

A background image of various Christmas cookies, including stars, trees, and gingerbread men, decorated with icing and sprinkles.

## Sharing the **Joy** of Christmas!

- You can find **Christmas Joy!**  
*by Lindsay Roberts*

- God **always** causes us to triumph  
*by Evelyn Roberts*

- Sharing **Jesus** this Christmas  
*by Richard Roberts*

**Plus:** Holiday desserts, homemade gift idea and more!





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## Make This Christmas Count!

**H**ello, everyone! My family and staff and I send you the warmest greetings of the Season! I can hardly believe it's already Christmas time—time sure does fly by when you're living for the Lord! As my girls and I dive into decorating, shopping and cooking this year, my heart is filled with joy and I want to share it with you. With this special Christmas issue of Make Your Day Count online magazine, we've tried to bring you stories and articles which can help you find peace in the middle of your holiday hustle and bustle.

### Do Something!


I encourage you to make your gifts count for the Kingdom of God this holiday season. Can you cook? If so, consider preparing a meal or some

holiday treats for a neighbor (ideas on page 10). Can you sew? Make a homemade gift to spread the warmth of the season (easy pillow craft idea on page 16). Perhaps you can drop off some groceries at your community food bank. As you do what you can to bless others, I believe our Heavenly Father can bring you a special blessing, as Luke 6:38 says.

Let's remember the words of the prophet Isaiah—If we keep our minds fixed on God, He can keep us in perfect peace, no matter what the circumstances (Isaiah 26:3). I pray that you would have the most blessed, peaceful Christmas ever as you make it count for the Kingdom of God!

*Lindsay*





In the  
frantic  
holiday  
frenzy,  
you  
can find...

# Christmas Joy!

by Lindsay Roberts

When the angel proclaimed the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds on a night 2,000 years ago, the angel said, *I bring you good tidings of great joy* (Luke 2:10). The birth of the Savior was—and is—cause for celebration!

What are you feeling as Christmas draws near?

Good tidings?

Great joy?

Celebration?

Or is the very thought of the upcoming holidays filling you with dread?

## Holiday Frenzy

For many people, the holidays are the busiest and most stressful time of the year. There are gifts to be purchased and wrapped...Christmas

cards to mail...school or church activities to attend. There is shopping to be done—too often with the worry of charging credit cards to the max before all the gifts are purchased. *Who has the time for good tidings* (positive and joyful news)?

Maybe you wish there was no shopping to do, no Christmas music to hear, no Christmas festivities at all. In fact, you'd like it if you could close your eyes, go to sleep, and the next morning Christmas would be over. *Who needs the celebration anyway?*

Perhaps the holidays are just too much. It's said that there are more suicides from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day—the holiday season—than any other period of the year. *Sadly, those people were unable to find the great joy of the season.*

I believe the devil would like nothing better than to take the joy out of the most joyful season of the year. His greatest desire is to drive us further and further away from God and His Son and His Word. Stress, anxiety, unhappiness, and sorrow are weapons he can try to use against us.

## Good News for All

In the midst of our frantic holiday preparations, we need to remember that the familiar passage from the second chapter of Luke doesn't stop with the angel's proclamation of great joy. The Scripture goes on to say that *unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord* (v.11).

The angel brought the news of a Savior...a Redeemer...the Prince of Peace...not just for the shepherds who were abiding in the fields but also for generations to come, *including us!*

## The Greatest Gift

Christmas is much more than food, carols, and gifts. And it's much more than just a story about the birth of a baby. That baby grew up to be Jesus, the One who came to earth to break the ties Satan had on mankind by giving His life as a ransom for our sins. He was sent by God to take on our sickness and disease so we might be healed. He came so we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

The purpose of the birth of Jesus Christ was to repair, heal, restore, and renew whatever is broken in our lives...and *that's* worth celebrating!

This Christmas, instead of turning away from the music, the festivities, and the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, try flipping the switch on the devil. Say, "Satan, you will not steal my Christmas joy from me!" Then begin repeating the declaration of joy from the Word of God until you're full of the joy of the Lord.

