

# A Better Family Christmas Letter

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Add creativity to your family Christmas letter and spread holiday cheer while also offering a record of your family's activities.

**For**  
Teen Family

**Season**  
Winter

## Needed

Family Highlights of the Year worksheet (see last page), pen

## Prepare in Advance

Make a copy of the Family Highlights of the Year worksheet.

## Activity Plan

1. Sit together as a family and say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God, remind us of the highs and lows of our year and to be thankful in all things. Help us to tap into our creativity to capture the essence of our year as a family. Amen.*

2. Use the Family Highlights of the Year worksheet to guide a conversation about what has happened in the past year. Have one family member record the highlights of your discussion on the sheet.
3. After you finish the worksheet, discuss:
  - What do you think of the way our family usually does our Christmas letter (or doesn't do one)?
  - How many family members are usually involved in writing our Christmas letter?
  - What Christmas letters from other families have we really liked? Why?
  - What interests and skills can family members use to help create a family Christmas letter (such as photography, graphic design, writing, illustration, mail merge)?
4. Brainstorm ways to make a better Christmas letter. (For example, one family takes two pictures each year—one of family members' feet to put on the front of the card and one of their faces to put inside the card. Another family has their children draw pictures to illustrate the main things that happened to them during the past year.)
5. Keep a copy of your Christmas letter each year. Compare them from year to year. Some families keep a copy of the Christmas letter for each family member so that when the kids grow up and leave home, they'll have a year-by-year history of the family.

## Family Highlights of the Year

1. List each family member. What were the two or three most significant events, accomplishments, or milestones in his or her life this year?
2. If you went on a trip as a family, where did you go? If you didn't take a trip together, what did you do when you had time to spend together?
3. What difficulties or challenges has your family faced this year? How have you been working through them?
4. What new activities did family members try this year? What new skills did family members learn? What were your favorite books or movies?
5. What matters most to your family right now? Why?

