

# 7 QUESTIONS to ask at *Christmas*

Family Stories  
About Christmas  
Past and Present



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## Christmas is a great time to share family stories...

When the excitement of opening gifts is over and everyone's feeling mellow after a delicious Christmas dinner, it's a great time to sit back and share family stories of Christmas past.

Use the questions in the **7 Christmas Questions worksheet** to get people talking and memories flowing.

You may be surprised at how differently Christmas was observed by each generation. Or maybe you'll discover that family traditions haven't changed that much over the years.

Regardless, it's a fun way to document family stories so future generations can enjoy them, too!

Here's how to capture Christmas stories for the family archives:

## Record The Conversation

If you're talking informally around the dinner table or living room you can **press the record button** on your smart phone and then use a site like [Temi.com](https://temi.com) to transcribe the recording. Most family members will forget the recorder is running and won't feel awkward talking.



## Video The Conversation

Alternately, you can **set up your smart phone on a tripod** and take a video of family members recounting memories of Christmas growing up.

If someone's shy about being recorded make it a group video instead of focusing on one person. Either way, once the conversation's rolling people tend to forget they're being recorded.



## Write Or Type The Answers

Another option is to **print out the 7 Christmas Questions worksheet** and ask family members to jot down their memories for each question. The PDF version allows those with a computer or laptop to type their answers directly in the **fillable PDF**. Have them "Save As" the PDF and add their first and last name to the file name.



## Don't Forget The Photos!

If you're compiling a history about your family and ancestors don't forget to ask if anyone has Christmas photos they'd be willing to share.

### Grandparents

My husband Charlie's grandfather was the president of a college. In his circle it was common to get a family portrait and send out printed Christmas cards.



### Parents

Charlie's Dad made him a toy rocking horse out of wood for his first Christmas. The following year when Charlie saw the presents under the tree on Christmas morning, he first ran and found his rocking horse so he could put it under the tree.



### Your Own Family

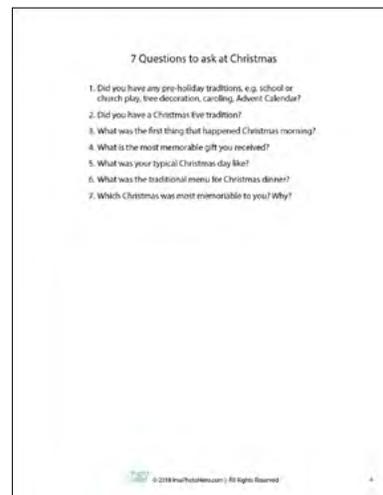
When Charlie and I had children we combined some of our traditions and made some new ones. Our kids were so excited to get a carton of chocolate milk and a yogurt in their stocking that they stopped to eat them before unwrapping gifts, a tradition we follow to this day.



Here are some tips on how to use the question pages:

## Print The Questions Only

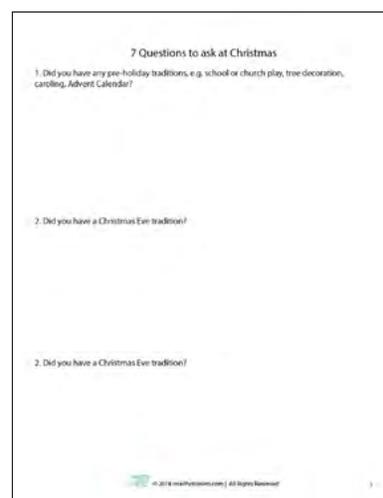
If you want to print out just the questions for reference or to hand out to individuals as conversation starters, print **page 5** of this PDF.



## Print With Space For Answers

This is the “**Fillable PDF**” section that can be done on a computer, but you can also print it to be filled out by hand.

If you want the questions spaced out for family members to write their answers, print **pages 6–8** of this PDF.



## Fill Out The “Fillable PDF”

You can ask a distant relative or absent family member to fill out **pages 6–8 of the fillable portion of this PDF**.

Attach this PDF to an email and send it to the family member or relative.

On their computer have them “Save As” the PDF and add their first and last name to the file name. After typing answers in the **fillable section (pages 6–8)** they can save the PDF one last time and email it back to you.

This can also be done by family members who are with you and have a laptop computer handy.



# HAVE FUN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS!

## 7 Questions to ask at Christmas

1. What pre-holiday traditions were especially memorable to you growing up, e.g. school or church play, tree decoration, caroling, Advent Calendar?
2. What did your family do on Christmas Eve?
3. What was the first thing that happened Christmas morning?
4. What is the most memorable gift you received?
5. What was your typical Christmas day like?
6. What was the traditional menu for Christmas dinner?
7. Which Christmas was most memorable to you? Why?

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Jot down any other thoughts you'd like to share: