

# called to wonder

Written by Erin Walton,  
youth minister, First Church, Edmonton

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Christmas and what the true meaning of Christmas is? We are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ — his birthday!

What do birthdays and Christmas mean to you? Gifts? In a way, Christmas is about gifts. It is about the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ. God loved us so much God sent his Son, a little baby in a manger, to be our Saviour.

This year, let's focus on giving instead of receiving. Homemade gifts are special because they are made with love and care. Try making this homemade craft. Give it to a teacher, a coach, a minister — anyone! It is better to give than to receive!

## A Christmas wish for you!

Every time you see F, R, X or Z in the grid below, colour it green. Colour all the other letters red. When you are finished, the red letters spell a Christmas wish for you!

F	R	X	Z	X	Z	R	F	R	X	Z	R	F
X	Z	R	X	M	A	Y	R	X	R	Z	F	X
Z	G	O	D	Z	F	B	L	E	S	S	X	Z
R	F	R	X	Y	O	U	X	R	Z	F	Z	R
Z	X	W	I	T	H	X	J	O	Y	Z	F	Z
F	Z	A	N	D	X	P	E	A	C	E	Z	X
R	X	Z	T	O	D	A	Y	F	R	X	Z	F
X	A	N	D	X	A	L	W	A	Y	S	X	F
F	R	Z	X	Z	F	X	R	X	F	Z	F	Z
R	X	F	Z	R	X	Z	F	Z	R	X	Z	F

Link to more learning activities about **Christmas** online at: [www.presbyterian.ca/record/wonder.html](http://www.presbyterian.ca/record/wonder.html)

## Sand Art Brownies

Ask an adult to help you with this craft.

Layer the following ingredients in a one-quart mason jar in the order given. Do not mix ingredients.

- ✓ 1/2 tsp salt
- ✓ 1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp flour
- ✓ 1/2 cup cocoa
- ✓ 1/2 cup flour + 1/2 tsp baking powder
- ✓ 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- ✓ 2/3 cup white sugar
- ✓ 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- ✓ 1/2 cup white chips
- ✓ Fill rest of jar with chopped nuts.

Cover jar with round piece of Christmas cloth and an elastic. Colour and cut out the gift tag below. Fold the tag in half, so the instructions are on the back, and tie it to the jar with a red or green ribbon.



## Combine contents of jar with:

- 1 tsp vanilla
  - 2/3 cup oil
  - 3 eggs
- Mix well. Pour into greased and floured 9" x 9" pan. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.



**Merry Christmas!**

For a very special person:

Made with love by: