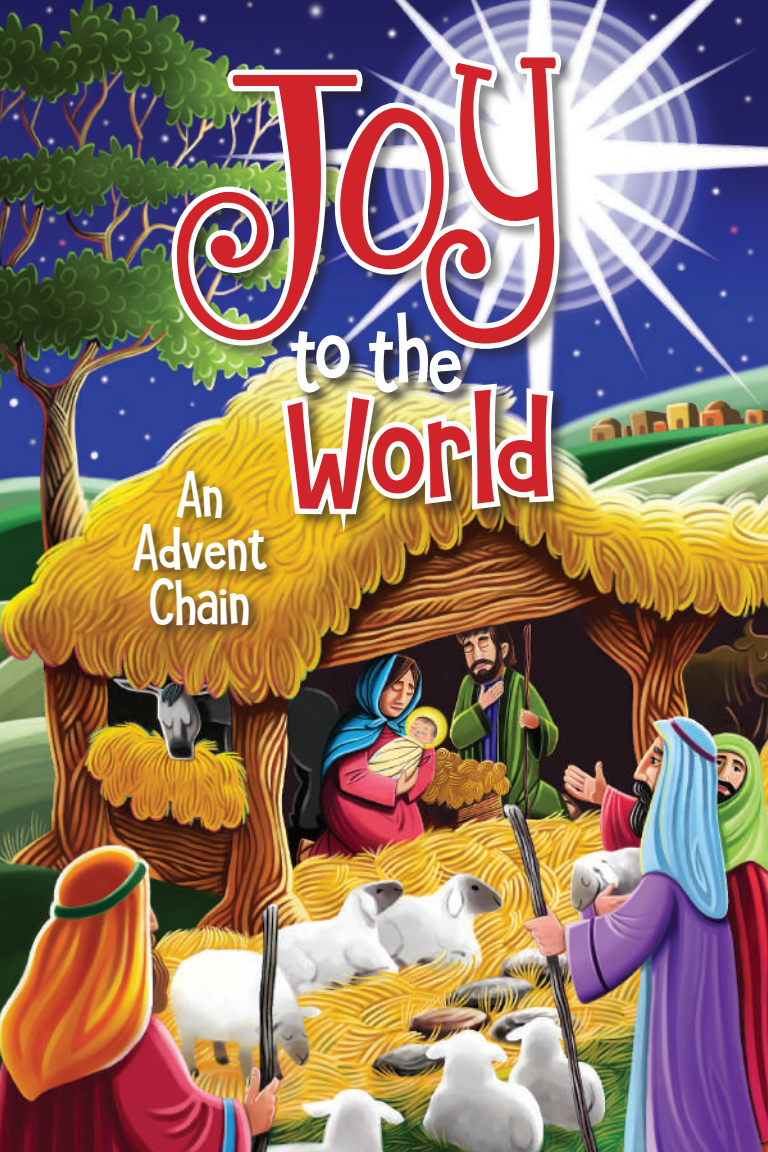


Joy to the World

An
Advent
Chain





Joy to the World

The word **Advent** means “coming.” Jesus is coming. We use the days of Advent to prepare our hearts, homes and families for Christmas Day, the coming of Jesus. An Advent Chain is a way of helping you count those days.

But as you count, this Advent Chain does something else. It helps you get ready for Christmas by learning some of the many names the Bible uses when it talks about Jesus.

On each day of December up until Christmas Day you will learn about one of the many names of Jesus as found in the Bible. Also, each day brings you a thought or activity to help you get ready for the Lord’s coming. And finally, on the back of each link of your Advent Chain is a quote from the Bible that explores the name of Jesus you learned that day.

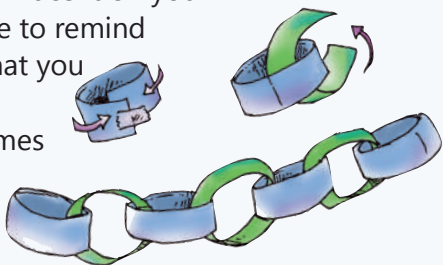


How to use this Advent Chain



Each day, as you discover a new name for Jesus, cut off the appropriate strip from the end of your page. The strips are titled with the name of the day, plus each strip has a number (1-24) printed at the bottom to make it easy to identify. Each page has two strips so make sure you cut off the correct strip for each day.

On December 1st, as you cut off your first strip, loop it into a ring and fasten it with glue or tape. The next day cut off the second strip and insert it through the loop from the first day, making another loop, and fasten with glue. You should now have a small, two-link chain. Continue adding links until you reach Christmas Eve with 24 links in your chain! Place it on your Christmas tree to remind you about what you have learned about the names of Jesus.



THE Story FROM THE Bible



This is story of Jesus' birth as written in Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20. Come back and read this on Christmas Eve (or anytime!).

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and



while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born—

Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.



DECEMBER 1

Bread of Life

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means “the house of bread.” Our bodies need food to live but food won’t get us to heaven. Our hearts need Jesus. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we will live forever.



Activity for Today

You can make your own Christmas presents. Bake your family’s favorite cookies. Put 2-3 in a bag for a small gift.

Jesus spoke to the Pharisees again. “I am the light of the world,” he said. “Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.”—John 8:12

Bread of Life

DECEMBER 2

Light of the World

The world is dark because of our sins, but Jesus gives us light. He takes our sins away and shows us (like a flashlight) how to walk in the dark and where to go next.



Activity for Today

Light candles at the dinner table tonight and give thanks for Jesus, the light of the world.

Light of the World

"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty." —John 6:35

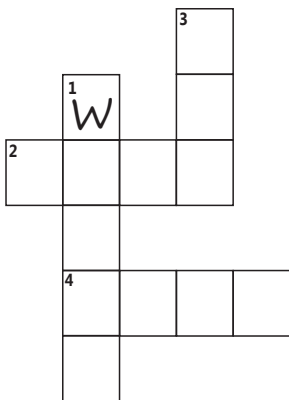
DECEMBER 3

Lamb of God

Jesus Christ dies on the cross for our sins. As the Lamb of God, Jesus' sacrifice pays for our sins past, present, and future.

Solve this crossword puzzle from today's bible verse:

1. The Earth.
2. Who saw Jesus?
3. Doing wrong.
4. A young sheep.



On his robe and on his thigh was written the name:
"King of kings and Lord of lords." —Revelation 19:16

Lamb of God

DECEMBER 4

King of Kings

Jesus is the king over all kings and rulers. As subjects in His kingdom, we owe Him our complete devotion. There is no one more powerful on earth than Jesus, the King of kings!



Activity for Today

Do you have a crèche set ready for Christmas? You can make one yourself from construction paper!

King of Kings

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" —John 1:29

DECEMBER 5

Good Shepherd

Just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep, Jesus takes care of us. He will do anything to save His sheep, even die for them. And that's what He did for us so that we might have life.

Unscramble these words from today's bible verse:

EPEHS

REFTHA

ODOG

WKON

EDRHSPHE

"This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord!" —Luke 2:11

Good Shepherd

DECEMBER 6

Savior

A savior rescues people from danger or mistakes—Jesus came to this world to do that. When our situation seems hopeless, when we are powerless to save ourselves, that is when we most need Jesus, our Savior.



Thought for Today

We get ready for Christmas best when we take care of others. Who needs your help today?

Savior

6

"I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them."

—John 10:14-15

DECEMBER 7

Messiah

Messiah is the Hebrew word for “chosen one” or “anointed one”—One especially appointed by God for His plan and purpose. The prophet Isaiah told of Jesus’ coming as Messiah in the Old Testament.

