



by Jenn Mac Donald

Heaven Came Down:
A Nativity Experience for Advent



Thanks for downloading

these lesson plans! I'm so appreciative to Kim Puckett for the inspiration for this interactive Advent activity throughout all of December for our children!

Hi, I'm Jenn MacDonald. Get to know a little more about me [here](#).

After 22 years of writing lesson plans for our homeschool groups, I'm in the process of giving them away at <https://www.homeschooling101.net>

Everything on the website is FREE.

Many of my lesson plans are written for once a week group homeschool classes, but TONS of the ideas and games are perfect for your individual homeschool. There's classes from Preschool - High school and in areas of Science, English, Math, History, Literature, Art and so many electives. We're adding more every week so check back OFTEN.



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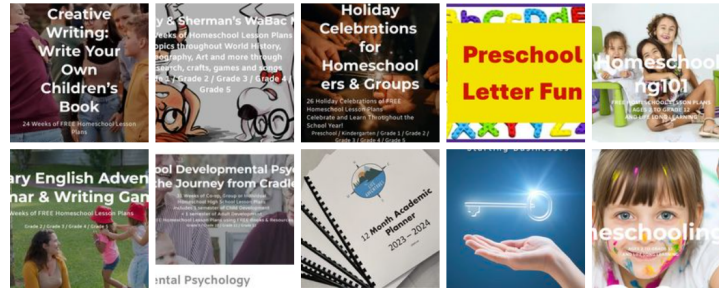
Heaven Came Down: A Nativity Experience for Advent

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to describe the lesson plans more in depth,

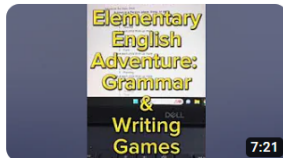
answer questions, etc.

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Description

Heaven Came Down: A Nativity Experience for Advent is a hands-on, heart-centered journey that helps children enter deeply into the story of Jesus' birth. Each day from December 1–25, children open one small box containing a nativity piece and booklet. The download includes a short Scripture-based story, discussion questions, and a simple prayer. This gentle rhythm invites families to slow down, wonder together, and discover how every part of the Nativity points to Jesus and His mission to save the world.



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How Does It Work

If you don't have a piece to add to the manger for all days you can read the scripture readings of the day from the Advent Calendar. We've also included 2 blank booklets to include different items you have in your nativity.

Print, cut & fold booklets (pages 11-19). Assemble nativity pieces & accessories, and enough candy (or stickers, temporary tattoo, etc.) for each child to have 1 treat per day. Put each piece and booklet in its own box with 1 candy for each child & the number of the date on the outside of the box. I numbered mine going from Dec 1 - Dec 25, but you could do a countdown if you prefer. Alternatively, get a small box that each piece would fit inside and tissue paper to "wrap" the piece in the box and place it under our tree for the kids to find and open.

Day 1 is "Welcome". It's done a little differently than the rest of the month. Instead of using a piece of the nativity scene, clean and wash the surface that will hold the nativity. Read the long reading and allow the children to enjoy their treat.

Rhythm

- a. Unpack box for the day
- b. Read the booklet (scripture & story)
- c. Set up figurine in nativity
- d. Have a discussion (suggested questions provided)
- e. Invite child to pray from their heart (suggested prayer provided).

Included are discussion questions about what the piece was and how they thought it fit into the story and then we would read the booklet with scripture. After reading the scripture & placing the piece at the manger, say a short & simple prayer thanking God for that particular piece and how it fits into the story.

Translations are a mix of NABRE and RSV-CE

Order of Figurines through December

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Welcome | 10. Stable | 19. Gold |
| 2. Angel | 11. Water | 20. Wiseman #2 |
| 3. Mary | 12. Straw | 21. Frankincense |
| 4. Elizabeth | 13. Star | 22. Wiseman #3 |
| 5. Halo or mantle | 14. Clouds | 23. Myrrh |
| 6. Joseph | 15. Angels | 24. Camel |
| 7. Census | 16. Shepherd | 25. Dec. 25th: Jesus |
| 8. Donkey | 17. Lamb | |
| 9. Green hills | 18. Wiseman #1 | |

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Materials Needed

- **Nativity figures** (Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Stable, Angel, Donkey, Shepherd, Sheep, 3 Kings, Camel, Star).
Optional: Print nativity coloring pages on cardstock and make them stand by adding a perpendicular cardstock base.
- **Green fabric or felt** for the “Green Hills.”
- **Tea-stained rolled paper** for the “Census.”
- **Gold pipe cleaner** for Mary’s halo *or* **blue fabric scrap** for her “mantle.”
- **Small thimble or tiny clay jar** for “Water.”
- **Straw bundle** (paper strips, raffia, or tiny gathered sticks).
- **Star** (separate star ornament or a short strand of Christmas lights).
- **Clouds** (pillow stuffing or pulled-apart cotton balls).
- **Angels** (coloring pages or a printed scene folded into a triptych).
- **Gold** (a Rollo wrapper folded into a tiny rectangle).
- **Frankincense** (a piece of incense or a yellow rock).
- **Myrrh** (a small brown or orange-tinted pebble).
- **Camels or exotic animals** from a play set.
- **Boxes:**
 - One small box per day for booklets, treats, and nativity pieces, **or**
 - One reusable box to re-pack nightly with that day’s items.

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Schedule

1. **Welcome**

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20

God welcomed His Son into the world through humble people and simple places, showing that every heart can become a home for Jesus.

2. **Angel**

Luke 1:26

The angel Gabriel brought God's message that His plan to save the world was beginning.

3. **Mary**

Luke 1:27-28

Mary said "yes" to God and became the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God, helping bring the Savior into the world.

4. **Elizabeth**

Luke 1:39-41

Elizabeth recognized Jesus even before He was born, showing how God's Spirit helps us see His presence.

5. **Halo or mantle**

Luke 1:38

The halo reminds us of Mary's holiness, and her mantle shows how she cares for us - all because she said "Let it be done"—her fiat—to God's plan.

6. **Joseph**

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph protected Mary and Jesus, showing God's love through courage, obedience, and gentleness.

7. **Census**

Luke 2:1

The census brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, fulfilling God's promise that the Savior would be born there.

8. **Donkey**

Mark 11:1-10

The donkey reminds us of Jesus' humility—He came gently, not proudly—and Mary likely rode a donkey on the way to Bethlehem.

9. **Green hills**

Psalms 23

The hills remind us that God is our Shepherd who leads us to peace, just as He led shepherds to Jesus.

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10. **Stable**

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus was born in a poor stable to show He came for everyone, especially the humble and small.

11. **Water**

John 4:14

Water reminds us that Jesus is the Living Water who gives us eternal life.

12. **Straw**

Luke 2:7

The straw shows Jesus' gentleness—He lay where animals rested—teaching us humility.

13. **Star**

Matthew 2:1-2

The star guided the wise men, showing that Jesus is the Light of the World.

14. **Clouds**

Luke 2:9

The bright cloud of God's glory shone around the angels, showing heaven breaking into earth.

15. **Angels**

Luke 2:13–14

Angels announced Jesus' birth, praising God and bringing peace to the world.

16. **Shepherd**

Luke 2:8-17

Shepherds were the first invited to see Jesus, showing He came for the poor and forgotten.

17. **Lamb**

John 1:29

The lamb reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins.

18. **Wiseman #1**

Matthew 2:3-8

This wise man searched for Jesus with a sincere heart, showing that wisdom begins with seeking God.

19. **Gold**

Matthew 2:11

Gold honored Jesus as King of Kings.

20. **Wiseman #2**

Matthew 2:9-10

This wise man's gift is used in worship. We worship Jesus, teaching us that true joy comes from God.

21. **Frankincense**

Matthew 2:11

Frankincense honored Jesus as God, used in worship and prayer.

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22. Wiseman #3

Matthew 2:11

This wise man offered myrrh, showing that Jesus would suffer and save us.

23. Myrh

Matthew 2:11

Myrrh which was used for burials, reminds us that Jesus came to heal, to sacrifice, and to bring eternal life.

24. Camel

Isaiah 60:6

Camels carried the travelers, reminding us that all nations would come to worship Jesus.

25. Dec. 25th: Jesus

John 1:14

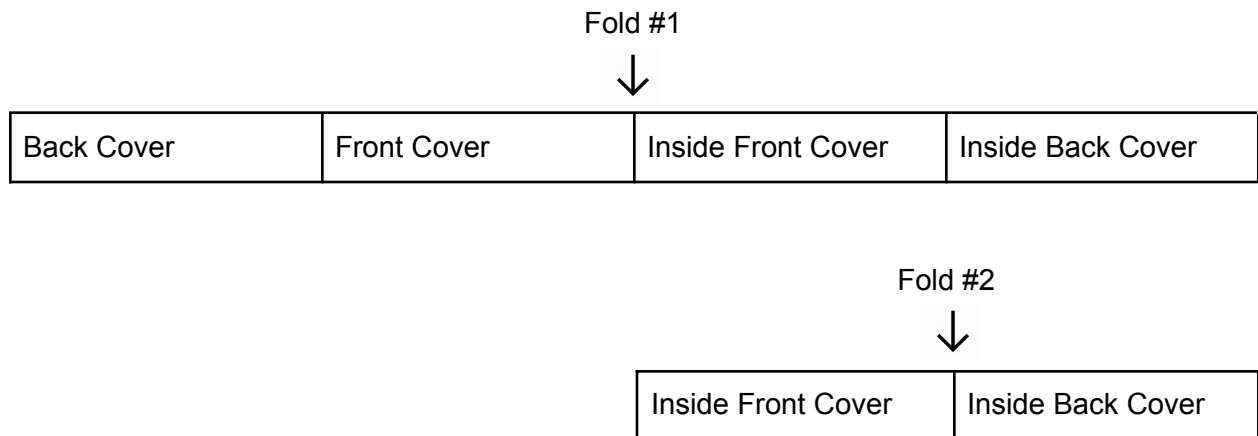
Jesus, the Word made flesh, became human to save us, love us, and bring us back to the Father.

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Instructions

Booklet Printing Instructions

1. Print on cardstock
2. Cut on horizontal lines — to cut booklets apart from each other
3. Make the 1st fold in the center of the paper on the center vertical line |, so both front and back covers are behind each of the inside pages
4. Make the 2nd fold so inside pages are facing each other (or closed in on each other)
5. Cut edges if desired



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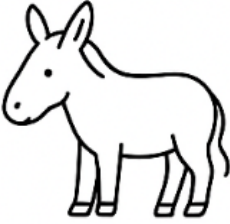
Printable Booklets

★ How do you think Mary welcomed Jesus into her heart before He was born? ★ What are ways we can “welcome” Jesus into our own homes? Jesus, thank You for coming. Help my heart be a warm, happy place where You are always welcome.	Welcome 1	<i>Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20</i> “And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy... For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”	Jesus’ birth is God’s big “Welcome!” to the whole world. The angels told the shepherds so everyone would know they were invited to meet Him. God welcomes us, too.
★ Why does God sometimes use angels to speak to people? ★ What do you think Mary felt when the angel appeared? God, thank You for sending angels to guide us. Help me listen when You speak to my heart.	Angel 2	<i>Luke 1:26</i> “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth.”	God sent His angel to bring Mary a special message. Angels help people hear God’s plans of love. ★ What special message did the angel bring?
★ How did Mary trust God? ★ Why do we call Mary our Mother too? ★ What do you love about Mary? Mother Mary, thank you for saying “yes” to God. Help me love Jesus like you do.	Mary 3	<i>Luke 1:27–28</i> “To a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph... And he came to her and said, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!’”	Mary who was filled with God’s grace was specially chosen to be Jesus’ mother. She trusted God and said “yes” to His plan. ★ What made Mary’s “yes” so important for God’s plan?

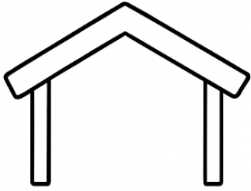
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★ Why did baby John jump with joy? ★ How did Elizabeth know Mary was carrying Jesus? ★ What does joy tell us about God? Holy Spirit, thank You for helping us see Jesus. Fill my heart with joy like Elizabeth.	Elizabeth  4	<i>Luke 1:39–41</i> “...Mary arose and went with haste... and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb...”	Elizabeth knew something wonderful was happening and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Her baby John jumped for joy because Mary was carrying Jesus.
★ What does a halo remind us about? ★ Why did Mary’s “yes” matter so much? ★ How can we say “yes” to God in little ways? <i>Lord, thank You for Mary’s bright “yes.” Help my heart shine with Your love. Amen.</i>	Halo or Mantle  5	<i>Luke 1:38</i> “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’”	Mary said “yes” to God. Her “fiat” made her shine with holiness.
★ What did Joseph do to care for Jesus? ★ Why did Joseph listen to the angel in his dream? ★ How does Joseph show us what a holy father looks like? <i>St. Joseph, thank you for caring for Jesus. Help me obey God with a peaceful heart like you.</i>	Joseph  6	<i>Matthew 1:20–21</i> “...the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said... ‘For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived... She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus...’”	Joseph heard from the angel that Mary’s baby was God’s Son. He protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

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★ How did God use the census to complete His plan? ★ What does this show us about God's timing? ★ Have you ever been part of something big that God used for good? <i>God, thank You for guiding Mary and Joseph. Help me trust that You guide my life too. Amen.</i>	Census  7	<i>Luke 2:1</i> “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.”	Everyone had to travel to be counted because the head of the government said so. That is why Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. They were real people with regular lives, just like us.
★ How does the donkey show Jesus is humble? ★ How might the donkey have helped Mary? ★ What does humility look like for us? <i>Jesus, thank You for coming humbly. Teach me to be gentle and kind. Amen.</i>	Donkey  8	<i>Mark 11:7</i> “So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it.”	Many pictures show Mary riding a donkey to Bethlehem. Just like Jesus did when he died to save us. It reminds us that Jesus' family traveled humbly and simply and fulfilled God's will for their lives.
★ How do green hills make you feel? ★ Why is Jesus called our Good Shepherd? ★ How do shepherds help their sheep? <i>Lord, You are my Shepherd. Thank You for leading me to Jesus, the safest place of all. Amen.</i>	Green Hills  9	<i>Psalms 23:2</i> “He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”	The green hills remind us of the peaceful fields where the shepherds watched their sheep. God gently guides His people to Jesus.

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★ What does the stable tell us about God's love? ★ How does Jesus make ordinary places holy? ★ Why does God like to come close to the poor? <i>Jesus, thank You for coming in a simple stable. Make my heart a warm place for You. Amen.</i>	Stable  10	<i>Luke 2:7</i> "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."	Jesus was born in a simple stable which housed animals. That can show us that no one is too low or small for God's love. God wanted everyone to know His love is for all people.
★ Why do we need water? ★ How is Jesus like water for our souls? ★ How does Baptism make us God's children? ★ What does Jesus give that never runs out? <i>Jesus, Living Water, fill my heart with Your life and love. Amen.</i>	Water  11	<i>John 4:14</i> "...the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."	Water reminds us that Jesus came to give us life. Just like water helps us grow, Jesus helps our hearts grow in love.
★ Why would God choose such a simple place? ★ What does this teach us about His humility? ★ How can we be humble too? <i>Lord, thank You for lying in the straw for love of us. Make my heart soft for You.</i>	Straw  12	<i>Luke 2:7</i> "She... laid him in a manger..."	Straw filled the manger or feeding trough for the animals where Mary laid Jesus. It shows how humble His birth was and how He has come to sustain us since he is the Bread of Life.

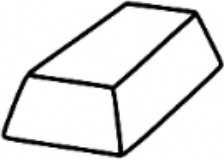
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★ Why did God use a star to guide people? ★ What makes Jesus our true Light? ★ How can we follow Jesus like the wise men followed the star? <i>Jesus, Light of the World, guide my steps toward You every day. Amen.</i>	Star  13	<i>Matthew 2:1–2</i> “...Magi from the east arrived... saying, ‘Where is the newborn king...? We saw his star at its rising...’”	A bright star showed the wise men that Jesus had been born. It guided them on their journey.
★ What do clouds make you think of? ★ How did God’s glory shine that night? ★ Why does God show His glory gently? <i>God of Glory, thank You for shining Your light on us. Help me see Your beauty everywhere. Amen.</i>	Clouds  14	<i>Luke 2:9</i> “...the glory of the Lord shone around them...”	Clouds remind us of God’s glory in the night sky when the angels appeared. Heaven felt very close that night.
★ Why did heaven celebrate so loudly? ★ What kind of peace does Jesus bring? ★ How can we join the angels in praising God? <i>Angels of God, thank you for bringing the Good News. Teach me to praise Jesus with joy. Amen.</i>	Angels  15	<i>Luke 2:13–14</i> “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host... ‘Glory to God in the highest...’”	Many angels praised God when Jesus was born. Their song told the world that peace had come.

