



# NO MORE CHRISTMAS CLUTTER

HOW TO ELIMINATE THE CLUTTER THAT STEALS YOUR CHRISTMAS JOY

With Jennifer Ford Berry

*"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven."*

## What To Focus On This Season:

- ✓ Building Memories
- ✓ Nurturing Relationships
- ✓ Enjoying the time of year.
- ✓ Resting in Jesus

## Before the Christmas Season Arrives (Suggestion: November)

- Sit down with your family and have a discussion about how you truly want to spend your Christmas season this year:
  - ✓ What traditions do your kids still love?
  - ✓ What events in your area would you like to attend?
  - ✓ Discuss ways you can bring the real meaning of Christmas into your schedule.
- Grab your calendar and plan out your weeks. Write the dates on your calendar now before something else claims that time.
- Ask your children for gift ideas.
- Write out your gift list or use an app on your phone.

- Write down your list of To Dos.
- Prepare your pantry and your freezer for hospitality.

## During

- Pick one or two things you are going to do REALLY well this year: your tree, your Christmas card, practicing hospitality, a way to give etc.
- Share the work.
- Decide on the tasks that others can help you with and then ask.
- Holiday Cards:
  - Your holiday card does not have to be perfect!
  - Choose a photo.
  - Set up your holiday card address list on your computer so that you can reuse it each year.
  - Instead of printing out a photo card AND a “year at a glance letter” put your family updates on the back of your photo card.
  - Consider a card sending service that will print and mail the cards for you!
- Sort through the toys BEFORE the new ones arrive.
  - Have each child choose at least two toys that they can donate to a less fortunate child.
- Set up a wrapping station.
- Meal Planning:
  - Create a file or Pinterest board with the recipes you want to make.
- Decorating:
  - Only put out the things that you love or use. The ones that bring you joy!
  - Less is more!
  - Purge the decorations you no longer use or love while decorating. Give them away!
- Giving:
  - Consider giving your time not just your money during the holidays.
  - Decide as a family how you can give back this season..

- Practice hospitality!
  - Start scheduling special time with your friends and family for the holidays.
  - Throw a themed party and have each guest bring something related to this theme.
- Gifts:
  - Let your creativity make up for where money lacks. Remember the point of a holiday is to let others know how much they are loved and appreciated—not to impress them.
  - Let the kids help wrap.
- Rest in His perfect peace:
  - Take time to live in the moment and be grateful. If you are too busy making everything “perfect” you will miss the moment.
  - Wake up early and sit near your Christmas tree with a hot cup of coffee or tea and just spend time with God.
  - Think ahead about how you would like to remember this holiday season.
  - Be an example of God’s love this year.

## **AFTER CHRISTMAS**

- Write down your favorite memories from the season.
- Write down what you would do differently next year.
- Organize your bins:
  - Always try to use clear, plastic containers to store decorations.
  - Number your bins and keep a list of what each number contains or
  - Take a photo of the items in the container and tape the photo to the outside of the bin.
  - While you are packing up for your holiday supplies make a list of anything you need or want for the following year.
  - Place all holiday cards in a zip lock and pack them away with the decorations.
- Hit the sales and stock up on holiday decorations, supplies and wrapping paper for next year!
- Give yourself some down time.
- Make a plan for the upcoming year on how you can clear more clutter, get organized and reach your highest potential!