

# I'll give God me this Christmas, It's the Best Gift I Can Give!

## Advent Activity: Fill the Good Deeds Box

Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas (and everyday). The Good Deeds box is a way to help you prepare and to be the "best gift you can be"! The Good Deeds box is like a manger. It is empty to start, and you want to line it with lots of straw to make a soft bed for Jesus when he's born Christmas Eve.

Each time you do something kind, you can add a piece of straw to the manger. Every time that you pray, read the Bible or do a good deed, you are giving life to Jesus and making the world a better, happier place. Find a time of day to think about what you have done today and see how many pieces of straw you can add. If you do this every day, the manger will be filled and ready for Jesus at Christmas and you will be too!

Christmas Eve before you go to bed, you can put Jesus in the manger.

## Materials:

You need a *manger* and *straw* at minimum. The manger could simply be a small box and the straw, strips of paper.

I found all my materials at a dollar store. The baby I swaddled in a small piece of flannel I had. I found a wood box that we painted. The cardboard box holds the raffia during Advent, and stores everything after Christmas until Advent next year.

## What's a Good Deed? "A random act of kindness"

A good deed is something done out of kindness, generosity or friendliness. Helping shovel the neighbour's driveway, taking cookies to a sick friend, helping someone with homework, or taking grandma's dog for a walk: these are all good deeds. Whether it's something for your parents, your brother or sister, a grandparent, a neighbour, a friend or even a stranger there are lots of ways you can do good deeds.

Some ideas of good deeds:

- Say "thank you to the person who fixes your lunch.



- Tell your mom what you like best about her.
- Give someone a compliment today.
- Be nice to someone who is hard to get along with.
- Stick up for someone who is being made fun of or being criticized.
- Be patient with everyone today.
- Tell someone the story of when Jesus was born.
- Give everyone in your family a hug!
- Say a prayer for the poor, the hungry and the homeless.
- Find someone at school who is usually alone and talk with him or her.
- Keep a smile on your face for three whole minutes!
- Tell a joke to someone who seems sad.
- Pray for someone who is sick.
- Put a dollar of your own money in the offering at church.
- Do a household chore without being asked.

What ideas do you have?

