

# Find Us at the Stable!



AN ADVENT STICKER BOOKLET





Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition*. © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

## Find us every day of Advent

If you peeked into every door, window, and closet of your house, what would you find? You would find all that makes your family amazing! You would find the food you eat for breakfast. You would find the clothes you wear to go outside to play. You would find the your favorite toys, and your family's favorite places to sit. You would find the beds you sleep in.

But most of all, you would find the people of your family! God gave us one another to love and care for. God made the whole world for us to love. We can love all that God has made and learn to care for everyone and everything around us.

Jesus came to us at Christmas to love and care for the whole world and all that is in it. In this booklet, you'll find a stable ready for Jesus. Can you fill the stable with all that Jesus loved? Look for the right sticker for each day of Advent! Each day read how that sticker belongs to the stable—and to the whole story of baby Jesus. Then fill the stable with the right sticker.

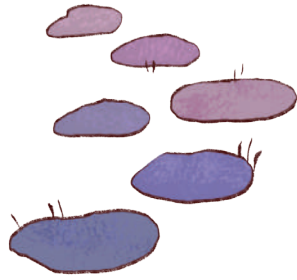


December 1

## The Stone Path

Lead me in the path of  
your commandments.

*Psalm 119:35*



### Fill the path with... stones to show the way!

The path to the stable may have been made of stone, to keep the path clear in muddy seasons. If you've ever lost your way, you know what a relief it is to find the right path again! That's why it's safer to travel with others. Mary and Joseph traveled together. They found the right path. They walked in safety together. Talk this over with your family: How do we help each other stay on "the right path"?



December 2

## The Donkey

Bear one another's burdens.

*Galatians 6:2*

### Fill the road to Bethlehem with...a donkey!

In Jesus' day, there were no cars or bicycles or airplanes. A few travelers might own horses but most people traveled on their own two feet. If they were lucky, they would have a donkey to help. Maybe Mary rode on a donkey. Maybe a donkey carried all the family's food and clothing. Will you travel this Christmas? Will a family member travel to you? Every day God travels with each one of us, just as God traveled long ago with the Holy Family—and a faithful donkey.

December 3

## The Moon

Praise him, sun and moon.

*Psalm 148:3*



### Fill the sky over the stable with...a glowing Moon!

The moon shone down on the manger where Jesus slept. The psalms are poems in the Bible that tell us that everything in the skies and on earth praise God. The moon doesn't have a mouth. The moon doesn't sing a song. The moon doesn't make a speech. But we have voices! When we see all the beauty just as close to us as it was to baby Jesus, we can thank God. Ask your family: what part of God's world do you love best?

December 4



## The Sheep

The sheep hear his voice.

*John 10:3*

### Fill the stable with...wooly sheep.

The sheep in the stable lived in a family, too, just as baby Jesus did. The mother sheep gave milk to the baby lamb. The mother sheep kept the baby lamb warm with her soft wool. Sheep like to stay close together, just as friends and families do. Who cares for you? Who feeds you at meal time? Who do you feel close to? Thank God for all those who care for us. Thank God for grandmas, grandpas, moms, dads, and all our friends.

December 5



## The Birds

Beside them the birds of heaven nest.

*Psalm 104:12*

### Fill the stable with...birds in their nests!

Even the birds in the stable were in their homes: their nests. But the Holy Family traveled far from their homes when Jesus was born. He was born where animals slept because there was no room for the family in an inn. God loves all the homes of all people, but God loves and cares for those who have no homes too. Ask a parent: How does our parish care for people without homes? How can our family help, too?

December 6

## The Hen

We have gifts that differ.

*Romans 12:6*



### Fill the stable with...a feathery hen!

The hen clucks softly to baby Jesus, as soothing as a bedtime story. The hen gives eggs for the Holy Family to eat. Wise kings traveled far to bring baby Jesus wonderful gifts. The hen gave only the simple gifts she had. God loves the kings and their gifts. God loves the hen and her gifts. What gifts do you want to give to others? Can you help a younger child learn something? Can you help a family member with a chore? Can you sing a song or kick a ball? God loves you and all your gifts.



December 7

## Mary

Most blessed are you among women.  
*Luke 1:42*

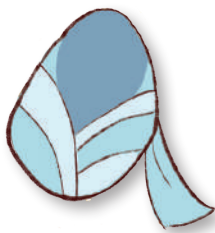
**Fill the stable with...  
Jesus' Mother Mary!**

God wanted a mother for the baby Jesus. God wanted a mother who would welcome the baby born for all God's people. God sent an angel to Mary to tell her the great news: God was asking her to be this mother. Mary was so surprised she asked the angel, "How can that happen?" The angel's answer was still surprising: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you." Mary said "yes." Talk this over with your family: What does God ask us to do? How can we say "yes?"

