

Waking Up To Advent



Children's Activities
for ADVENT





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Waking Up To Advent

In Advent, the Bible and the Church teach us many things. They teach us to get ready for Christmas. They teach us to get ready for God's Son, Jesus. They teach us all things right on earth.

What does God want? No more war! No more death! No more sorrow! We call this new world "God's Kingdom." God wants us to get ready to live in the world that God wants.

The Bible and the Church teach us how to look for the signs of God's Kingdom—God's new world. They teach us how to walk in God's ways. But most of all, they teach us to WAKE UP!

When we wake up, we learn how to look around us for God's love. We learn how to find ways to love God's people. When we wake up, we learn how to make peace here on earth. We learn how to welcome God's new world.

This Advent, we'll wake up to God's love around us by listening to the Bible and the Church. In this booklet you'll find games, puzzles, and other activities to help you hear God's word in brand new ways. Wake up! Wake up to Advent.



Mornings in Advent

Good morning! In some ways, morning is like Advent. Each morning we celebrate God's gift of a brand new day. In some ways, Advent is like morning. Each Advent we celebrate God's gift of a brand new year.

In addition to the daily Advent activities in this booklet, we've collected some other great ways for you and your family to celebrate Advent in the morning. Some are quick, for busy mornings. Some take more time, for mornings when you're hanging out at home. **Which ones are right for YOUR family?**



Advent Breakfast

If you have an Advent wreath, light it for breakfast! Does your family know how to sing, "O come, O come, Emmanuel"? Sing it together while you light the candles on the wreath and eat your cereal or toast or eggs.



St. Nicholas Notes

On December 6, we celebrate St. Nicholas. Imagine that St. Nicholas could come to your house to collect a note for baby Jesus. What would you want to write to baby Jesus? Write your note and leave it next to the door! *(These notes to the Christ Child are a tradition from Germany.)*



Advent Stars

At the craft store, you can find inexpensive gold metal stars. Each morning sprinkle one star onto the Advent wreath. Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."



Carol Scroll

Take a large piece of paper and write your favorite Christmas carol on it, one line each day before breakfast. On weekends, decorate the lines you've written. At Christmas sing your carol from the page you made by yourself—or with your family.



Breakfast Reading

Instead of bedtime reading, try breakfast reading! Ask your family to read a page (or less!) of a good book for Advent. Ask a librarian to help you find *The Twenty-Four Days Before Christmas* by Madeleine L'Engle or *The Clown of God* by Tomie dePaola.



Get a HAND-le on Prayer

Ask each family member to trace around their hands to make two hands, side by side. Each morning, write one prayer to Jesus. It can be as short as, "Please!" or as long as the verse of a hymn. On Christmas morning, share your hands full of prayers with one another.



Advent All Lit Up

Each morning of Advent, put a birthday candle into a flowerpot filled with sand. Don't light them! On Christmas Eve, ask an adult to help you light all 24 candles as you sing a carol together.

December 1

It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

ROMANS 13:11

Wake up to Advent!

Paul tells us that we should wake up. But, of course, we're not in bed sleeping when we're reading his words! What does he mean?

One thing Paul means by "waking up" is "pay attention." Sometimes families are so busy they don't take time to see or do what matters most. What matters most might be helping a tired parent clean up the kitchen. What matters most might be taking time at dinner to laugh together at a silly joke. What matters most might be listening to God's word in brand new ways.

Think about it...

What did the prophet Isaiah think "matters most"?

What did Isaiah want us to wake up and do?

Unscramble the verse below to find out! (*Hint: Isaiah 2:5*)

meoC etl su kwla ni

C

eht gtilh fo het rLdo.

December 2

I, the Lord, have called you for justice.

ISAIAH 42:6

Wake up to justice.

God's justice means setting things right. God doesn't want children to go hungry. God doesn't want sick people to have no one to care for them. God doesn't want people to hurt one another. The Good News of the Bible is that God sent Jesus to change the world, one person at a time.

Ask your family:

What are ways we share in God's work?

How do we help our Church or our community or our world?

Make a Good News newspaper by writing and drawing all that your family does. Put it up on the fridge or a bulletin board to remind yourself that you can help God in God's own work!



December 3




They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain.



ISAIAH 11:9


Wake up to beasts at peace.

One of the best-loved images of God's new world is of wild animals living happily together. We've written these verses from Isaiah 11 as a rebus.


Can you solve it?

The  shall  a guest of the ,

& the  shall lie  with

the young ; the calf & the young

 shall browse 2⁺ gether,

with a little  2 greyed them.

Ask your family:

Invite your family to make their own pictures of God's new world. How would that world be different from the world we live in?

Answer: The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.

December 4

They all ate and were satisfied.

MATTHEW 15:37

Wake up to God's feast.

We can find many stories of feasting with God in the Bible. One story is in the book of Isaiah. In Isaiah 25, the Bible tells us to imagine eating with God on a beautiful mountain top. Read what that feast is like in Isaiah 25:6.

Then Jesus shares a meal with thousands! Read what that meal was like in Matthew 15:36-38.

Think about it...

Now imagine that Jesus comes to eat with your family. It doesn't matter what food you eat together, even if it comes in a bag! Jesus wants to be with you and your family. Before you all eat, you wait for Jesus to thank God. But Jesus surprises you! Jesus leans over and asks YOU to thank God.

What do you say to God? Write your prayer below!



December 5

Be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

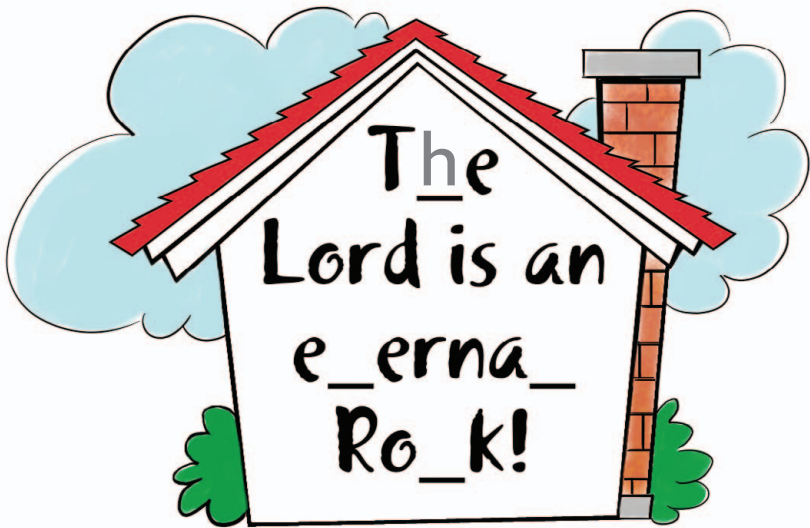
MATTHEW 7:24

Wake up to building on rock.

Do you remember the story of the 3 pigs? One builds with straw, one builds with sticks, and one builds with brick. Only the brick house can stand up to the mean wolf!

In the gospel Jesus tells a story like this. He says that some build on sand: those houses wash away. Some build on rock: those houses stand. If you listen to God's word but never do anything about it, says Jesus—that's like building on sand. If you listen to God's word and then live as God wants—that's like building on rock.

“Build” the house below by putting the letters in place to finish this verse from Isaiah 26.



~~h r t l c~~

Answer: The Lord is an eternal Rock!

December 6

The lowly shall again find joy in the LORD.

ISAIAH 29:19

Wake up to St. Nicholas Day.

This is the day we usually celebrate Saint Nicholas. We don't know much about who he was, but he lived in the part of the world now called Turkey more than 1500 years ago. He was a bishop and legends tell us that he cared for the poor. In Greek, his name means "victory for the people!" When we care for the poor, that's a victory for all God's people.

Think about it...

In our own time, Saint Nicholas gets mixed up with Santa Claus!

Can you tell the difference with the word match below?

Draw lines for the clues that go to "santa" or the saint!

- usually shown wearing a miter, a bishop's hat
- usually shown wearing a floppy red hat
- rides a horse or walks on his own feet
- gets around with reindeer
- lived in Turkey
- lives at the north pole
- a fun story for Christmas time
- a real saint who cared for God's people



Saint Nicholas



Santa Claus

This is the way; walk in it.

ISAIAH 30:21

Wake up and walk in God's way.

Isaiah is the prophet of Advent! We read the words of Isaiah over and over again in Advent.

A prophet is someone who looks at God's world and listens to God's words. The prophet can then speak to God's People and tell them what God sees and what God wants. In today's verses, Isaiah saw and heard good news! God would show God's People a way to walk—that is, a way to live.

Follow Isaiah's way and find what good news Isaiah had for God's People in Isaiah 30. **Circle every other letter and read what the circled letters say.**

(We've circled the first two for you.)



Answer: With your own eyes you shall see your Teacher.

December 8

Nothing will be impossible for God.

LUKE 1:37

Wake up to Mary's day.

Today is the day when we usually celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. We often tell stories about Jesus growing up with Joseph and Mary, but we sometimes forget that Mary was once a baby, too. The Bible doesn't tell us about her life as a child, but we know that she was taught the most important thing about God. As the angel in today's gospel about Mary says, "Nothing will be impossible for God."

Think about it...

Talk back to the angel! Tell God's angel what impossible things you want from God for yourself, for your family, for your friends, and for your world!



December 9

Prepare the way of the Lord.

MATTHEW 3:3

Wake up to getting ready!

Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas. That means Advent is a time to get ready to celebrate! On your birthday, your family celebrates the birth of YOU. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Ask your family:

What did your parents/guardians do to get ready for you to be born? Mary and Joseph traveled very far to prepare for the birth of baby Jesus. Ask your family to prepare for Christmas together by making a special Christmas list. On this list, ask each family member to write down what they like to do best to remember Jesus. Then see if you can do one or more things on your Christmas list together this year.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



December 10

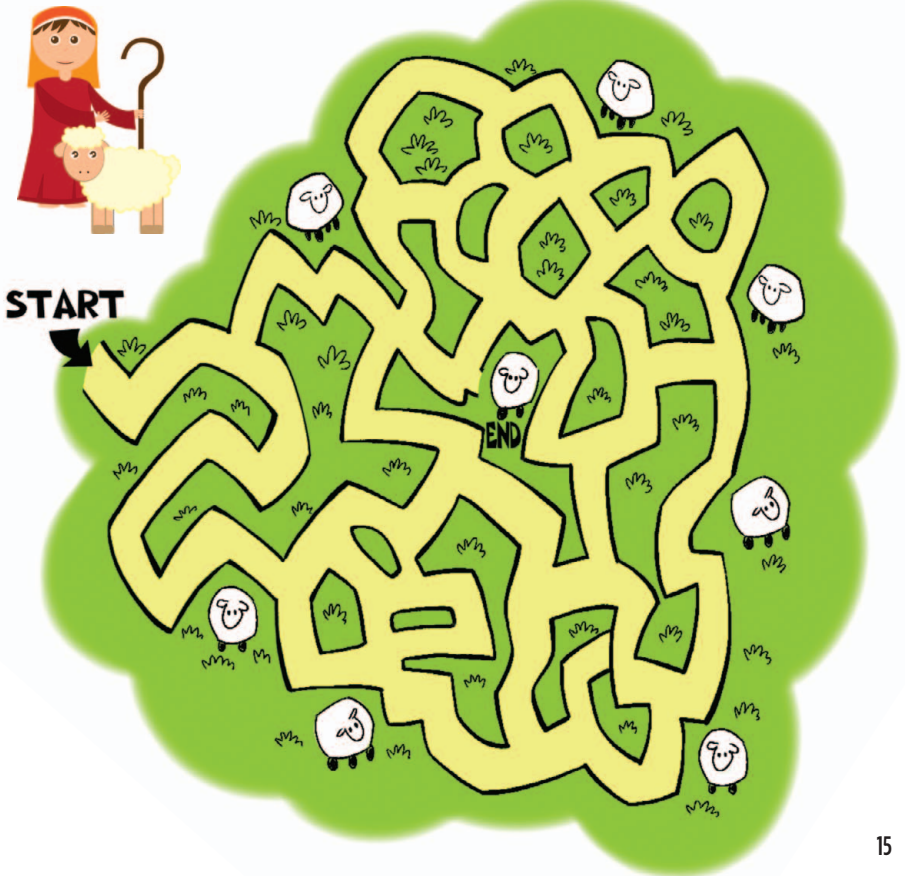
If he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices.

MATTHEW 18:13

Wake up to looking for the lost.

The shepherd went searching for his lost sheep, not wanting to lose a single one of his flock. His sheep were very important to him. What's important to you? What would you search for if it was lost? God feels this way about each one of us. If we need God to help us, care for us, or look for us, we can trust in God. God loves each one of us that much.

Now help the shepherd below find his missing sheep!



December 11

They will soar on eagles' wings.

ISAIAH 40:31

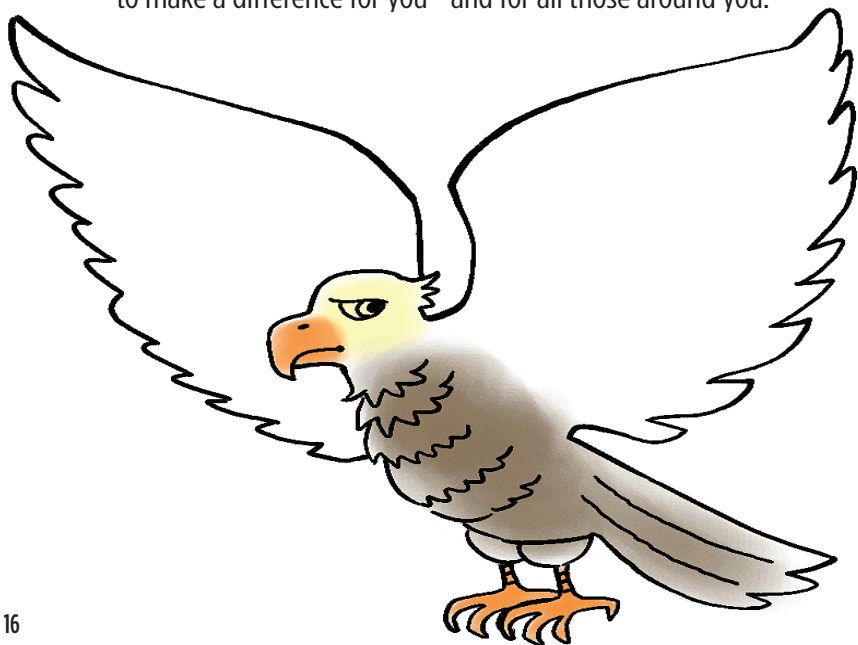
Wake up to eagles' wings.

Isaiah says that God's People, those who trust in God, will feel as if they can fly "on eagles' wings." Isaiah doesn't mean that we can grow feathers or really fly through the sky. He means that if we want to follow God, God will give us the strength we need to do what God wants.

Think about it.

Some things that God wants seem really hard to do: Maybe it's hard for you to forgive someone you're mad at. Maybe it's hard for you to say you're sorry when you did something wrong. Maybe it's hard for you to help others when you're tired yourself. What's hard for you to do?

Draw what's hard for you on the eagles' wings below. Then pray for God's help to make a difference for you—and for all those around you.



Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.

LUKE 1:28

Wake up to Juan and Mother Mary.

Sometimes we forget that God doesn't just love us or our country. God loves every person in the world. One December morning, almost 500 years ago, a man named Juan Diego walked past a rocky hill. Juan was a *Nahuatl* man, one of the First Peoples of the country we now call Mexico. Juan was one of only a few *Nahuatl* people to believe in Jesus.

That cold morning he saw the vision of a woman whose skin looked just like his. She was dressed like an Aztec princess and spoke to him in his own language. She told him she was the mother of God. Juan believed, and his faith soon brought many of his people to love God, too—the God who loved the poor everywhere and cared for them. To this day, we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe to remember this astonishing event in our own part of the world.

Ask your family:

A custom of those who honor Our Lady of Guadalupe is to sing *mañanitas*, literally, “morning songs.” *Mañanitas* are songs meant to “wake up” Mary and tell her we love her! **Can you and your family write your own *mañanita* for Mary?**



December 13

This life was the light of the human race.

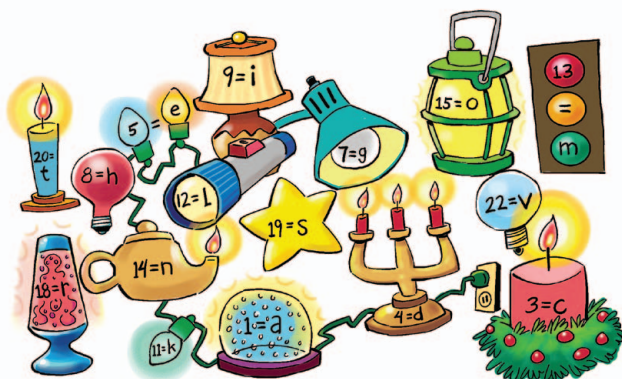
JOHN 1:4

Wake up to St. Lucy's light.

This is the day we usually celebrate Saint Lucy, who was a Christian only 200 years after Jesus lived. But her name means “light,” and all her stories tell about light winning over darkness. It’s a dark time of year and we welcome one light especially: the light of God in Jesus.

Solve this code to see what the Gospel of John says about this light!

Hint: look in the lights for clues or look up John 1:5 for the answer!



The

20-8-5 12-9-7-8-20 19-8-9-14-5-19 9-14 20-8-5

4-1-18-11-14-5-19-19,

1-14-4 20-8-5 4-1-18-11-14-5-19-19 8-1-19 14-15-20

15-22-5-18-3-15-13-5 9-20.

December 14

Turn back the hearts of parents toward their children.

SIRACH 48:10

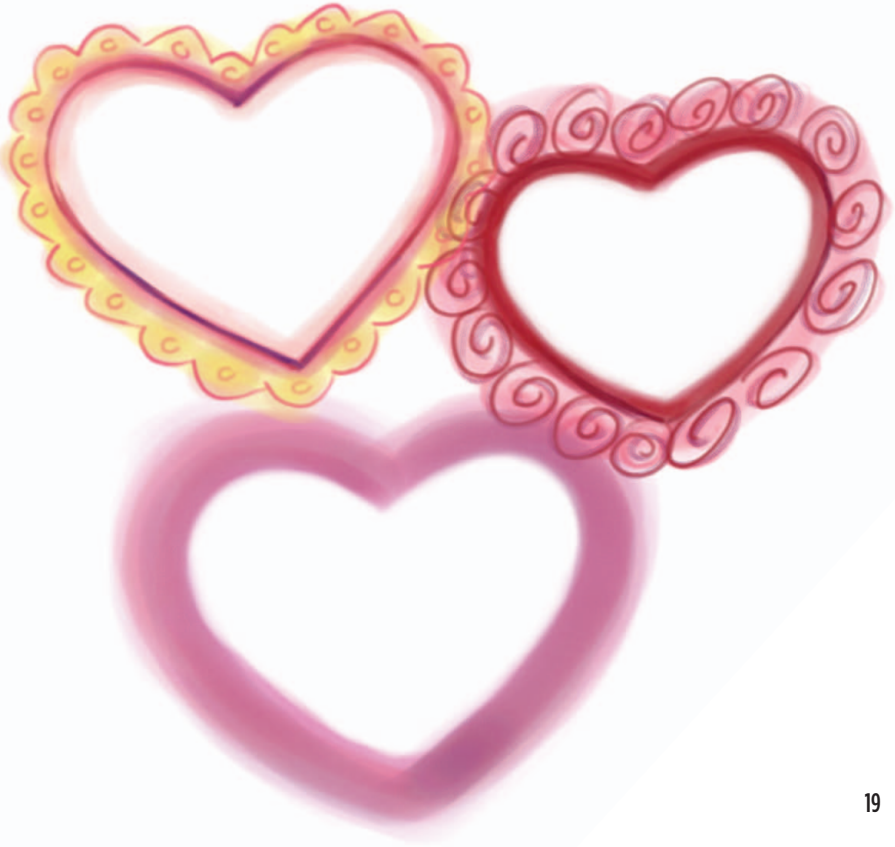


Wake up to the parents of Jesus.

Joseph took Mary to be his wife. He took care of her when she was pregnant with baby Jesus. He took care of Jesus when Jesus was born. That is why Mary called Joseph the father of baby Jesus.

Joseph must have loved Jesus very much, because Jesus told all God's people that God loved them just as a father loves his child.

