

DECEMBER 29 TO JANUARY 4

Love

Who took the hard path for my sake this year?

Agape is love that chooses a cost for someone else's good, whether or not anything comes back.

No new layer this week. The tree gets its crown, the Star of Agape, and the rest of the week fills the space around it with stars. The pattern for the Star of Agape is in the November 30 pages (page 49).

The week in one breath

December 29 to 31, you receive. Each day ends with a star: gold or yellow for each other person at home, red for someone outside it, white for what came from beyond anyone's grip.

January 1, you celebrate. The fifth and last candle is lit from the fourth, and everyone reads the gold stars with their own name on them, gathered beneath the Star of Agape.

January 2 to 4, you give: time, then resources, then words.

Three pages this week: the stars you write, the celebration and your Plan, and what you gave.

Stars I Wrote

Write each star on paper first, the way the Guide shows, then jot it here in a few words. The gold ones hang on the tree, writing to the wall, until the Opening on January 1. After that, they belong to the people they name. On December 29, before the first star, the Star of Agape goes on top of the tree (pattern on page 49).

December 29 • Core • gold or yellow

Who in this house chose a cost for my good this year?

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

Kids said ("Has someone in our family done something hard for you, even when they didn't feel like it?")

December 30 • Community • red

Who outside this house took on something hard for me this year?

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

Kids said ("Why did Pilgrim leave such a nice room? Why did Pilgrim leave a lamp?")

December 31 • Cosmos • white

Where did love find me this year from beyond anyone's grip?

To _____ I thanked it for _____

To _____ I thanked it for _____

Kids said ("What's something good that happened to you this year that you didn't do anything to get?")

Getting ready for January 1

- ☐ Set out all four candles, a fifth for Love, and the lighter.
 - ☐ Find a pen, and read the Guide's Day 4 (page 230) once ahead of time, including the note for grown-ups at the end. Tomorrow's Plan goes on the next page of this book.
 - ☐ Optional: cut a slip of paper for each person for the Name Draw.
 - ☐ Optional: buy or bake bread for Basil's Bread. Some stores close early on New Year's Eve.
- If something isn't ready, tomorrow still works.

For the kids (Book 2): December 29: *The Storm Night*, storybook page 426, activity book page 192; December 30: *Pulling as One*, storybook page 440, activity book page 198; December 31: *The Last Night of the Year*, storybook page 455, activity book page 204