

# Advent: Journey to Christmas

*Twenty-five days tracing God's promise from Eden to the manger.*

25 days · about 10 minutes a day · for the whole family

## How to use this

Pick a time you already gather — dinner, or just before bed — and keep it there. The whole thing takes about ten minutes.

1. Read the passage together. On a busy night, just read the memory verse — that counts.
2. Read the short devotion out loud.
3. Talk through the questions. Let everyone answer in their own words; there are no wrong answers.
4. Say the memory verse together, and try to remember it tomorrow.

## DAY 1 The Promise of a Savior Genesis 3:14-15

On the very day sin broke the world, God did not give up on the people He made. Even as He spoke of the trouble that sin would bring, He made a stunning promise: one day a child born of woman would crush the serpent's head. This is the first whisper of the gospel, tucked into the saddest chapter of the Bible. From the beginning, God had a rescue plan, and that plan was a Person who would come to undo what sin had done.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. How does it change things to know God planned to rescue us before we ever asked?
2. What do you think it means that a Savior would 'crush the serpent's head'?
3. Where in your own life do you need to remember that God keeps His promises?

### MEMORY VERSE · GENESIS 3:15

*"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."*

## DAY 2 God's Covenant with Abraham Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 22:17-18

God called an ordinary man named Abraham and made him an extraordinary promise: through his family, every nation on earth would be blessed. Abraham could not see how God would do it, but he trusted the One who spoke. Many generations later, that blessing would arrive as a baby in Bethlehem, a descendant of Abraham who would bless the whole world. God works across centuries to keep His word, and He is just as faithful to our families today.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What might it have felt like for Abraham to trust a promise he couldn't see come true?
2. How is Jesus a blessing 'to all nations,' even ours?
3. What is one promise of God your family can choose to trust this week?

#### MEMORY VERSE · GENESIS 12:3

*“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who treats you with contempt. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”*

## DAY 3 The Star of Jacob Numbers 24:17

A man named Balaam was hired to curse God's people, but God turned his words into a blessing instead. Looking far into the future, Balaam saw a star rising and a king coming from Israel. This was a picture of a ruler greater than any earthly king, pointing ahead to Jesus. Even people who did not love God ended up declaring His plan, because nothing can stop what God has promised to do.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think God can use even unlikely people to share His truth?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is a King who comes from far away yet rules over everything?
3. How does it feel to know God's plans can't be stopped?

#### MEMORY VERSE · NUMBERS 24:17

*“I see him, but not now. I see him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob. A scepter will rise out of Israel, and shall strike through the corners of Moab, and break down all the sons of Sheth.”*

## DAY 4 A Prophet Like Moses Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Moses led God's people out of slavery, but he told them someone even greater was coming. God promised to raise up a Prophet like Moses, one whose words must be listened to because they would be God's own words. Jesus is that Prophet, the One who speaks the truth perfectly and shows us exactly what God is like. When we listen to Jesus, we are hearing the very voice of God.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What makes listening to Jesus different from listening to anyone else?
2. How can our family get better at really listening to God's words?
3. Why do you think God promised someone even greater than Moses?

#### MEMORY VERSE · DEUTERONOMY 18:15

*“Yahweh your God will raise up to you a prophet from among you, of your brothers, like me. You shall listen to him.”*

## DAY 5 The Root of Jesse Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah pictured a family tree that had been cut down to a stump, the once-great line of King David seemingly finished. Yet from that dead-looking stump, God promised a fresh green shoot would grow. This branch would be a King filled with God's Spirit, ruling with perfect wisdom and justice and bringing a peace so deep that even enemies would rest together. When things look hopeless, God is often just about to do something new, and that new thing turned out to be Jesus.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why is it good news that God can grow life from something that looks dead?
2. What kind of king is Jesus, based on this reading?
3. Where does your family long for the peace this passage describes?