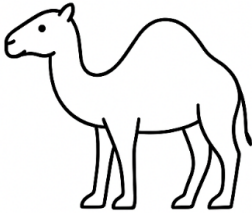
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★ Why do you think God chose shepherds first? ★ What did the shepherds do after seeing Jesus? ★ What do you think the shepherds felt? <i>Good Shepherd Jesus, thank You for loving the small and simple. Lead me close to You. Amen.</i>	Shepherd  16	<i>Luke 2:8–20</i> “The shepherds said... ‘Let us go... to see this thing...’ So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger.”	The shepherds were the first to hear the good news. They hurried to meet Baby Jesus.
★ What is gentle about a lamb? ★ Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God? ★ How does Jesus take away our sins? ★ How do we show love to Jesus the Lamb? <i>Lamb of God, thank You for saving us. Help me love You with a pure heart.</i>	Lamb  17	<i>John 1:29</i> “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”	Jesus is called the Lamb of God because He came to save us. The lamb reminds us of His gentleness and love.
★ What makes someone wise? ★ How can we search for Jesus today? ★ How does wisdom help us know God? <i>God, thank You for wise people who seek Jesus. Help me search for Him every day. Amen.</i>	Wise Man 1 (Melchior)  18	<i>Ps 72:11</i> “May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him.”	We don’t know how many wise men came or whether they were kings, though tradition since the 6th century speaks of three. The first, Melchior is often shown with European features and brings gold. The wise men traveled from afar, carefully searching for the newborn King, Jesus.

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★ Why is gold a gift for a king? ★ What kind of king is Jesus? ★ What gifts can you give Jesus? <i>Jesus, my King, I give You my heart. Thank You for ruling with love. Amen.</i>	Gold  19	<i>Matthew 2:11</i> “Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold...”	Gold was considered the most precious commodity and a gift for a king. It shows that Jesus is the true King.
★ Why were the wise men filled with joy? ★ What makes you joyful about Jesus? ★ Why does joy point us to God? <i>Lord, thank You for holy joy. Help my heart leap with gladness when I find You. Amen.</i>	Wise Man 2 (Balthasar)  20	<i>Matthew 2:1–10</i> “...the star... went before them... When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly...”⁹⁻¹⁰	Balthasar is often shown as coming from Asia and is sometimes connected with Syria. He carries frankincense, which is considered a divine symbol. The wise men were filled with joy when the star led them to Jesus. They knew they were close to Him.
★ What does incense smell like? ★ Why do we use incense in church? ★ What does it tell us about Jesus being God? <i>Jesus, true God, I adore You. Let my prayers rise to You like sweet incense.</i>	Frankincense  21	<i>Matthew 2:11</i> “...and frankincense...”	Frankincense was used in worship. This gift shows Jesus is God.

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★ Why was myrrh a strange gift for a baby? ★ What does it teach us about Jesus' mission? ★ How can we thank Him? <i>Jesus, thank You for loving us so much You suffered for us. Help me stay close to Your heart. Amen.</i>	Wise Man 3 (Gaspar)  22	<i>Matthew 2:3–4</i> “When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled... He assembled all the chief priests...”	The third wise man brought myrrh. Gaspar is often depicted in images as an African with dark skin color, is traditionally associated with Persia and presents myrrh as a gift. All the wise men honored Jesus.
★ Do you know what myrrh was used for long ago? ★ How does Jesus heal our hearts? ★ Why is His sacrifice a gift of love? <i>Jesus, thank You for coming to heal and save us. Help me trust Your love always. Amen.</i>	Myrrh  23	<i>Matthew 2:11</i> “...and myrrh.”	Myrrh was used for healing and burials. Myrrh is a symbol for humanity and is in some interpretations also associated with the later suffering of Jesus. It reminds us that Jesus came to save us.
★ Why did the wise men need camels? ★ How do camels show the long journey? ★ How do we bring ourselves to Jesus today? <i>Lord, thank You for calling every nation to Your Son. Bring my whole life to Jesus.</i>	Camel  24	<i>Isaiah 60:6</i> “A multitude of camels shall cover you... They shall bring gold and frankincense...”	Camels remind us of long journeys across deserts. The wise men might have traveled on animals like these.

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★ Why did God choose to become a tiny baby? ★ How does Jesus show us the Father's love? ★ How can we welcome Jesus every day? <i>Jesus, thank You for becoming one of us. Live in my heart forever. Amen.</i>	Jesus  25	<i>John 1:14</i> “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”	Jesus is God's Son who became a tiny baby to rescue us from sin and bring us back to God who loves us. Christmas celebrates His birth when He came to live among us.

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THANK YOU, AGAIN, Kim Puckett for your generous inspiration for this interactive Advent activity!
Thank you!

Would you like to join our team of creators?

Do you have products, books, or curriculum you've created that you'd like to give away?? If so drop me a line at jenn@homeschooling101.net, use our contact sheet at <https://www.homeschooling101.net/about> or connect with me through our social media.

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