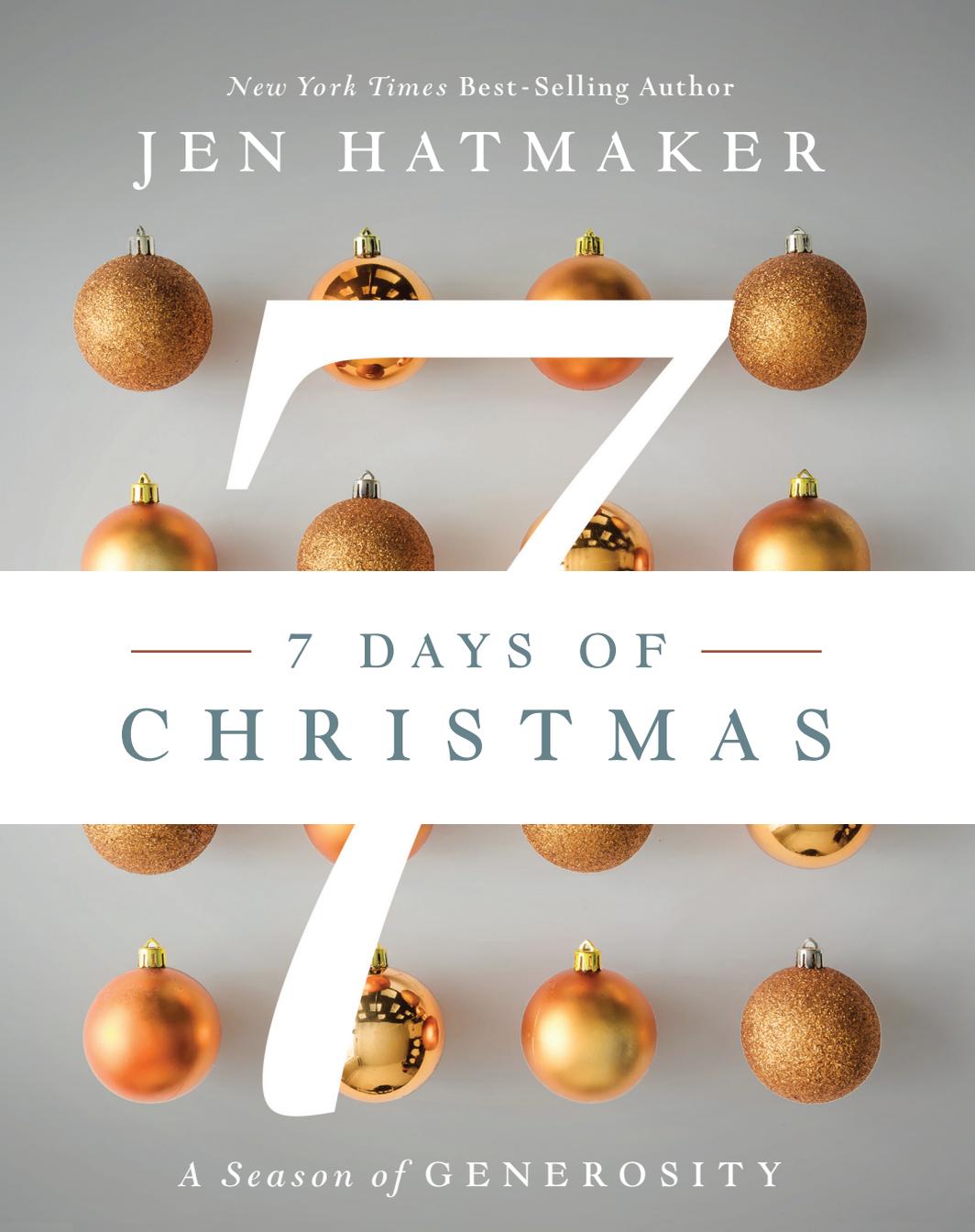


New York Times Best-Selling Author

JEN HATMAKER



— 7 DAYS OF —
CHRISTMAS

A Season of GENEROSITY

7 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

A SEASON OF GENEROSITY

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MANUFACTURED IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Thanksgiving meal to seven foods. Even if it means the cranberry sauce doesn't make the cut.

