



# ultimate guide to



## to capturing holiday memories

Holidays can be stressful and we can often times find ourselves moving through the holidays just trying to get everything done and not really stopping to enjoy the moments and all the wonderful things happening with friends and family! Below you will find my guide to how to capture more photos along with tips, tricks and ideas for document more of those special holiday moments.

### Begin With The End In Mind

You will always get the best results if you begin with end in mind! As you take a few moments to read over this guide ask yourself these 3 questions.

1. What memories do I want to make this holiday season?
2. What will I need to capture these memories?
3. What will I do with all of the photos and memorabilia once I have it.

My goal is to give you plenty of photo ideas and journaling tips. However I want to make sure that once you capture all these amazing memories you will have the desire and ability to do something with all the things you've collected.

### Project Life makes it simple

Project Life is by far the easiest way to keep up on all your memory keeping projects! But even more so when it comes to the Holidays. I thought I would list several Project Life products that I think would be perfect for you to use.

\*Please note that if you are using this guide after November 2015 some of these products may not longer be available. If you can't find the products below please contact me at [katinamartinez@live.com](mailto:katinamartinez@live.com) and I will help you find new products.

Stampin' Hello December 2015 is what I've used to prepare my Holiday Album. I love this kit! It is simple and beautiful! You can get it [HERE](http://www.stampinup.com/ECWeb/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=140305&dbwsdemoid=2106408) (<http://www.stampinup.com/ECWeb/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=140305&dbwsdemoid=2106408>)

Project Life by Becky Higgins: Becky Higgins has several products that are perfect for the Holiday!  
Seasons Core Kit - Has all 4 seasons in core kit  
September Skies Core - Is great for Fall / Thanksgiving  
Merry & Bright & Oh What Fun Christmas are mini kits that will work great for Christmas

# thanksgiving


1. Pumpkin Pie & Everything Nice
2. A Blessings
3. Holiday Dishes
4. Family
5. Football
6. Cozy
7. The Weather
8. Thanksgiving Food
9. Friends
10. Thanksgiving Decor
11. The Kids Table
12. Selfies
13. Baking
14. Texture
15. Black Friday Shopping
16. At The Table
17. The Beginning
18. A Lazy Moment
19. Before & After
20. Night
21. The Scent of Thanksgiving
22. Team Work
23. Affection
24. These Hands
25. Outside This House
26. Travel
27. Favorite Moment
28. Details
29. Someone else taking a photo
30. Whats In The Bag
31. In The Kitchen
32. Whats On TV
33. Sleeping
34. On The Phone

35. Clean Up
36. Thankful
37. Good Byes
38. Morning
39. Your view
40. Sparkle / Shine
41. Planning
42. Crafty
43. On The Stove / In The Oven
44. Smiles / Tears
45. Look Up / Looking Down
46. Traditions
47. These Four Walls
48. Left Overs
49. Happiness / Sadness
50. In The Frig

## MEMORABILIA TO KEEP

or take a photo of

1. Place Mats or Placing Cards
2. Receipts from Black Friday Shopping
3. To Do List
4. Grocery Receipts
5. Napkins
6. Recipes w/ the food & person who made it.
7. Screen Shot Of The Weather
8. Map / Travel
9. Labels / Wrappers
10. Tags / Notes
11. Cards
12. Dinner Menus

 Remember you don't always have to "keep" all those little pieces of paper and memorabilia. I highly recommend taking a photo of those things so that you have the memory but not the clutter.

# christmas

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1. Doing A Holiday Craft
2. A Favorite Holiday Treat
3. Christmas Cards Ready To Mail
4. Wreath Hanging On The Front Door
5. Neighborhood Decorations / Town Decor
6. Holiday Shopping
7. Up Close Of Holiday Decorations
8. Holiday To Do List
9. The Christmas Tree
10. Holiday Food / Baking
11. Red & Green & Glitter
12. Christmas Dinner Prep
13. Photo In Front Of The Christmas Tree
14. All Dressed Up For A Holiday Party
15. Close Up Of Christmas Gifts
16. Winter Boots (Fresh From Outside)
17. Favorite Holiday Drink
18. Fireplace Mess
19. Advent calendar
20. Naught Or Nice
21. Wrapping Christmas Gifts
22. Favorite Christmas Movie
23. Store Display / Window Painting
24. Cleaning Up A Holiday Mess
25. Music In The Car
26. Christmas Lights
27. Hanging Stockings
28. Celebration
29. Visitors
30. Holiday Candy
31. Traditions
32. School Celebrations
33. Holiday Candle
34. Blessings
35. Smiles
36. Weather / Fresh Snow / Winter Wonderland
37. Aftermath
38. Handmade
39. Something Cozy / A Cozy Moment
40. Christmas Ornament
41. Joy / Joyful Moment
42. Santa
43. Playing Together
44. From High Up
45. Cookies
46. Errands
47. Nativity Scene
48. Ribbon & Bows
49. Peppermint
50. The Calendar With Holiday Events On It
51. Favorite Christmas Books
52. Santa's Milk & Cookies
53. Looking Inside / Through The Window
54. The Weather Forecast
55. Black & White
56. Christmas Recipe
57. Relaxation
58. Ending
59. Tree Toper
60. At The Store
61. Merry & Bright
62. Something Hot
63. Night
64. Close Up
65. Sky View / Storm Coming In/ Sunshine Peaking Out
66. Landscape
67. Santa's Hat / Family In Santa Hats
68. Candy Cane

