT TREE

*Ornament Instruction Book*

*by Jan T. Brown*



**CHRISTIAN**PUBLISHERS

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## ADVENT CALENDAR

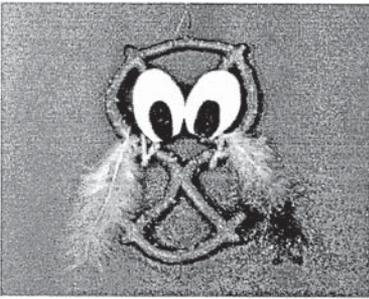
The Advent calendar can be any size and made from any available material, but it should be large enough to be seen by the entire audience (see design below). A piece of plain, inexpensive red or green material 45" x 60" will give you an eight-inch square for each day — a good-sized space for each ornament to hang without crowding — and plenty of room at the top for a pocket to hold a dowel. The hardware store may not stock dowels longer than four feet, but a building center will have closet rods that can be cut to any length. They are very inexpensive, but they are fatter, so make a larger pocket at the top. You can draw the calendar squares on the material with markers or use ½" iron-on hem tape to make the lines. A 45" x 60" calendar takes about four packages of iron-on hem tape. Use a marker to number the days with large numerals, 1-24. Print ADVENT at the top and CHRISTMAS at the end, after the 24th space. To hang the ornaments on the calendar, sew a button at the center top of each square. Tie cord, braided yarn, or plain twine or string to the ends of the dowel to hang the calendar. Place the calendar center front. Hang from a banner stand or suspend between two hat racks. If you don't have anywhere to hang it, get a couple of tall volunteers to hold it during the program.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ADVENT</p>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	CHRISTMAS			

## ORNAMENTS

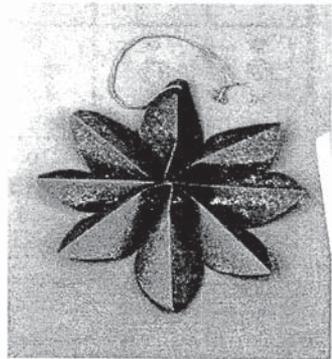
There are twenty-four specific ornaments for the Advent calendar. You can canvass the congregation and ask to borrow ornaments, you can ask the teachers to make them, or you can make them with the children. Making all or some of the ornaments can be part of the fun for the children. Take planned breaks during rehearsal time and make some or all of the ornaments for the calendar. Set up stations around your Sunday school area with materials and helpers to make each ornament. The children can make extras to give to their parents or to congregation members after the program. All of the ornaments may be made from felt, paper, or even baked and decorated sugar or ginger cookies. There are many craft books that can give you directions for making suitable shapes, you may let the children come up with their own ideas, or you may use the ideas included here.

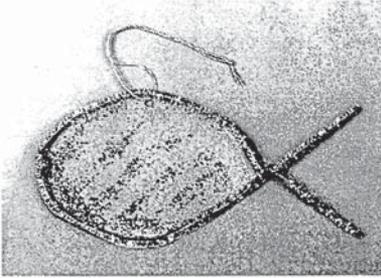
Most of the ornaments are very simple. Some are a little more difficult. If the children don't make all the ornaments, the teachers can easily make or borrow the remaining ones needed for the program.



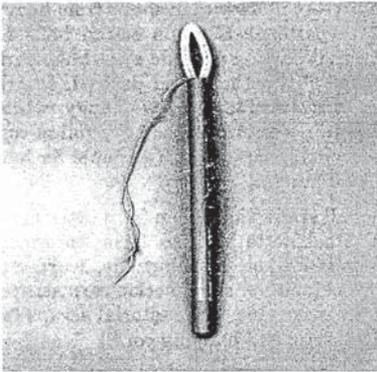
**1. Owl** — Use the pretzels that are shaped like knots — two per owl (see pattern). With the round ends on the top and bottom, fasten the pretzels together with small bits of yellow yarn or thread. Glue large eyes to the head and one or two small feathers to each side of the body. Hang with gold thread. (Materials — pretzels, yellow thread or yarn, big craft eyes, small feathers, hanging cord, scissors, glue.)