#### MEMORY VERSE · ISAIAH 11:1

*“A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit.”*

## DAY 6 The Virgin Birth Foretold Isaiah 7:14

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah gave a sign so wonderful it could only be God's doing: a virgin would have a son, and He would be called Immanuel, which means 'God with us.' No name could be more amazing. The God who made the stars would come close enough to be held in human arms. Christmas is the story of God Himself drawing near to be with us forever.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does the name 'God with us' tell you about who Jesus is?
2. How does it feel to know God wanted to be close to us, not far away?
3. When do you most need to remember that God is with you?

#### MEMORY VERSE · ISAIAH 7:14

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

## DAY 7 For Unto Us a Child is Born Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah described the coming Savior with names too big for any ordinary child: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He would be a baby, yet He would also be God, and His kingdom would never end. This is the heart of Christmas, that the One born in a manger is truly God the Son who came to reign forever. The little child in the manger holds the whole world in His hands.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Which of Jesus' names in this passage means the most to you, and why?
2. How can a baby also be the 'Mighty God'?
3. What would it look like to let Jesus be the 'Prince of Peace' in our home?

#### MEMORY VERSE · ISAIAH 9:6

*“For to us a child is born. To us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

## DAY 8 Bethlehem Prophecy Micah 5:2-5

Bethlehem was a small, easy-to-overlook town, yet God chose it to be the birthplace of the world's true King. Micah promised that out of this little place would come a ruler whose origins are from ancient times, from eternity itself. God loves to use small and humble things to do His greatest work. No person and no place is too small for God's mighty plan.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think God chose a small town instead of a great city?
2. How does it encourage you that God uses humble things?
3. What small thing in your life might God want to use for something big?

#### MEMORY VERSE · MICAH 5:2

*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small among the clans of Judah, out of you one will come out to me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings out are from of old, from ancient times.”*

## DAY 9 The King on a Donkey Zechariah 9:9

When kings came in those days, they rode powerful war horses to show their strength. But Zechariah promised a different kind of King, one who would come gentle and humble, riding on a donkey. This King would bring salvation, not by force, but by laying down His life for His people. Jesus is a King so strong that He can afford to be gentle, and so loving that He came to serve us.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it tell us that Jesus chose to come gently instead of forcefully?
2. How is Jesus' kind of greatness different from the world's?
3. How can our family show strength through gentleness this week?

#### MEMORY VERSE · ZECHARIAH 9:9

*“Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous, and having salvation; lowly, and riding on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

## DAY 10 Prepare the Way Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1

Before a great king arrived, someone would go ahead to get the roads ready. God promised a messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord, calling people to turn their hearts back to God. This messenger turned out to be John the Baptist, pointing everyone toward Jesus. Advent is our own season of getting ready, making room in our hearts for the Savior who is coming.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to 'prepare the way' for Jesus in our hearts?
2. Why might God send a messenger ahead instead of just arriving?
3. What is one way our family can make more room for Jesus this Christmas?

#### MEMORY VERSE · ISAIAH 40:3

*“The voice of one who calls out, “Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness! Make a level highway in the desert for our God.”*

## DAY 11 Zechariah's Vision Luke 1:5-25

Zechariah and Elizabeth were old and had never been able to have children, yet they kept loving and serving God. One day an angel appeared and told Zechariah that they would have a son who would prepare people for the Lord. The news seemed too good to be true, but God was already at work bringing it to pass. God hears the long, quiet prayers of His people and answers in His perfect time.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. How does it encourage you that God remembered Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers?
2. Why is it sometimes hard to believe good news, even from God?
3. What is something your family has been praying about for a long time?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 1:13

*“But the angel said to him, “Don’t be afraid, Zacharias, because your request has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”*

## DAY 12 Gabriel Visits Mary Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel came to a young woman named Mary with astonishing news: she would give birth to the Son of God, conceived not by human plans but by the Holy Spirit. Mary did not fully understand, yet she answered with beautiful trust, 'I am the Lord's servant.' She believed that nothing is impossible with God. When God asks us to trust Him with something we can't understand, we can say yes like Mary did.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What do you admire about the way Mary responded to God?
2. Why is it comforting that 'nothing is impossible with God'?
3. Where do you need to trust God even when you don't understand?

### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 1:37

*“For nothing spoken by God is impossible.”*

## DAY 13 Mary Visits Elizabeth Luke 1:39-56

Mary hurried to visit her relative Elizabeth, and the moment Mary arrived, the baby inside Elizabeth leaped for joy. Filled with the Holy Spirit, both women rejoiced in what God was doing. Mary sang a song of praise, marveling that God lifts up the humble and remembers His promises of mercy. When God works, the right response is worship, and joy is meant to be shared with the people we love.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think Mary and Elizabeth were so full of joy?
2. What does Mary's song teach us about how God treats the humble?
3. Who could your family share the joy of Jesus with this week?

### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 1:46-47

*“Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,’*

## DAY 14 John the Baptist is Born Luke 1:57-80

When Elizabeth's baby was born, Zechariah's voice came back, and the first thing he did was praise God. He prophesied that his son John would prepare the way for the Lord, helping people know the forgiveness and salvation God was bringing. John's whole life would point away from himself and toward Jesus. Like John, the best thing we can do is point others to the Savior.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think Zechariah's first words after being silent were praise?
2. What does it mean that John's job was to point people to Jesus?
3. How can our family help point others toward Jesus?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 1:76

*“And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways,”*

## DAY 15 Joseph's Dream Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph was confused and hurting when he learned Mary was expecting a baby, but God sent an angel in a dream to explain the wonderful truth. This child was from the Holy Spirit, and Joseph was to name Him Jesus, 'because he will save his people from their sins.' Joseph trusted God and took Mary as his wife, becoming an earthly father to the Son of God. The very name Jesus tells us why He came: to rescue us from our sins.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What do you notice about how Joseph obeyed God even when it was hard?
2. Why is it good news that Jesus came to save us from our sins?
3. When has your family had to trust God during a confusing time?

#### MEMORY VERSE · MATTHEW 1:21

*“She shall give birth to a son. You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.”*

## DAY 16 The Genealogy of Jesus Matthew 1:1-17

This long list of names might seem like the least exciting part of Christmas, but it is actually amazing. It shows that Jesus really entered our real human family, with a history full of kings and ordinary people, heroes and sinners. God kept His promises through every generation, all the way to Jesus. No matter what our family story holds, God can weave it into His good and faithful plan.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think God included Jesus' family history in the Bible?
2. How does it help to know God worked through imperfect people?
3. What is one way you've seen God be faithful in your family's story?

#### MEMORY VERSE · MATTHEW 1:16

*“Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”*

## DAY 17 The Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-5

A powerful emperor ordered everyone to register in their hometown, so Joseph and Mary traveled the long road to Bethlehem. The emperor thought he was just counting people, but God was using his decree to bring Jesus to the exact town the prophets had foretold. Even the choices of rulers serve God's plan without their knowing it. We can rest knowing that God is quietly guiding every detail, even the ones we can't see.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. How did God use even an emperor's command to keep His promise?
2. What does this teach us about who is really in control?
3. Where do you need to trust that God is guiding the details of your life?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:4

*“Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David;”*

## DAY 18 No Room in the Inn Luke 2:6-7

When the time came, Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid Him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, because there was no room for them anywhere else. The King of all creation entered the world in the humblest of places. Jesus was not too proud to be born poor and overlooked, because He came to be near to the lowly and the lost. There is no place too ordinary or too small for Jesus to come and make His home.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to be born in such a humble place?
2. What does the manger teach us about how much Jesus loves us?
3. How can our family make room for Jesus this Christmas?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:7