# tips, tricks & how to's for documenting holiday memories

1. [How To Take Pictures In Front Of The Christmas Tree](http://faithfulstepsphotography.blogspot.com/2012/12/how-to-take-picture-of-your-kids-in.html) - {<http://faithfulstepsphotography.blogspot.com/2012/12/how-to-take-picture-of-your-kids-in.html>}  
This is a very detailed tutorial on how to get the perfect picture in front of the Christmas Tree.
2. [How To Take Better Pictures In The Snow](http://www.thephotographus.com/helpful-tips-for-shooting-in-the-snow/) - {<http://www.thephotographus.com/helpful-tips-for-shooting-in-the-snow/>}  
It is always so much fun getting those pictures of kids playing in the snow. Find out how to get better photos out in the snow!
3. [How To Take Better Photos Of Food](http://thepioneerwoman.com/photography/ten-important-things-ive-learned-about-food-photography/) - {<http://thepioneerwoman.com/photography/ten-important-things-ive-learned-about-food-photography/>}  
I love the Pioneer Women I think her tips on how to photograph food can come in handy. You may not need to make those food photos perfect, but these tips will help you get better shots of those amazing Holiday dishes.

capture everyday moments  
♥ EVEN DURING THE HOLIDAYS!

Remember to capture your everyday moments!! Showing your child in their environment doing what they normally would do.

To avoid photo burn out when it comes to Holiday Photos  
only do "posed" shots once in awhile.

At Christmastime that may be playing with a nativity set, or opening a present, reading a Christmas book, making gingerbread houses or even outside activities like looking at lights or making a snowman.

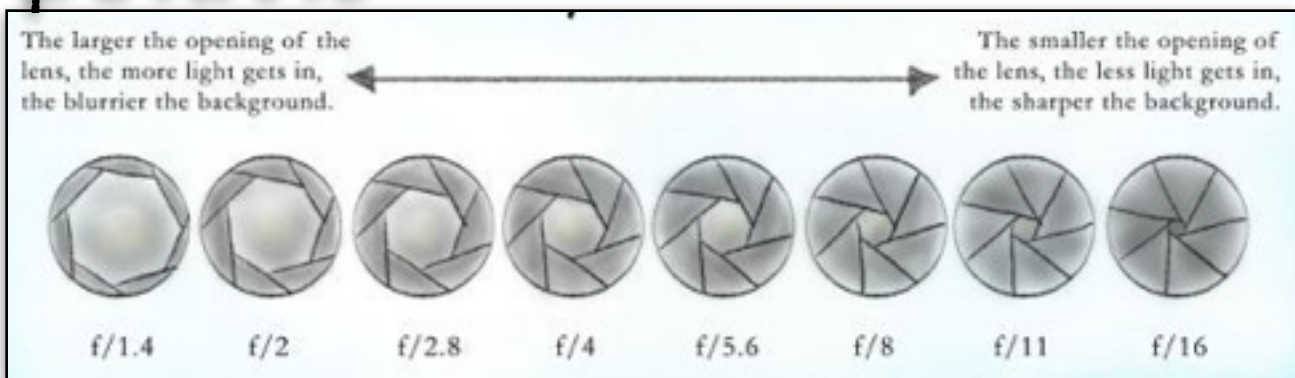
## **Homes with bad lighting:**

Homes that don't have great light, make the best places to get moody B&Ws!!! Or also challenge you to learn to use an external flash! So don't let that deter you from shooting in your home.

# ultimate resource guide for capturing holiday memories

1. [5 Great Tips To Taking Better Holiday Photos](http://blog.fractureme.com/take-better-holiday-photos/) {http://blog.fractureme.com/take-better-holiday-photos/}
2. [9 Ways To Get A Better Family Christmas Photo](http://www.buzzfeed.com/chanelparks/better-family-christmas-photos#.eylWnEMoA) {http://www.buzzfeed.com/chanelparks/better-family-christmas-photos#.eylWnEMoA}
3. [Christmas Morning Photo Tips](http://jennycollier.com/christmas-morning-photo-tips/) {http://jennycollier.com/christmas-morning-photo-tips/}
4. [How To Take Better Photos Of Christmas Lights](http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-better-photos-of-christmas-lights/) - {http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-better-photos-of-christmas-lights/}
5. [18 Christmas Adorable Christmas Card Photo Ideas](http://www.howdoesshe.com/18-adorable-christmas-card-photo-ideas/) {http://www.howdoesshe.com/18-adorable-christmas-card-photo-ideas/}

## Aperture



### Think Outside The Box - Create your own backgrounds for Holiday Photos:

In order to get the blurry, **dream-like backgrounds** in your photography, you need to make sure you're shooting with your aperture at it's lowest possible setting. In layman's terms, this means the lens is all the way open, **allowing in the most light it possibly can** when you take a picture and as a result, creating **depth** in your image. If you take a portrait of your children in front of the Christmas tree, for example, this setting will turn the ornaments, lights and other out-of-focus elements behind them into big, beautiful circles of light called **bokeh**

This can be done on your iPhone as well.