

GOD

IS WITH US



AN ADVENT
CHAIN

GOD IS WITH US

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 people and places the Bible talks about in the Christmas Story.

On each day of December up until Christmas Day you will learn about the Christmas Story as found in the Bible. Also, each day brings you a puzzle 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.



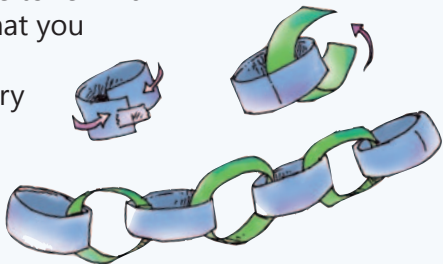
How to use this Advent Chain



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 (1-25) 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 with 25 links in your chain! Place it on your

Christmas tree to remind you about what you have learned about the story of the birth of Jesus



The Christmas Story



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 first 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

The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah lived over 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Prophets were people that had the ability to predict events in the future. These events were known as *prophecies*. Isaiah's greatest prophecy was that of the birth of our savior, Jesus.

Activity for Today

Isaiah called Jesus, "Emmanuel," The Bible is filled with different names for Jesus. How many can you think of? See Isaiah 9:6 for help. List a few here:

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. —Luke 2:1-3

The Prophet Isaiah

DECEMBER 2

Caesar Augustus

Caesar was the Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth. He gave the order that each person had to go to his own hometown to be counted, thus causing Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem.



Activity for Today

Find these words taken from today's Bible verse:

AUGUSTUS, CENSUS,
EMPIRE, SYRIA,
REGISTER, HOMETOWN

R E G I S T E R S S
S U T S U G U A U Y
E M P I R E M G S R
N W O T E M O H N I
M E K I J T F K E A
R B P H X D R R C J

Caesar Augustus

2

The Lord will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and name him "Immanuel." —Isaiah 7:14

DECEMBER 3

The Angel Gabriel

While God sent many messages to the people through the prophets, the message of Jesus birth was so special that God sent the Angel, Gabriel to deliver the news to Mary.

Activity for Today

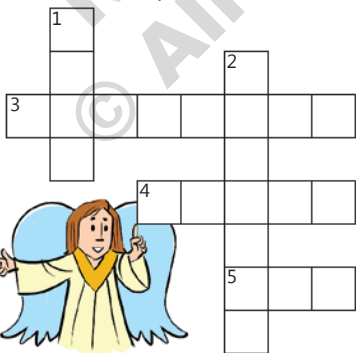
Solve this crossword:

Across

- Who predicts the future
- Our Savior
- Who sent the Gabriel?

Down

- Mother of Jesus
- An important note



The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John." —Luke 1:12-13

The Angel Gabriel

DECEMBER 4

Zechariah

Zechariah was a priest who was married to Mary's cousin Elizabeth but they were unable to have children. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah to tell him that his wife would soon be pregnant with a son and they were to name him "John."

Activity for Today

Unscramble the letters to create this phrase from today's bible verse:

O U Y _ _ _ _

E R A _ _ _ _

O T _ _

A E M N _ _ _ _ _

I H M _ _ _ _

J H N O _ _ _ _ _

Zechariah

4

"I am Gabriel, and I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news."—Luke 1:19

DECEMBER 5

Elizabeth

The son Elizabeth was carrying was to be named "John," meaning "The Lord is Gracious". He was to be called this because God had been kind to Elizabeth and Zechariah, giving them a child. John would grow up to be known as John the Baptist, the man who baptized Jesus.

Activity for Today

Elizabeth was Mary's cousin. Can you write down the names of four of your cousins or other relatives?

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary: God has been gracious to you." — Luke 1:30

Elizabeth

5

DECEMBER 6

Mary

Mary, the daughter of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, lived in Nazareth along with Joseph, to whom she was engaged to be married. Little did she know at the time that God had great plans for her.



Activity for Today

Find these words:

MARY, DAUGHTER,
NAZARETH, ANGEL,
GOD, JOSEPH

M C H T E R A Z A N
A T B I B A R B F X
R P V G H T N F Z Z
Y G O C K D Z G M S
Y D J O S E P H E O
D A U G H T E R J L

Mary

6

Elizabeth gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives all rejoiced with her. —Luke 1:57-58

DECEMBER 7

Joseph

Joseph was a carpenter who lived in the town of Nazareth and was engaged to Mary. One night in a dream, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him to trust Mary. The angel told Joseph that the child Mary was pregnant with should be named *Jesus*. Joseph did what the angel said and took Mary as his wife.

Activity for Today

Unscramble the letters to create this phrase from today's bible verse:

DNA _____
OUY _____
LIWL _____
AEMN _____
IHM _____
EJUSS _____

The angel answered Mary, "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 1:34-35

Joseph

7

DECEMBER 8

The Annunciation

The Annunciation is a very special day in the Church. It is the day when God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her the news that the Holy Spirit was within her and that she would be the mother of Jesus.



Activity for Today

Advent is a season of wishes or hopes. The coming of Christmas usually includes special traditions for most families. Is there a new tradition you wish your family could start this year?

The Annunciation



The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she will have a son, and you will name him Jesus —because he will save his people from their sins." —Matthew 1:20-21

DECEMBER 9

The Visitation

Mary was very surprised that Gabriel had told her she would have a baby. She went to see her cousin Elizabeth, who Gabriel said would also have a baby, to see if it was really true.

Activity for Today

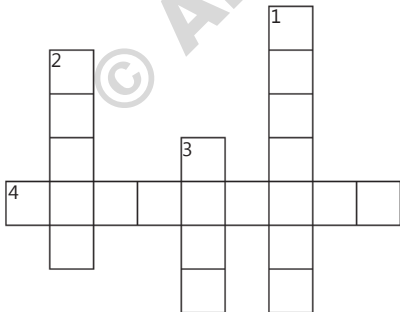
Solve this crossword:

Across

4. Elizabeth's Husband

Down

1. - The Angel _____
2. - Elizabeth lived here
3. - Elizabeth's cousin



"My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!" —Luke 1:46-47

The Visitation

DECEMBER 10

The Magnificat

Elizabeth was so excited when Mary came to visit her that her baby leaped in her womb. Mary responded with a joyous prayer in response to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting with *The Magnificat*, also known as *The Song of Mary*.



Activity for Today

Make a Christmas card that announces the birth of baby Jesus! Give it to a friend.

The Magnificat

10

Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. —Luke 1:39

DECEMBER 11

John the Baptist

John was the son promised by God to Elizabeth and Zechariah. When John grew up he told the people that Jesus was coming and told them how to prepare for the coming King.



Activity for Today

Find these words:

JOHN, SON,
ELIZABETH, JESUS,
PREPARE, KING

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

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. He went to register with Mary, who was pregnant.—Luke 2:4-5

John the Baptist

11

DECEMBER 12

Nazareth

Joseph and Mary lived in the town of Nazareth and it is where Mary first found out that she was pregnant with Jesus. It was a small hill town on a trail through Israel. This is the town where eventually Jesus grew up.



Activity for Today

Unscramble the letters to find these words from today's bible verse:

HPJOES _ _ _ _ _

WNT0 _ _ _ _ _

EAJUD _ _ _ _ _

GINK _ _ _ _ _

DIDAV _ _ _ _ _

YRMA _ _ _ _ _

Nazareth

12

When the baby was a week old, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John."—Luke 1:59-60

DECEMBER 13

Bethlehem

This is the city where Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem (about 70 miles) when Caesar Augustus required everyone to travel to their hometown to be counted and taxed.



Activity for Today

Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to the nearby town of Bethlehem. Can you list some cities or towns near where you live?

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was.—Luke 1:32

Bethlehem

DECEMBER 14

King David

David was the first great king in the nation of Israel. Joseph was from the same family as David. God promised that someone from his family would be king forever. That king is Jesus.



Activity for Today

Advent is a season of watching. Watch for signs of God's love for us all season long!

King David

14

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. He went to register with Mary, who was pregnant.—Luke 2:4-5

DECEMBER 15

The Innkeeper

Another name for a hotel is an “inn.” The man or woman who runs an inn is called an innkeeper. When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay, but Bethlehem was very crowded because of the census and the innkeeper told them that there was no room for them.

Activity for Today

Find these words:

INN, MARY,
JOSEPH, BABY,
CROWDED, ROOM

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

And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find
the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes... —Luke 2:12

The Innkeeper

15

Swaddling Cloths

16

DECEMBER 16

Swaddling Cloths

Swaddling cloths were long strips of cloth which Mary wrapped around Jesus to keep him warm. It was the custom in those times to wrap a newborn baby very tightly in these cloths.



Activity for Today

It was a little chilly when Jesus was born. What things can you do to keep warm when it becomes cold outside? List them.

DECEMBER 17

Manger

Because there was no room in Bethlehem Mary had to have her baby in a barn that held farm animals. And as no proper crib was available, the new baby Jesus was placed in a manger—a feeding box for animals.



Activity for Today

Unscramble the letters to find words from today's bible verse:

RVSAIO _____

RBNO _____

BYBA _____

LSCTHO _____

NLIGY _____

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. —Luke 2:8

Manger

17

DECEMBER 18

Shepherds

Sheep are very gentle animals that must be protected. Shepherds care for those sheep. On the night Jesus was born, there were many shepherds on the hills around Bethlehem watching their flocks of sheep graze.

Activity for Today

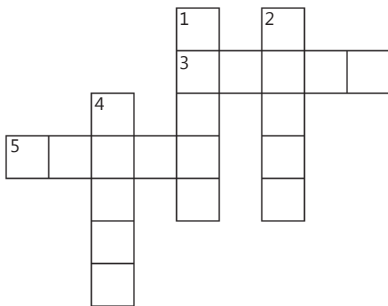
Solve this crossword:

Across

3. - Shepherds located
5. - Sheep eating

Down

1. - Shepherds protect
2. - Group of sheep
4. - To observe



Shepherds

18

This very day 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.—Luke 2:11-12

DECEMBER 19

Angels

On the night that Jesus was born, God sent an angel with a message for the shepherds. The shepherds were scared when they first saw the angel, but the angel told them not to be afraid because he was bringing them good news—that a very special person was being born. The shepherds then went to Bethlehem to see the baby. It was Jesus.



Activity for Today

Take turns reading the Christmas story from the bible: Luke 2:1-20.

When the Wise Men saw the star, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. —Matthew 2:9-10

Angels

19

DECEMBER 20

Star of Bethlehem

Because Jesus was the Son of God, a special thing happened when he was born. A very bright star appeared in the sky. It told people that Jesus was a very special person. It was this star that the Wise Men followed to come give him gifts.



Activity for Today

Invite your family to take a walk in the night air to look at stars and lights.

Star of Bethlehem

20

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."—Luke 2:10

DECEMBER 21

Wise Men

After Jesus was born, Wise Men saw an unusual new star in the sky and using it as a guide went to look for Jesus. They knew that the star told of the birth of a special king. The Wise Men were also called *The Magi*.



Activity for Today

Find these words:

WISE, STAR, SPECIAL,
MAGI, JESUS, EAST

Z J F C G X N G N C
S P E C I A L W K K
V E I S G W T I Q I
R R T C U P A S E F
P A F K O S X E A K
R I G A M P U V W E

When the Wise Men saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.—Matthew 2:11

Wise Men

21

DECEMBER 22

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

The Wise Men brought gifts with them for the newborn Jesus. *Gold* is a gift for new royalty, *Frankincense* is a perfume and *Myrrh* is an anointing oil.



Activity for Today

The wise men brought presents for Baby Jesus. What presents might you give to your family for Christmas this year?

Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh

22

Some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." —Matthew 2:1-2

DECEMBER 23

Worship

God is the one, true God. He's the Creator of the Universe who deserves all honor and praise. Once the Wise Men men found Baby Jesus they gave him gifts and worshiped him.

Activity for Today

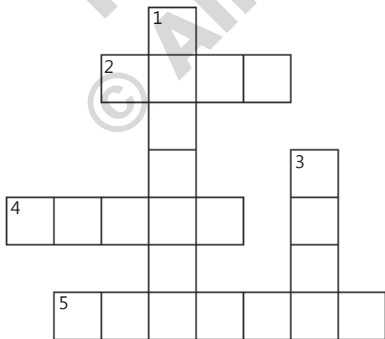
Solve this crossword:

Across

2. - Opposite of false
4. - Presents
5. - What we do at Church

Down

1. - God is the ___ of the Universe
3. - The Wise Men
4. - To observe



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

Worship

DECEMBER 24

Jesus

Tomorrow is Christmas, the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Jesus is very special because He is God's son. He taught people about God and about the way we should act to be closer to God—and to be our savior. This was God's promise.

Activity for Today

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



Jesus

24

They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him.—Matthew 2:11

DECEMBER 25

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. The word "Emmanuel" is also spelled "Immanuel" in some Bibles.

Wonderful
Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

Activity for Today

Find these words:

WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY, EVERLASTING, PRINCE

G X I Z P R I N C E N
E V E R L A S T I N G
H X K Y T H G I M J P
J Y B U G I I E V N Z
X L U F R E D N O W C
C O U N S E L O R X Q

Emmanuel

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love’s pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



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