

For the week of:

**12 | 19 | 2022**

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## Week at a Glance

### MONDAY 12/19

"God bless us, everyone!" In 1843 Charles Dickens published the treasured book, *A Christmas Carol*. The book has never been out of print and has over 135 versions for film, radio and other media.

### TUESDAY 12/20

Revive the classic Christmas tradition ... *go caroling today!* Singing Christmas carols is thought to have originated with St. Francis of Assisi who viewed it more appropriate to sing songs full of joy and fun during Christmas.

### WEDNESDAY 12/21

In 1891 James Naismith created a game for bored high school students to play during the cold New England winters. He put up two peach baskets on opposite sides of the gym and instructed the boys to throw the ball in the opposing basket. Thus *the game of basketball was invented*.

### THURSDAY 12/22

Swap some sweets with your friends and neighbors on *National Cookie Exchange Day!* Cookies started appearing in the 1500's and are thought to have originated by bakers testing their oven temperatures with a small dollop of cake batter.

### FRIDAY 12/23

Dig deep into your family tree on *National Roots Day!* Celebrate your family history and learn something new about your ancestors. You never know what you'll find!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The first stage adaptation of **A Christmas Carol** appeared less than two months after the book was published. Within a month, there were no fewer than eight competing versions of the story playing the London stages.
  - In the first basketball games, **a man was stationed at each end of the balcony to pick the ball from the basket and put it back into play.** It wasn't until a few years later that the bottoms of the peach baskets were cut to let the ball fall loose.
  - The national average cost of running Christmas lights in 2022 is **\$16.48**. That's 13% higher than the 2021 national average, an increase of \$1.93.
  - Denny's in America had an issue when it came to closing on Christmas in 1988, as **many of their restaurants had never closed before.** With 1,221 operating locations at the time, 700 of them didn't have locks on the doors.

## IN OTHER WORDS...

"There's one word that describes the night Jesus came – ordinary. It was an ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to hook an "extra" on the front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed."

—Max Lucado

## Weekly Verse

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

## CHRISTMAS WITH FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Share the joy of the season with new and classic Christmas specials from **Focus on the Family:**

### New for 2022:

"Christmas Stories"

"The Official Average Boy Christmas Special"

### Classic Specials from Radio Theatre:

"A Christmas Carol"

"Christmas by Injunction & Shoemaker Martin"

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