

News Story Summary

Christmas is now less than 70 days away (69 days on the suggested day of use or 68 plus some hours if you prefer to countdown using hours). Many stores began displaying Christmas decorations several weeks ago in anticipation of the Christmas season. Various online countdowns are available to help you keep track of the number of days until Christmas, some giving just the days and others providing a countdown to the very second.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Christmas countdown.”)

Focus Attention

Comment that Christmas is now less than 70 days away (69 days on the suggested day of use or 68 plus some hours if you prefer to countdown using hours). Ask: *What are you doing in anticipation of celebrating Christmas? How early is too early to think about Christmas? How does looking forward to Christmas help some endure the weeks leading up to December 25th?*

Call attention to the last paragraph of Understand the Context (page 74, Personal Study Guide). Challenge the group to look for the things Peter encouraged his readers to do as they waited for the return of Christ.

Challenge

Remind the group of the Christmas countdown. Lead the group to discuss actions they would be taking if they were counting down the days until the return of Christ. Remind them of the four actions called for by Peter. Challenge them to keep a journal this week, pointing to the third question set under In My Context (page 80, Adult Personal Study Guide: *Keep a journal of the next seven days, looking for ways you are involved in the four actions identified by Peter Evaluate what you record. How can your speech and service better reflect the glory of Christ?*)