Celebrate Christmas with joy because in Jesus, God gave you the greatest gift you will ever receive. Jesus loves you.

He wants you to be well in every area of your life. He gave His life so that you could be saved and have eternal life with Him.

It only takes a moment to ask Jesus into your heart, into your family, into any situation you may be facing. As you embrace the miracle God sent to you on that first Christmas more than 2,000 years ago—His Son, Jesus Christ—I believe you'll find that this is the time for great rejoicing...because the Lord, our Savior, has come! ✨

The purpose of the birth of Jesus Christ was to **repair, heal, restore, and renew** whatever is broken in our lives.

## The Every Dayness of Life

Although Oral and Evelyn Roberts are in Heaven, the words of this message still ring true today. My precious mother-in-law, Evelyn Roberts, was truly a selfless woman. She was a *giver* in the truest sense of the word. If one of her children or grandchildren needed anything, she would always try to take care of it. She made her gifts and her love available to those around her. And in this article, she shares with us how Christmastime is a wonderful time to show our love and care for others. She explains that it is the giving of ourselves that causes the hand of God to move on our behalf. She always believed that whether it is a smile, a hug, a meal, or a financial gift, sowing out of our own

love is what opens the door to the blessings of God and causes us to triumph over the circumstances of life. This Christmas, I pray these words get into your heart in a fresh, new way, and inspire you to give of yourself and believe for the hand of God to open for you and give back to you in the way you need it most!

—Lindsay



## God ALWAYS causes us to Triumph

A classic word by Evelyn Roberts

*Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

2 Corinthians 2:14

The word in this verse that really stuck out in my mind was “always.” As I meditated on that word, I realized that we are always supposed to win in Christ. Not just once or once in a while, but ALWAYS! And according to that verse, after we triumph, we’re to share that knowledge with the world because there are people who feel as though they have little to be thankful for.

Some may have lost a loved one and they’re feeling alone. Some may have lost a job and they’re having a rough time financially.

Even in the midst of a famine, God is still a good God. And He tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

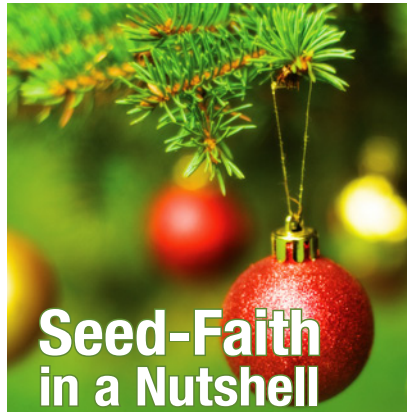
One way of escape God has given us is to practice Seed-Faith—sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest. It’s because of the law of seedtime and harvest that Oral and I have triumphed in Christ over the years. We’ve learned that whatever it is that we sow, God can take it and multiply it so it becomes something which can UPROOT MOUNTAINS of problems and needs and move them out of the way.

I remember Oral preaching about Isaac sowing in famine and reaping a hundredfold return that same year (Genesis 26:12). I believe one of the most productive times to sow is during a famine, or hard times. When you hit a time of famine and you’re still willing to obey the Bible and give of yourself and sow, God can deliver you out of that famine.

God says that what we sow, we reap. So determine what you need and sow that kind of seed. You can sow a seed by praying for someone,

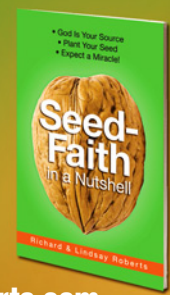
by inviting a friend to dinner, or by calling an acquaintance on the phone and asking if there’s anything you can do for them. I believe it’s the giving of yourself in faith that causes the hand of God to move.

That’s the way Oral and I have learned to live, and I honestly believe that when we do things God’s way, we can expect Him to bring us the harvest we need. ☀



### Seed-Faith in a Nutshell

This power-packed mini-book by Richard and Lindsay Roberts explains Seed-Faith living—a constant, continuous way of life that can create an atmosphere of miracles!



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*My miracle story...*



## Miraculous Recoveries for my Sons!

Last year, my older son Anthony attended a lacrosse camp where he hurt his back. It was a flare-up from a previous injury—a bulging disc. He was in so much pain. Anthony was crushed because that weekend he was scheduled to play in a big tournament with his team. He had worked so hard to qualify to play. We needed a miracle.

I called the Abundant Life® Prayer Group, laid hands on my son, sowed a seed and set my faith in agreement with my prayer partner. Anthony immediately began improving and by the weekend, he was fully recovered! He played very well in his tournament to the glory of God. His back is healed!

My younger son experienced a miraculous recovery after having a very scary allergic reaction to antibiotics. Luke's doctor prescribed him two rounds but we did not know he was allergic to them. My little six-year-old was covered in hives and a very itchy rash, and he suffered severe coughing and congestion that landed him in the hospital for breathing treatments. I called the ALPG for prayer for my son and within a few short hours, his symptoms began to clear up. He is well and whole today.

I'm so grateful for the Abundant Life® Prayer Group prayer partners. You are a blessing to my family! ☀

—Linda from Florida

For prayer anytime, call the  
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at 918-495-7777, or go to  
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## Baking for Bastrop

by Jordan Roberts

**B**urning for nearly three weeks this summer and consuming more than 1,600 homes in the Bastrop, Texas area, the worst wildfire in a decade was finally extinguished. Firefighters from all over the United States worked day and night to get this massive blaze under control, but not before it consumed many homes and tragically some lives as well.

People from all over the state rallied in the Austin area and helped with the cleanup by donating goods and services to those in need. The city also held a bake sale in which 100% of the proceeds went towards relief efforts.

Local bakeries and many individuals (myself and two friends included) donated their baked goods for any donation to the relief fund. Volunteers worked at tables displaying

yummy treats as a “thank you” for whatever donation was contributed. Delicious looking indulgences ranged from homemade frosted cookies in the shape of Texas (that I baked) all the way to bakery fresh pies and brown sugar butter bars with coffee icing. I was so honored to be a part of this touching and delicious experience.

(See my recipe on page 10 for your Christmas cookies!) ☀



**take a  
little time  
for yourself!**

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## HOLIDAY desserts

from Jordan Roberts



Mom and Dad at Jordan's graduation  
from Le Cordon Bleu

### SUGAR COOKIES

#### Ingredients

1 ½ cups butter, room temperature  
1 ¾ cups white sugar  
4 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

5 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt

#### Directions

In a large bowl using an electric mixer with paddle tool, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Add the eggs, one at a time. Add the vanilla. In a separate medium bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, and salt. Slowly add the dry ingredients into the butter and egg mixture until combined. Don't over-mix. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).

Roll out dough on floured surface to desired thickness. (I went a bit thicker – about ½ inch thick.) Cut into shapes with any cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets or sheets lined with parchment paper for easy clean-up. (If you wanted to sprinkle the cookies with colored sugar or dots, now is the time.) Bake at 350 degrees F for 8–12 minutes, depending on how thick you rolled them out. Makes 2 dozen large cookies or 3–4 dozen small cookies.

#### Icing

1 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 or 2 teaspoons milk  
1 ½ teaspoons light corn syrup

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract  
liquid food coloring (as desired)

#### Directions

Mix the sugar and milk together until smooth. (Batter will still be thick.) Once completely combined, mix in the corn syrup until it's smooth. (This may take a little elbow grease.) You can use a little more corn syrup to thin out icing. After that if it's still too thick, thin if necessary with a few drops of milk. Frost with icing when cookies are cool. This icing will dry hard enough to stack cookies on top of one another.

### SWEET POTATO PIE

#### Ingredients

1-2 sweet potatoes  
(1 pound total by weight)  
½ cup butter, softened (2 sticks)  
½ cup milk  
½ cup white sugar  
½ cup brown sugar (packed)

2 eggs  
¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 (9-inch) unbaked pie crust  
(freezer section at the grocery store)

#### Directions

Boil sweet potato whole or in large chunks in skin for 35 to 50 minutes, or until done. Remove the skin by running under water or letting it cool and pulling it off.

