

Glowing Christmas Portrait Guide

Your smartphone settings and 5-minute shot list.

Capture beautiful, glowing holiday memories in just five minutes without expensive equipment. Use this cheat sheet to set up your scene and easily lock in the perfect smartphone settings.

● Essential Scene Setup

5 ft

Gap to tree for depth

100

Minimum lights per vertical foot

0

Overhead lights or lamps on

5 min

Max time for authentic wonder

Lock Focus on Face

Tap and hold your finger on the illuminated face until the AE/AF Lock banner appears. This stops the smartphone from hunting for focus in the dark room.



● 5-Minute Shot List

- 1 Look Inside** Ask them to peer deeply into the open box for flattering, dramatic uplighting.
- 2 The Tree** Have them look over the box toward the tree to catch twinkling background catchlights.
- 3 Genuine Reactions** Ask them to whisper what they think is hiding inside for an awe-struck expression.

● Tree Lighting Guide

Find your row: **Your Tree Height**

Your Tree Height	Your pick	Why
6 feet	600 lights	Space every 4 inches
7.5 feet	750 lights	Space every 3 inches
9 feet	900 lights	Space every 2 inches

● Camera & Scene Setup

- ☐ Hide a warm-white LED in an open, opaque wrapped box.
- ☐ Clean the smartphone lens with a microfiber cloth.
- ☐ Turn off automatic flash to protect the carefully crafted shadows.
- ☐ Lower exposure manually to make the background tree lights vibrant.
- ☐ Position lens at eye level, keeping the camera parallel to the floor.
- ☐ Ask glasses wearers to tilt chins down to bounce glare away.

● Session Notes

Enjoy capturing this magical holiday moment with your little ones!