December 8

## Swaddling Clothes

You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
*Luke 2:12*



**Fill Mary's hands with...swaddling for the baby Jesus!**

In Jesus' day, babies didn't wear onesies or little outfits. Their families wrapped them in cloths to keep them warm and comforted. Even today we might wrap babies in a loose blanket to keep them warm and keep them close. The Gospel tells us that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes, just like every other baby. The baby Jesus was God's great gift for the world—but he was also a baby like every other baby. Think about it! What did Jesus do as a baby just like every other baby?



December 9

## Joseph

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

*Matthew 1:20*



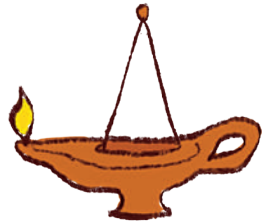
### Fill the stable with... Jesus' Father Joseph!

God knew that Mary and the baby Jesus would need someone to provide for them and protect them from harm. God chose Joseph to be Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father. So Joseph took care of Mary and Jesus, teaching him about God's ways and also training him to be a carpenter like himself. Talk this over with your family: What did Joseph do for God's baby? How can we be like Joseph?

December 10

## Oil Lamp

I am the light of the world. *John 8:12*



### Fill the stable with...light from an oil lamp.

There was no light switch in Jesus' day! People lit oil in small lamps. The lamps filled the room with shadowy, flickering light. When it's dark how does it feel when we turn on the light? We might feel safe and at home. When Jesus was born, it was as if God flipped a switch for everyone in the whole world. Jesus would keep us safe in God's love. Jesus would bring all people home to God. When he grew up, Jesus told people something surprising. He said we were to be light for all the world. Ask your family: How is Jesus like a light? How can we be like a light for the world?



December 11

## Bread

He gave them bread from heaven to eat. *John 6:31*



### Fill a basket with...bread to eat and share!

The baby Jesus only needed milk, but Mary and Joseph needed food to eat. The most common food to eat in Jesus' day was good bread. The town where Jesus was born was named Bethlehem or "House of Bread." When Jesus grew up, he would eat this good bread, too. He must have loved it because he told his followers, "I am the bread of life." Ask your family: What bread do we like best? How is Jesus like good bread for the whole world?



December 12

## Water

Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. *John 7:37*

### Fill a jar with...water to drink.

The Holy Family needed water to drink. They may have kept their water in a stone jar, or in a leather bottle. All of us need water, every day. We get thirsty when we work or play or even sleep. Once Jesus got thirsty as he traveled with his disciples. He asked a woman working at a well to give him water to drink. And then he told her something surprising: "I can give you water that will give eternal life." The Gospel tells us that Jesus was talking about giving the Holy Spirit to those who love him. That tiny thirsty baby in the stable would grow up to give God's Spirit to all who ask.

December 13

## Grapes

I am the vine,  
you are the branches.

*John 15:5*



### Fill the mouth with...sweet, good grapes!

Bread was the food that people in Jesus' day ate most. But grapes were the sweet food that people ate, like our desserts today. The common way to talk about having enough was to talk about "sitting under your own vine." Grapes grow on thick vines that send out strong branches. When he grew up, Jesus told us, "I am the true vine—and you are my branches!" Talk this over with your family: How is Jesus like a strong vine? How are we like branches if we stay close to Jesus?

December 14



## Curds

Curds and honey shall  
be the food of all. *Isaiah 7:22*

### Fill a bowl with...milky white curds!

In Jesus' day, people took the milk of sheep or cows, but they didn't usually drink it as milk. Instead they made "curds" from the milk. Curds are a soft, fresh cheese, like yogurt or cottage cheese. Jesus was too little to eat curds in the stable but maybe the animals all around him gave milk for Mary and Joseph. The people in Jesus' day took care of their animals, and their animals gave them good food to eat. Talk this over with your family: How do we take care of those who give us food to eat? Animals? Farmers? Cooks?

December 15

## The Crib and Straw

She laid him in a manger.

*Luke 2:7*



### Fill the crib with...straw for a newborn baby.

The stable did not have beds or chairs or a real baby's crib.

The crib or manger in the stable held straw for animals to eat.

But this rough crib and this scratchy straw would make a bed

for baby Jesus. In some countries, families set out a basket to

fill with straw for baby Jesus. The rule was you could put in a

piece of straw for every time you helped someone or every

prayer you said or every coin you gave away to those in need.

Ask your family: how could we get ready for Jesus by helping?

By praying? By sharing what we have?

December 16



## Baby Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

*Matthew 2:1*

### Fill the stable with...the cries of a newborn baby!

Jesus was born in the stable, with Mary and Joseph there to

care for him. He was born where the animals scampered and

slept. He was born in a the town far from home. No one knew

him, but angels sang at his birth. Shepherds came to see him.