- **TALK WITH THE FAMILY TRIBE ABOUT FAVORITE HOLIDAY FOODS**, and select a number of them to make and give to someone else, but not necessarily to have for yourselves. This could be a starter, a casserole, a dessert, or a family favorite. Again, if you happen to be reading this before Thanksgiving, give those dishes to a friend, neighbor, or stranger. (If you're giving food to a total stranger, you'd better introduce yourself and your purpose first so they don't think you're trying to drug them with Aunt Maybelle's Famous Squash Casserole.)

- **GO HELP OUT AT A SOUP KITCHEN** the weekend after Thanksgiving weekend or during Christmas week, when most of the volunteers have come and gone. What about after the holidays, too? If you think your kitchen cabinets need reorganizing, sweet baby Jesus, you can bet those food pantries need help every day of the week. If your organizational skills would make Marie Kondo proud, spark some joy by giving your time, whether it's seven hours or seven days, to a kitchen that serves others.





Annual PSA: No one is interested in my deconstructed green bean casserole with bourbon cream sauce and pickled shallots. They want canned green beans mixed with cream of mushroom soup topped with shelf-stable fried onions. I cannot be precious about reinventing American Thanksgiving staples for these jokers.

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dressed up. He invites us in some small way this season to recognize that we have and are enough and, in doing so, be freed to give and clothe and breathe in His presence this season.

I want to belong to a Christian community known for a different kind of beauty, the kind that heals and inspires. We cannot carry the gospel to the poor and lowly while emulating the practices of the rich and powerful or worrying too much about how we look or what outfit we chose that day. We've been invited into a story that begins with humility and ends with glory; never the other way around.

Let's align ourselves correctly, sharing in the humble ministry of Jesus, knowing one day we'll feast at His table in splendor. And He won't give a rip what we're wearing.



THREE

Stuff

able to maintain with decent regularity. Others seemed to fade out. And that's okay.

This was the beginning of a process for us, as it likely is for you—not a complete story by itself. Whatever God has done or is doing in our family is certainly not a template, and I don't want it to be. We live in a certain city with a certain task, we have specific gifts, and we're horribly deficient in others. Our life looks like it does because we are the Hatmakers, and God is dealing with us the way He's dealing with us. We have history and sin issues and circumstances and geography that God takes into account as He stakes our place in His kingdom.

You have an entirely different set of factors. I have no idea what this might look like in your life, nor do I want that job. Your story is God's to write, not

mine. But I do have some takeaways from it all that I think are worth sharing. Maybe they'll resonate with you, too.

Love God most. Love your neighbor as yourself.
This is everything.

If we say we love God, then we will care about the poor.

This earth is God's and everything in it. We should live like we believe this.

What we treasure reveals what we love.

Money and stuff have the power to ruin us.

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God. This is what is required.

You've celebrated, decorated, and cooked your way to holiday exhaustion and you're hitting your limits on more than just your plastic this season.

Inspired by best-selling author Jen Hatmaker's breakout book *7*, *7 Days of Christmas* is for every jingle-bell sweater-wearing, Michelin-rated casserole-making wife, mother, sister, and friend.

Following the original seven categories from the book *7*—kitchen, fashion, stuff, streaming, tossing, spending, and stressing—Hatmaker shares stories and quotes from holidays past, along with a few simple ideas for replacing excess this Christmas.

In a season where retail stores display Christmas in August with constant pressure to manufacture joy, *7 Days of Christmas* will encourage readers toward a little less hustle and busyness in exchange for a little more family, laughter, and generosity.

Cover design by Micah Kandros

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