Search for these words:

CHOSEN
ISAIAH
JESUS
MESSIAH

P	C	A	J	S	I	M
I	H	L	E	P	S	D
F	O	S	S	N	A	A
G	S	T	U	Z	I	C
M	E	S	S	I	A	H
B	N	M	A	W	H	D

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me will live, even though they die.”
—John 11:25

Messiah

DECEMBER 8

Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated death. Death doesn't have to make us afraid if we have Jesus in our hearts. Not only that, but Jesus is life! Those who follow Him live life to the full!



Activity for Today

Around the dinner table tonight, ask each family member to share a highlight from their day today.

Resurrection and the Life

∞

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything."

—John 4:25

DECEMBER 9

Son of God

Because God loves us so much, He gave us the most wonderful gift He could give. He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior so we may have everlasting life through Him.



Thought for Today

Is there someone you need to forgive? Someone you need to ask forgiveness from?

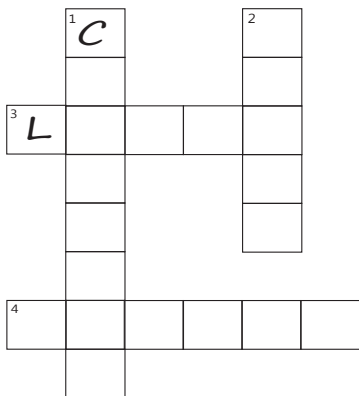
I Know that my Redeemer lives.
—Job 19:25

Son of God

DECEMBER 10

The word *redeem* means to buy or get back something. Jesus is our Redeemer because through His suffering on the cross He reclaimed us as God's children.

1. We are God's _____.
2. Our Redeemer
3. My Redeemer _____.
4. To buy back.



Redeemer

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God."

—Luke 1:35

DECEMBER 11

The Morning Star

The morning star is the brightest star in the morning sky. Jesus calls himself the bright morning star—even when things seem as dark as night, Jesus shines for everyone to see.



Thought for Today

How can you shine like a star for someone today?

"I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"—Mark 1:24

The Morning Star

DECEMBER 12

The Holy One

While Jesus lived on earth He did only what God wanted Him to do. He lived a holy life and did not sin or do evil. This is why we always try to be like Him.



Thought for Today

We are called to be like Jesus. How can I be like Jesus today?

The Holy One

DECEMBER 13

Gate for the Sheep

In a sheep's pen, the shepherd is like a gate, letting sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is our gate to God. We have to go through the gate to be with God.

Unscramble these words from today's bible verse:

USESJ

THURT

EEPSH

AEDVS

ERUASTP

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty—Psalm 91:1

Gate for the Sheep

So Jesus said again, "I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. Those who come in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture."
—John 10:7-9

The Almighty

14

DECEMBER 14

The Almighty

Jesus is the all-powerful Lord. Nothing is impossible for him to do for us. When we feel scared we can feel protected by remembering Jesus' presence and God's power.



Activity for Today

Jesus brings light to others through each one of us. Do something kind today for someone.

DECEMBER 15

Son of David

David was the greatest king of Israel who lived long before Jesus. People called Jesus "the Son of David" because they hoped that Jesus would bring freedom to Israel just as David had done.

Search for these
words:

JESUS
DAVID
SON
HOSANNA

P	W	A	T	S	H	L
I	T	L	U	P	R	D
H	O	S	A	N	N	A
T	E	O	X	H	K	V
J	O	N	U	T	D	I
B	E	M	A	W	M	D

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." —John 14:6

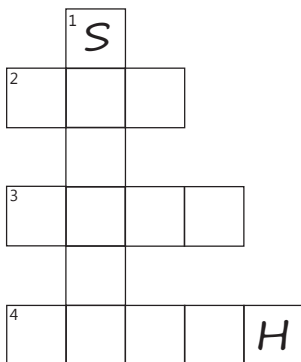
Son of David

The Way, Truth, and Life

DECEMBER 16

Jesus is our way to God.
He teaches us the truth
of how we should live
and by following Him we
will have life with God
forever in heaven.