**2. Flower** — Flowers may be made from any kind of foldable paper. Try half sheets of red construction paper to make flowers that look like poinsettias. Fold the paper in half, in half again, and in half again — it will be folded in eighths. Unfold and refold like an accordion, making very sharp folds. Take the folded paper and double it over and put a staple in the center. Start at one end and cut one end into a petal shape, leaving the petals attached in the center (see pattern). Cut other end to match. Open out and use small pieces of tape to attach the halves to each other. Punch a hole in one petal and thread with gold or silver crochet thread to hang. (Materials — paper, regular stapler, scissors, tape, hole punch, hanging cord.)





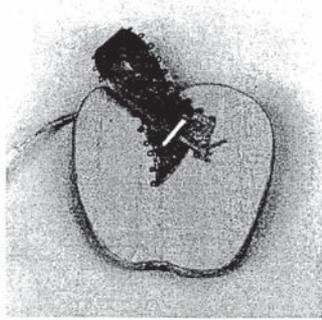
**3. Fish** — Bend pipe cleaners into fish shapes. Glue to construction paper if desired. Attach ribbon or thread hanger. (Materials — pipe cleaners, paper, white glue, scissors, hanging cord.)



**4. Candle** — Make simple candle shapes from rolled construction paper with a bent pipe cleaner for the flame and hole punched for a hanging cord. Decorate if desired. (Materials — paper, tape, glue, pipe cleaners, hole punch, hanging cord.)

For something more challenging, make lanterns. Fill soup-size tin cans with water and freeze solid. Use a sharp nail and hammer to punch holes into can in any desired pattern and holes near the rim for hanging and for fastening trim. Discard the ice and dry the can. Paint the can red or green with spray paint. When dry, use a pipe cleaner or a ribbon to hang the lantern on the tree. Put a votive candle inside for use at home on the Christmas table. Decorate with plastic poinsettia or holly leaves or bells or other Christmas-type decorations, if desired. (Materials — clean soup cans, water and a freezer, sharp nails, hammer, paper towels, drop cloths or newspapers, spray paint, decorations, pipe cleaners or ribbons for hanging, votive candles.)

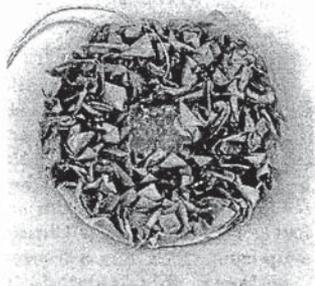
**5. Apple** — If someone in your church does woodwork, ask him or her to cut apple shapes from wood. Sand them and paint them red. When dry, glue or staple on green ribbon for stem and staple a hanger to the back. (Materials — cut out wood shapes, sandpaper, red paint, drop cloths or newspapers, green ribbon, staple gun or hot glue gun, scissors.) If you can't get wooden shapes, cut apple shapes from heavy paper or from red plastic lids from margarine or peanut butter containers. (Materials — heavy red paper or red plastic, scissors, stapler, green ribbon for hanging.)

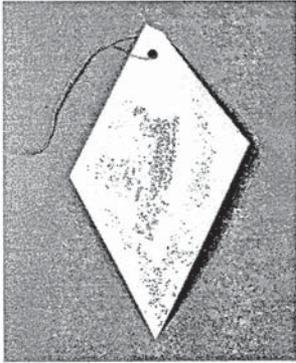


**6. Snowman** — Cut snowman shape from heavy white paper (see pattern). Glue on cotton balls or rolled cotton or quilt batting and add eyes, hat, scarf, buttons, and pipe cleaner arms as desired. Punch hole for cord hanger. (Materials — heavy white paper, scissors, white glue, cotton balls or roll of cotton, eyes, pipe cleaners, scraps of felt or paper for hat, scarf, buttons, and hanging cord.)

Or make small stuffed snowmen from little socks or lengths of Stockinette tied to form snowman shape. Sew or glue on hat, face, buttons, scarf, etc. (Materials — Stockinette or small socks, yarn scraps, stuffing material, eyes, glue, and material scraps for hat and scarf, scissors, and hanging cord.)

**7. Holly** — Cut wreath shape from heavy cardboard. Tear and crumple small pieces of green tissue paper and glue to the wreath shape. For the berries, glue on a few small red balls, red tissue paper balls, or a dusting of red glitter. Punch hole for hanger. (Materials — cardboard, green tissue paper, scissors, white glue, hole punch, hanging cord, red balls or red tissue paper or red glitter.)





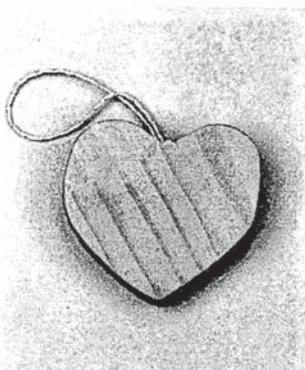
**8. Diamond** — Cut a diamond shape from heavy white paper or cardboard and cover with aluminum foil or glue on silvery glitter. Punch hole for hanger. (Materials — heavy white paper, scissors, glue, silver glitter, foil, hole punch, hanging cord.)

**9. Clover** — Use fat green pipe cleaners to form the shape of a four-leaf clover. Tie on a cord hanger. (Materials — fat green pipe cleaners, hanging cord.) Or cut clover shape from green felt and make a hole for cord. Glue on glitter if desired. (Materials — green felt, scissors, glue, glitter, hanging cord.)



**10. Drum** — Collect empty spools of thread. Decorate with rick-rack, paint, glitter, gold or silver cord, Christmas wrapping ribbon, or sequins. Hang with cord or thread through the spool. (Materials — spools, hanging cord, scissors, glue, assorted decorations like rick-rack, ribbon, cord, sequins.) If spools are difficult to find, cut cardboard rolls from paper towels or toilet paper into drum — size pieces and cover open ends with cloth secured with fancy cord or rick-rack. (Materials — cardboard rolls from paper towels or toilet paper, cloth, cord or rick-rack, glue, scissors, hanging cord.)

**11. Heart** — Sand and paint wooden heart shapes red and hang with stapled-on cord or ribbon. (Materials — wooden heart shapes, sandpaper, red paint, staple gun or hot glue gun, hanging ribbon or cord.) If you can't get wood shapes, cut hearts from heavy paper or red plastic lids from margarine or peanut butter containers. (Materials — heavy red paper or plastic, scissors, hole punch, hanging cord.)



**12. Bell** — String small "jingle bells" on red or green ribbon or yarn, or on heavy gold or silver cord. (Materials — Jingle bells, yarn or cord, scissors.) Or decorate styrofoam bell shapes with glued-on glitter or sequins. (Materials — styrofoam bell shapes, glue, glitter, sequins, hanging cord.)

**13. Mushroom** — Cut mushroom shapes (see pattern) from two different colors of felt. Leave plain or decorate with sequins or glitter. (Materials — felt, scissors, glue, glitter or sequins, hanging cord.) Or sew mushroom shapes and stuff with batting and decorate with French knots. (Materials — material, needle and thread, stuffing, hanging cord.)





**14. Butterfly** — Cut pastel shades of tissue paper into 4" x 8" rectangles. Gather two or more pieces of different colors together in the center like a bow tie and fasten with black pipe cleaners for the body and the antennae. Glue on some glitter if desired. (Materials — pastel tissue paper, black pipe cleaners, scissors, glue, glitter, hanging cord.)

**15. Piggy Bank** — Cut two pig shapes and two ears from pink felt (see pattern). Sew pig together with white yarn on a big needle with big, even stitches. Stuff with batting or cut-up pantyhose. Sew or glue on ears. Draw or embroider features, if desired. Wrap a pink pipe cleaner tightly around a pencil and glue or staple on for tail. (Materials — pink felt, large needle and baby-weight yarn, stuffing, curled pipe cleaner, marker or embroidery floss, glue or stapler, hanging cord.) Or use heavy pink paper. Add a curly tail made from a paper strip or pipe cleaner rolled around a pencil. Glue on ears and draw on features as desired. (Materials — heavy pink paper, glue, stapler, hole punch, curled paper strip or pipe cleaner for tail, marker, hanging cord.)

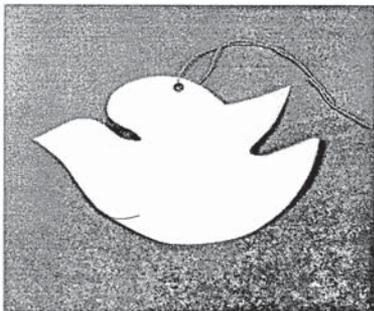
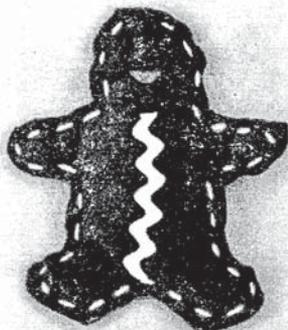


**16. Candy Cane** — Use regular wrapped candy canes.

**17. Gingerbread Boy** — Bake cookies or buy ready-made cookies. Decorate with frosting or glue on raisin eyes and candy buttons if you aren't going to eat him. (Materials — cookies, frosting, glue, raisins, candies, hanging cord.) Or you could cut gingerbread boy shapes from heavy brown paper and decorate as desired. (Materials — heavy brown paper and markers or crayons, beads, buttons, rick-rack, etc., hanging cord.)