In a large bowl, add the butter, and mix well with a hand mixer (stand mixer will work too, but it's more difficult). Stir in milk, eggs, sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. Beat until mixture is smooth, no lumps, at medium speed. Pour filling into an unbaked pie crust.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 55 to 60 minutes, or until done (knife inserted in center comes out clean). Pie will puff up when baking and then sink down as it cools; that's normal.

*Sweet potatoes are said to be SUPER nutritious... one of the few foods considered "superfoods" by nutritional experts.*

*Great gift idea!*

### EASY PEPPERMINT BARK

#### Ingredients

1 (12-ounce) package of white chocolate morsels (I used NESTLE® TOLL HOUSE® Premier White Morsels.)

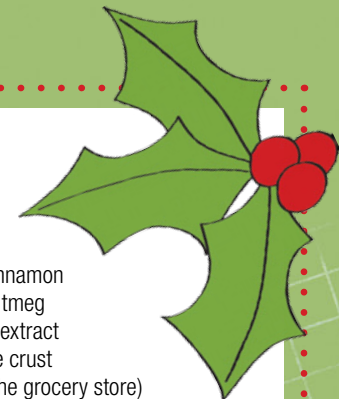
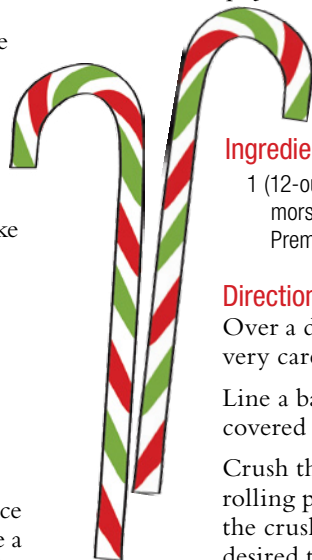
5-6 crushed candy canes (multi-colored ones are fun, like red and green)  
½ teaspoon mint extract (optional)

#### Directions

Over a double boiler, melt the white chocolate over medium heat, being very careful not to burn. Stir frequently. Add the mint extract.

Line a baking sheet with wax paper, or you can use a clean counter top covered with wax paper.

Crush the candy canes into small pieces, but don't pulverize. Crush using rolling pin or meat mallet. Once white chocolate is melted, add in half of the crushed candy canes and mix well. Spread onto the wax paper to the desired thickness. I usually go about ¼ inch thick. Sprinkle the remaining reserved candy cane pieces on top. Let cool and harden for at least 2 hours. Refrigeration will speed the process up if you're in a hurry. Store in plastic baggies or air-tight containers.





# Christmas is more than an orange

## The *real* meaning of Christmas

A classic word by Oral Roberts

When I was a young boy, I thought Christmas was an orange. You see, it was hard to get oranges in the small town where I lived, so I didn't have many of them as a boy. But on Christmas Eve, I would hang up my stocking by the fireplace, and I could always count on some nuts, maybe a little tople, an apple, and an orange.

Even now I can vividly remember Christmas mornings as a boy. I'd search for my orange. When I found it, I'd peel it, sink my teeth into its fruit, and let the juice run down the front of my clothes. Eating that orange was a mouth-watering experience!

### Christmas and the Real Fruit of Life

Another thing I remember about Christmas is how my father and mother would take us kids to church. There we'd hear the story of the baby Jesus being born and how He would become the Savior of the world. But somehow it didn't sink in, and as a teenager I left that atmosphere and ran away from home.



Oral and Evelyn with daughter Rebecca

I didn't think much about Christmas or Christ during that time—until I experienced a great need in my life. I collapsed in a basketball tournament and was diagnosed with tuberculosis.

I was bedfast for five terrible months. And although the doctors did what they could and people prayed, I got worse. Finally, my case reached a critical point, and the doctors told my father, "Your son is now in the hands of a higher power." That's when I began to learn the real meaning of Christmas.

First, my sister Jewel said seven life-changing words: "Oral, God is going to heal you." Later, my oldest

brother, Elmer, took me to a revival where a man of God prayed for me in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

When the evangelist prayed for me, a great warmth swept over me. I felt my lungs opening up, and the coughing and hemorrhaging stopped. A wonderful healing began in my body, and in time I was well!

That's when I realized that Christmas was more than the orange I usually received as a gift. Christmas was the real fruit of life, given to us by Jesus Christ.

### Paid in Full!

Christmas has so many fond memories for the Roberts family! My darling wife, Evelyn, and I were married on Christmas Day. A year later we had Rebecca, the first of our four children.

I remember once when Evelyn, Rebecca, and I were stranded on Christmas Day. We had traveled from Oklahoma to the East Coast, where we were going from one little church to another conducting revival meetings. We were doing fine until one meeting over the Christmas holidays was cancelled.

We didn't know what to do. We didn't have enough money to return home to Oklahoma, and our next meeting was not until a week after Christmas!

After counting our money, we decided to rent a little hotel room and just sit it out. Talk about feeling blue!

On Christmas Day, Evelyn, Rebecca, and I went downstairs to eat with the other hotel guests. The dining room was beautifully decorated, and despite everything, we had a wonderful Christmas dinner.

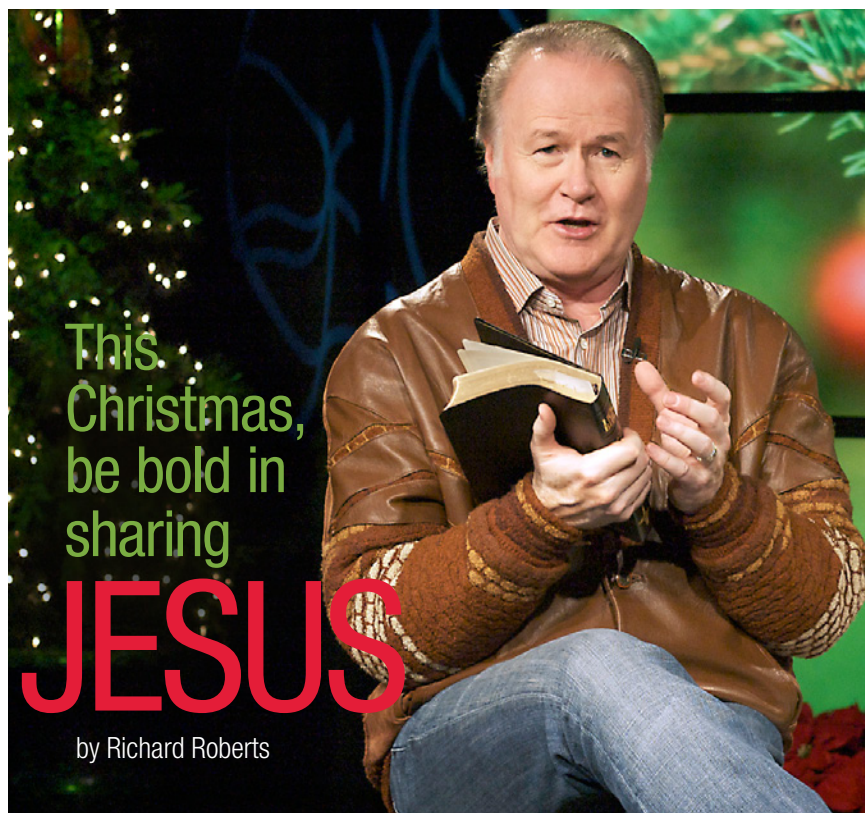
When we stepped to the cash register to pay our bill, the man said, "Mr. Roberts, aren't you a guest in the hotel?" I said, "Yes." "Well," he said, "it's a policy of this hotel to give a free meal on Christmas Day to its guests. So your Christmas dinner is free—*paid in full!*"

What a beautiful gift to receive on Christmas Day—our debt *PAID IN FULL!* How much we needed that!

Then I began to reflect on another debt that was paid for me—the debt of sin which Jesus, my Savior, paid in full with His life.