*“She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn.”*

## DAY 19 The Shepherds' Watch Luke 2:8-12

Out in the fields, ordinary shepherds were watching their flocks at night when an angel appeared in dazzling glory. The good news of great joy did not go first to kings or the powerful, but to humble working people. The angel announced that a Savior had been born, and they would find Him as a baby wrapped in cloths. God delights to bring His best news to ordinary people, which means He has good news for your family too.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why is it meaningful that God told the shepherds first?
2. What is the 'good news of great joy' the angel announced?
3. How does it feel to know God's good news is for ordinary people like us?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:11

*“For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

## DAY 20 The Heavenly Host Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly the sky filled with a great army of angels, all praising God and singing, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.' Heaven could not stay quiet about the birth of the Savior. The arrival of Jesus brings peace between God and people, the deepest peace there is. When we understand what Jesus came to do, our hearts want to join the angels in praise.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What do you think it would have been like to see and hear all those angels?
2. What kind of peace does Jesus bring that the world can't give?
3. How can our family give 'glory to God' this Christmas season?

### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:14

*“Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men.”*

## DAY 21 The Shepherds Find Jesus Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds did not just wonder about the angel's news; they hurried off to see for themselves and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby just as they had been told. After meeting Jesus, they could not keep quiet, telling everyone what they had seen and praising God all the way home. Meeting Jesus changes us and gives us something wonderful to share. When we truly find Him, joy spills out into the way we live.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think the shepherds were so eager to tell others?
2. How does meeting Jesus change the way we live?
3. Who is one person your family could tell about Jesus this Christmas?

### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:20

*“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, just as it was told them.”*

## DAY 22 The Wise Men's Journey Matthew 2:1-8

Far away in the East, wise men saw a special star and set out on a long journey to find the newborn King of the Jews. They traveled a great distance because they believed He was worth seeking. While King Herod felt threatened and the religious leaders stayed home, these foreigners pressed on to worship Jesus. Seeking Jesus is always worth the journey, no matter how far we have to travel to find Him.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it tell us that the wise men traveled so far to find Jesus?
2. Why do you think some people sought Jesus while others ignored Him?
3. What does it look like for your family to 'seek Jesus' this week?

#### MEMORY VERSE · MATTHEW 2:2

*““Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him.””*

## DAY 23 Following the Star Matthew 2:9-11

The star led the wise men straight to the child Jesus, and they were overjoyed. They fell down and worshiped Him, offering treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, gifts fit for a king. Their first response to finding Jesus was to give Him the best they had. When we see who Jesus truly is, we want to worship Him and give Him our hearts.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why did the wise men respond to Jesus with worship and gifts?
2. What is the best gift we could give to Jesus today?
3. How can our family worship Jesus, not just on Christmas, but every day?

#### MEMORY VERSE · MATTHEW 2:11

*“They came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Opening their treasures, they offered to him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

## DAY 24 The Light Has Come John 1:1-14

John tells the Christmas story from a soaring view: Jesus, the eternal Word, was with God and was God, and through Him everything was made. This same God became flesh and made His home among us, full of grace and truth. The Light that no darkness can overcome stepped into our world to shine on us. On this Christmas Eve, we remember that the baby in the manger is the eternal Son of God who came to bring us light and life.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean that Jesus is both the Creator and the baby in the manger?
2. How is Jesus like a light shining in the darkness?
3. How can your family let Jesus' light shine through you this Christmas?

#### MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 1:14

*“The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

## DAY 25 Glory to God – Christmas Day Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:6

Today we celebrate the moment all of history had been waiting for: a child is born, a Son is given, and He is the Savior, Christ the Lord. Every promise we have read this month, from the garden to the prophets, finds its 'yes' in Jesus. God kept His word in full, sending His own Son to save us by grace and to be with us forever. Merry Christmas, this is the best news the world has ever known, and it is good news for your family today.

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Looking back over this month, how have you seen God keep every promise?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus was given as a gift to save us?
3. How can our family keep the joy of Christmas alive all year long?

#### MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:11

*“For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

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