*Gingerbread Boy Cookies*

Cream together 3T. soft shortening,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup molasses. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cold water. Sift together  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour, 1 tsp. soda,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. each of allspice, ginger, cloves, and cinnamon. Add to creamed mixture and mix thoroughly. Chill dough well. Roll out to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick and cut out shapes. Make a generous hole for a hanging cord — use a drinking straw or the end of a small funnel. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Cool slightly on baking sheet, then remove to cooling rack. When cool, frost and decorate as desired. For frosting, sift 1 cup powdered sugar and add  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. vanilla or other flavoring and about 1T. of water or milk — a little at a time to make the frosting the desired consistency for spreading.



**18. Bird** — Cut bird shape from heavy white paper (see pattern) and hang with cord. (Materials — heavy white paper, scissors, hole punch, hanging cord.)

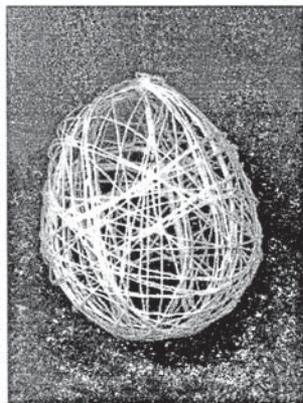
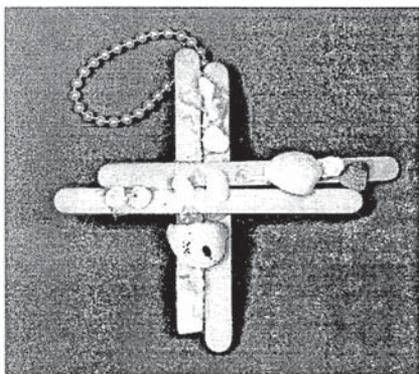
**19. Ball** — Use styrofoam balls or regular plain Christmas tree balls in red, green, silver, or gold. Glue on ribbons, sequins, glitter, rick-rack, pictures, whatever you like. (Materials — Christmas tree balls or styrofoam balls, glue or hot glue gun, ribbons, glitter, sequins, pictures as desired, hanging cord.)





**20. Star** — Use styrofoam star shapes or cut stars from heavy paper. Decorate as desired with glitter, or cover with aluminum foil or gold wrapping paper. Make hole for thread hanger. (Materials — star shapes from styrofoam or heavy paper, scissors, glue, glitter, paints or crayons, foil, gold wrapping paper, hole punch, hanging cord.)

**21. Cross** — Glue two craft sticks together to make the cross. Glue on small shells, wrap with yarn, or leave plain. Twigs glued together make a more rustic cross. (Materials — twigs or craft sticks, glue, shells, yarn, hanging cord.)



**22. Easter Egg** — Blow up small balloons — larger than eggs, but not much more than 4" long. Wet pastel crochet thread, baby-weight yarn, or narrow ribbon with water, saturate it with liquid starch, and wrap it gently around the balloon — or wrap dry yarn or thread around the balloon and spray with spray starch. Less yarn is better, and the thinner the yarn or thread, the stiffer the egg will be. Hang balloons from coat hangers to dry. When completely dry (overnight at least), pop and remove the balloons. Glue on glitter if desired and hang with gold or silver thread. (Materials — small balloons, scissors, pastel crochet thread or baby-weight yarn or narrow ribbon, liquid starch or spray starch, coat hangers, glue, glitter, hanging cord.)



**23 and 24. Red and Blue Stockings** — Cut two small stocking shapes from red felt and two from blue felt (see pattern), or use other heavy material and cut with pinking shears to prevent unraveling. Sew each stocking together with white baby-weight yarn and large needle. Use large, even stitches and leave enough yarn at each end to tie and hang the stockings. Sew or glue some batting or cotton to the top for a fur cuff, if desired. (Materials — red and blue felt or other heavy material, scissors or pinking shears, large needle, white baby-weight yarn, batting or cotton.)



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