*What a beautiful gift to receive on Christmas Day—our debt PAID IN FULL! How much we needed that!*

The real meaning of Christmas is more than loved ones coming over for a big dinner, and it's more than exchanging gifts. It's giving happiness, joy, peace, and goodwill to others, as the angels proclaimed to the shepherds in Luke 2:14. And it all started with God, *who so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16). ☀



**H**ave you ever wanted to help a friend or loved one come to a personal relationship with Jesus, but you didn't really feel comfortable doing it? Perhaps, like many of us have done, you let the opportunity to witness about Jesus just slip away.

I want to give you some tips that I have learned in more than 30 years of being an evangelist that I believe can help you step out of your comfort zone and share Jesus with those around you.

I believe one of the most important things you can do to help bring people to Christ is to:

#### Share what God has done for you

Mark 16:15 NKJV tells us to *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

As we walk in love with others, it's amazing to me how people can see and feel God's light in us. And as you share from your own personal testimony of what God has done in your life, it can open the door for others to begin to share their questions and concerns with you. Sometimes it's just a matter of taking those first few steps.

I believe it's time to be bold and not timid. Jesus' Great Commission

in Mark 16 gives us great authority to share what God has done in our lives.

#### Be compassionate

Matthew 14:14 NKJV says when Jesus saw a great multitude, *He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

I believe that when someone is not living for God, many times they may already feel convicted in their heart. So rather than "jamming" Jesus down their throats, we should let His compassion for them come pouring out of us.

Compassion is the love of God in action, and I believe that people often want to respond to that kind of love.

#### Help them understand their need for a Savior

Romans 3:23 NKJV says, *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* We all make mistakes; we all commit sins. And without repentance—or changing our mind, turning away from our sins, and turning toward God—we can lose our soul and go to hell. But it is not God's wish that this should happen.

I often tell people, "Hell was not made for people; hell was made for Satan and the demons that fell with him." Heaven was made for people, and that's where God wants us to spend eternity with Him. But that

relationship can only come through accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives. John 1:12 NKJV tells us, *As many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the children of God.*

#### Encourage them to make a decision for Christ now

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2 that *today* is the day of salvation. Don't put it off until later.

When God opens that door and you can tell their heart is listening, offer to pray with them.

Often I will just ask people, "Would you like me to pray with you right now to ask Jesus into your heart?"

I've never had anyone turn down my prayers, when I ask in that spirit.

**Here is a simple salvation prayer that anyone can pray,** and when they do it sincerely, from their heart, they can be born again:

*Lord, I ask You to come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. I repent of my sins. I renounce satan and all of his works. Please forgive me and give me a fresh new start. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Proverbs 11:30 NKJV says, *He who wins souls is wise.* I believe as we begin to step out in faith and obedience, God can help us lead people to Jesus. ☀

*Compassion is the love of God in action.*



## Favorite Christmas Carols

No one can mistake the words of a Christmas carol in a more humorous way than a child! Favorite Christmas carols as actually sung by children:

- Deck the halls with Buddy Holly
- We three kings of porridge and tar
- Later on, we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire
- He's makin' a list, chicken and rice
- Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel
- With the jelly toast proclaim
- Olive, the other reindeer
- In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend  
that he is sparse and brown
- Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap, and hay
- O come, froggy faithful
- You'll tell Carol, "Be a skunk, I require"  
*(Yuletide carols being sung by the fire)*



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*Fun Christmas Craft*



## Placemat Pillow

### You will need:

- 2 Christmas-motif placemats
- polyester stuffing for pillows
- sewing machine
- Christmas-colored buttons (optional)
- hot-glue gun (optional)\*

1. Place right sides of the placemats to the outside.
2. Sew around the outer edge of the placemats, leaving about a 3- to 4-inch opening on top.
3. Stuff placemats with polyester stuffing.
4. Sew opening closed.
5. If you wish, you can select Christmas-colored buttons and hot-glue them onto one side in the shape of a Christmas tree.

\*Remember to use hot-glue gun according to its instructions and keep away from children to prevent possible injuries.