1. A person who saves.
2. A path or road
3. The opposite of death
4. Tell the



DECEMBER 17

Prince of Peace

When things get crazy in life Jesus is our "peace." He is the calm in the storm. He has given us this peace by the love that is planted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.



Thought for Today

Because of Jesus we have life that will never end. How does knowing that change the way we live out each day?

Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." —Revelation 22:13

Prince of Peace

DECEMBER 18

Alpha and Omega

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is declaring himself to be everything from A to Z, from the beginning of creation till the end.

Search for these words
found in today's
bible verse:

ALPHA
OMEGA
FIRST
LAST
JESUS

T	A	P	O	N	T	H	R	E
N	H	S	U	S	E	J	A	S
H	P	L	S	C	T	I	C	S
O	L	A	S	T	S	R	I	F
J	A	O	M	E	G	A	D	O
L	A	S	B	L	E	M	U	G

Alpha and Omega

18

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." —Isaiah 9:6

DECEMBER 19

Wonderful Counselor

A counselor is someone who gives us good advice about how to live so that we become better persons. Jesus always tells us and shows us how to live the way God wants us to.



Activity for Today

With your family, take turns reading the Christmas story from the Bible: Luke 2:1-20.

The Lord is the head of the body, the church; he is the source of the body's life. He is the Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. —Colossians 1:18

Wonderful Counselor

DECEMBER 20

Lord

In the New Testament, *Lord* is the most frequently used title for Jesus. The Bible describes the Lord as the head of the church and the ruler over all creation.

Unscramble these words from today's bible verse:

YODB

ONS

ROLD

SDEIAR

UHCHCR

Proverbs

20

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." —Isaiah 9:6

DECEMBER 21

Hope

Jesus is our most important source of hope in this world. His victory over death gives us confidence that after our death we will also live with God forever.



Activity for Today

God calls us to give generously and cheerfully. Is there something you can happily give today to help someone in need?

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."—John 15:5

DECEMBER 22

The Vine

Jesus is the vine, His followers are the branches. The branches need to have the vine to grow. If they don't, they're going to fall off and die. We all need to stay connected to Jesus in order to grow.



Activity for Today

Look for light in one another! Pass a flashlight around the dinner table. Let the light shine on each of you as you give thanks together for the light of God in the people you love.

The Vine

22

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by order of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope. —1 Timothy 1:1

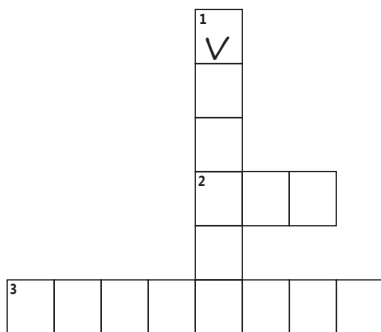
DECEMBER 23

Emmanuel

This very special name for Jesus means "God is with us." It not only announced the birth of the baby Jesus but told everybody in the world the good news that *God is with us*.

Solve this crossword puzzle:

1. The _____ Mary.
2. _____ is with us.
3. Today's name.



Mary will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins. —Matthew 1:21

Emmanuel

DECEMBER 24

Jesus

Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. The name *Jesus* means God is our savior. So Jesus, who is God's son, is really the one who brings God's salvation to us. He taught us about God and how we should act to be closer to God.



Thought for Today

Say a prayer of thanks today for God's gift of Jesus Christ to each and every person on earth.

Jesus

24

"A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Emmanuel" (which means, "God is with us").—Matthew 1:23

DECEMBER 25

Word of God

Just as we use words to tell others who we are and what we are thinking, so Jesus is God's word who tells us what God is like and what God is thinking. So when we know Jesus, we know God too.



Thought for Today

How can I share my joy about Jesus with someone today?

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger
no crib for a bed
The little lord Jesus laid down
his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay
The little lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes
But little lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love you lord Jesus;
look down from the sky
And stay by my side until
morning is nigh.

Be near me lord Jesus
I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
to live with you there.

