



25

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY!

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**COUNTDOWN  
TO  
CHRISTMAS**



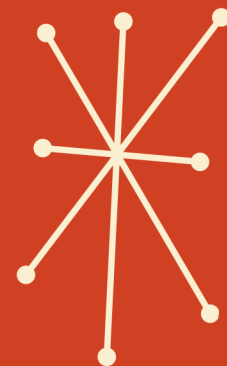


# CUT OUT SUGAR COOKIES

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## INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ STICKS BUTTER
- 1 C GRANULATED SUGAR
- 1 EGG
- 1 EGG YOLK
- 2 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
- 3 C ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
- 1 ½ TSP BAKING POWDER
- ½ TSP FINE SALT



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. PREHEAT THE OVEN TO 325 DEGREES. PREPARE BAKING SHEETS WITH PARCHMENT PAPER.
2. IN A LARGE BOWL, BEAT THE BUTTER AND SUGAR UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY USING A HAND MIXER.
3. ADD IN THE EGG, EGG YOLK, AND VANILLA. BEAT UNTIL WELL COMBINED.
4. IN A SEPARATE MEDIUM BOWL, WHISK TOGETHER THE FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, AND SALT.
5. ADD HALF OF THE FLOUR MIXTURE TO THE BUTTER MIXTURE AND GENTLY MIX ON LOW SPEED. ONCE THE FLOUR IS ABOUT ABSORBED, ADD THE REMAINDER OF THE FLOUR MIXTURE AND MIX UNTIL JUST COMBINED, SCRAPING THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE BOWL TO ENSURE AN EVEN MIX.
6. TO ROLL OUT THE DOUGH, START WITH ABOUT ¼ OF THE DOUGH AND ROLL OUT ON A LIGHTLY FLOURED SURFACE. MAKE SURE ROLLING PIN IS LIGHTLY COATED WITH FLOUR.
7. ROLL TO ¼ INCH THICKNESS. CUT USING YOUR DESIRED COOKIE CUTTERS. USE A SPATULA TO LIFT THE COOKIES OFF THE SURFACE AND PLACE THEM ON THE PREPARED TRAY. IF YOU ARE DECORATING WITH SPRINKLES, ADD THEM.
8. BAKE FOR 11-13 MINUTES. SINCE ALL OVENS VARY, I SUGGEST STARTING YOUR TIMER WITH 10 MINUTES AND SEE HOW THEY LOOK. THESE COOKIES ARE DONE WHEN THEY ARE BARELY GOLDEN BROWN ON THE EDGES.
9. ALLOW TO COOL ON THE PAN FOR 5 MINUTES AND TRANSFER TO A BAKING RACK TO FINISH COOLING. DECORATE AS DESIRED.





# CROCKPOT HOT CHOCOLATE

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## INGREDIENTS

- 1½ CUPS CHOCOLATE CHIPS
- ¼ CUPS COCOA POWDER
- ¼ CUPS POWDERED SUGAR
- 14 OUNCES SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK
- 2 CUPS HEAVY CREAM
- 6 CUPS WHOLE MILK
- 1 TABLESPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
- 2 CUPS MINI MARSHMALLOWS

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. ADD THE CHOCOLATE CHIPS, COCOA POWDER, POWDERED SUGAR, SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK, HEAVY CREAM, MILK, AND VANILLA TO A LARGE CROCKPOT AND WHISK TOGETHER.
2. COOK THE MIXTURE ON LOW FOR 2 HOURS, STIRRING OCCASIONALLY.
3. AFTER THE 2 HOURS IS UP, STIR IN THE MARSHMALLOWS AND LET SIT FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES AND STIR THEM AGAIN, THEY SHOULD COMPLETELY DISSOLVE.
4. HOT CHOCOLATE CAN BE KEPT ON WARM ALL DAY. STORE ANY LEFTOVERS IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR UP TO 5 DAYS.

### NOTE

1. IT'S IMPORTANT TO WHISK THOROUGHLY TO MAKE SURE THE THICK SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK GET MIXED IN AND THE DRY INGREDIENTS ARE MOSTLY BLENDED.
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# 1



Place the name of a family member or friend who doesn't know Jesus inside an ornament, place the ornament on your tree, and pray for them daily.

# 2



**Read**  
Luke 2:1-5

Take a census in your family. Pray for each family member individually.

# 3



Bake and decorate cookies to deliver to a neighbor or friend who doesn't go to church. Invite them to hear you sing on December 10.

See our recipe card!

# 4



**Read**  
Luke 2:6-7

Create a birth announcement for baby Jesus.

# 5



Read your favorite Christmas book as a family.

See our bookmark for suggestions!

# 6



**Read**  
Luke 2:8-12

Act out what you read.

# 7



Donate canned goods to a local food pantry.

# 8



**Read**  
Luke 2:13-15

Celebrate baby Jesus coming to earth with a praise party.

# 9



Watch the movie "The Star" with your family. Enjoy popcorn, hot chocolate, and wearing your Christmas pajamas.

See our recipe card!

# 10



Serve at a community event, church event, or at a soup kitchen.

# 11



**Read**  
Luke 2:16-20

Act out what you read.

# 12



Write a family mission statement to help keep your focus on Jesus during the holiday season and for the new year.

# 13



**Read**  
Luke 2:21-24

Discuss what you read in the passage.

# 14



Invite someone to attend Christmas Eve service with you and your family.

# 15



**Read**  
Luke 2:25-26

Why was Simeon waiting?

# 16



Make dinner together as a family and talk about your favorite part of the Christmas story.

# 17



Visit a "live" nativity scene.

# 18



**Read**  
Luke 2:27-32

Why did Joseph and Mary bring baby Jesus to the temple?

# 19



Make a Christmas ornament with your family and hang on the tree.

# 20



**Read**  
Luke 2:33-35

Discuss what you read in the passage.

# 21



Make Christmas cards to send to a shut-in, someone who is sick, or someone in need.

# 22



Breakfast for dinner! Prepare pancakes in the shape of the letters J, O, and Y. Don't worry, they won't be perfect! Ask your child what makes them happy. Remind your child that earthly things might make them happy for a little while, but the joy we receive from Jesus will always last.

# 23



**Read**  
Luke 2:36-38

Good news is meant to be shared. Anna was sharing it with everyone who was waiting for the Messiah. How can you share the good news with someone?

# 24



Make and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus.

# 25



**Read**  
Luke 2:39-40

As a family, name reasons why you are thankful for Jesus and the peace that God offers.

# Classic Christmas Stories



**The Night Before Christmas**  
Clement C. Moore

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**  
Dr. Seuss

**The Gift of the Magi**  
O. Henry



**The Polar Express**  
Chris Van Allsburg

**A Charlie Brown Christmas**  
Charles M. Schultz

**The Nutcracker**  
E.T.A. Hoffmann



**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**  
Thea Feldman

**A Christmas Carol**  
Charles Dickens



**Frosty the Snowman**  
Steve Nelson, Jack Rollins