Wise kings came to bring him gifts. Jesus still comes to us

today, to bring all people closer to God. Ask your family: How

can we sing to Jesus? How can we see Jesus today? How can

we bring gifts to Jesus?



December 17

## The Shepherds

There were shepherds living in the fields.

*Luke 2:8*

**Fill the stable with...  
the faithful shepherds!**

Hardly anyone knew that baby Jesus had been born. The shepherds knew. They lived with their sheep, in cold fields far from the stable. Angels filled the sky with a message from God, just for the shepherds: there is a baby in a stable who brings good news for all the people! The shepherds set out right away for Bethlehem. They couldn't wait to find the child the angel told them about. Ask your family: what good news would we want to hear from God?



December 18

## The Shepherd's Staff

Your rod and your staff comfort me.

*Psalms 23:4*

**Fill the shepherd's hand with...the shepherd's staff!**

Shepherds in Jesus' day used long wooden sticks called "staves" to help guide their sheep to the best paths. They used staves to protect the sheep from any danger. They used staves to poke apart bushes to find safe food and water for the sheep. They used their staves as they walked with their sheep to see the baby Jesus. Maybe that's why when Jesus grew up, he called himself a shepherd. Ask your family: How does Jesus show us the right way? How does Jesus protect us? How does Jesus feed us?

December 19

## The Shepherd's Harp

David would take the harp and play.  
*1 Samuel 16:23*



### Fill the shepherd's hand with... the music of a harp!

Many people in Jesus' day played songs to God. God's People used the harp for many years. The shepherd boy David, who lived hundreds of years before baby Jesus, played the harp. David played and sang songs to God. We still use music to praise God! At Christmas, we sing to God and to each other. Ask your family: What Christmas carols do we like best? You and your family can practice them to get ready for Christmas!



December 20

## The Angel

The angel of the Lord  
appeared.  
*Luke 2:9*

### Fill the night with...glory from God's angels!

In Bethlehem, no one knew about the baby Jesus except Mary and Joseph. But God sent news of this baby, born for all people. God sent an angel to shepherds who lived with their sheep and watched them even at night. The shepherds saw a light not from the moon or the stars. They saw light all around them from the angel. The angel said, "Good news! A baby is born who will save the whole world! This is great joy for you and all people!" Ask your family: What great joy does the world need today?



December 21

## The Angel's Message

Peace to those on whom  
God's favor rests. *Luke 2:14*

### Fill the world with...the message from the angel!

We don't know what the angel who came to the shepherds looked like. Sometimes angels in the Bible look like people. Sometimes they look like mysterious beasts. But all angels bring messages from God. That's what the word *angel* means: a messenger. The message from the angels was "Do not be afraid!" and "Glory to God!" Ask your family to write messages from the angels on to small cards. (Look in *Luke 2:10-14*.) Can you make these messages beautiful enough to hang on your Christmas tree?



December 22

## The Angel's Trumpet

Give thanks to the Lord  
with trumpets.

*1 Chronicles 16:41-42*

### Fill the night with...praise to God!

We don't know if the angels brought trumpets or harps to the shepherds' field. The Bible only tells us that they praised God: "Glory to God in the highest!" In Jesus' day God's People praised God with harps, trumpets, cymbals, and all kinds of noisy, joyful instruments. We praise God when we sing to God. We praise God when we give thanks to God. We praise God when we come together to share God's bread, God's wine, and God's word. Talk this over with your family: How will we praise God this Christmas?

December 23

## The Star

They were overjoyed  
at seeing the star.  
*Matthew 2:10*



### Fill the sky over the stable with...a big and bright Star!

One Bible story tells us that an amazing star shone over the manger where baby Jesus slept. The world did not know who slept in the humble stable, but a star showed the way. Shepherds found their way to Jesus. Kings found their way to Jesus. Talk this over with your family: Who shows us the way to Jesus? How can each of us be a star who shows others the way to Jesus?

December 24

## The Wise Kings

They saw the child  
with Mary his mother.  
*Matthew 2:11*



### Fill the stable with... the wise kings!

They saw the amazing star in the sky. They knew that it was a sign from God. They knew they should follow the star to find a baby. They knew this baby would be the wise king for all the people of the world. Ask your family: How would the world be different if everyone loved Jesus? How would the world be different if everyone put God first?



December 25

## Gifts of the Wise Kings

Then they opened  
their treasures.

*Matthew 2:11*



### Fill the stable with...the gifts of the wise kings!

The wise kings brought strange and wonderful gifts for the baby king Jesus. They brought gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. They gave gold because gold is a gift for kings. They gave frankincense which God's People used for the Temple, the place set aside for God. They gave myrrh which God's People used for the priests, who served in the Temple. The gifts said: this baby is our king. This baby is where we can find God. This baby is the priest for all God's people, forever. That is why we can say today and every day:

## Merry Christmas!