**In the hearts below,
write words that God your Father would say to you!**



December 15

The wilderness will rejoice and bloom.

ISAIAH 35:1

Wake up to a desert in bloom.

In Advent, we hear the prophet Isaiah promise us blooms and flowers even in the wilderness! That's one reason we have a rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath this week. There are four candles on an Advent wreath: the first one is purple, the second one is purple, the fourth one is purple—but the third one is rose. Why?

Once Advent was a time of fasting, just like Lent. After all, the world has many sad days and God's People want to care for the world in times of sadness. When we fast, we think less about ourselves and more about others.

But in Advent, we can't help rejoicing that the Lord is coming! So during the third week of Advent, the Church's liturgy has songs that say, "Rejoice!" The candle on the Advent wreath was the color of a rose!

Why should we rejoice? You decide! For each letter below, write one reason to rejoice in God and God's beloved Jesus. (For "E" you might put an "END TO WAR." For "I" you might put "ice cream"! Think of big and little reasons both.)



R _____
E _____
J _____
O _____
I _____
C _____
E _____

December 16

Who gave you this authority?

MATTHEW 21:23

Wake up to a true king.

Jesus did things that didn't make sense to people unless he had a special "authority"; that is, a special right to lead God's People.

Jesus had authority because Jesus was God's own chosen king. That's why the color of Advent is the color **purple**: long ago, **purple** was the color of kings. In Advent, we look for the coming of our King Jesus. So we light **purple** candles, put **purple** cloth on the priests and altars, and sing songs to our beloved King.

Here's one song, from Psalm 97:

The Lord is king;
let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.



Now what song can you write? Start with:

Jesus is King

December 17

Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

MATTHEW 1:1

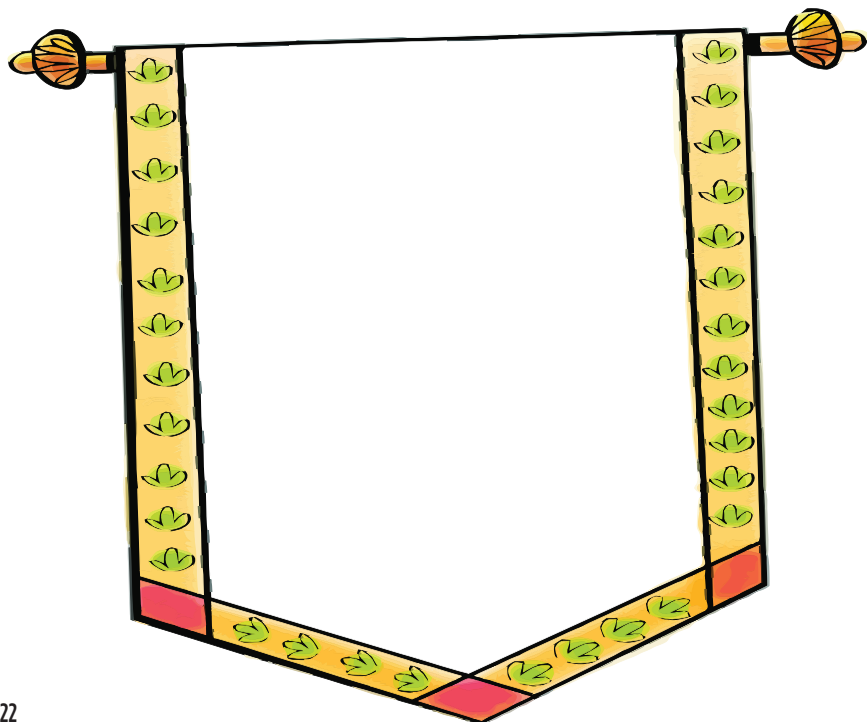
Wake up to the Messiah.

When the Bible calls Jesus the son of David or the son of Abraham, it doesn't mean that David or Abraham were husbands of Mary. That was Joseph!

What it means is that Jesus is the child of God that God had promised for God's people. One name for this special child of God was "Messiah" or "Christ," the chosen one. In Advent we look for the coming of Jesus: the child of God: the chosen one.

Jesus, Messiah, chosen one, Christ: all of these are special names for Jesus.

What names for Jesus can you invent? Write as many names for Jesus as you can on the banner below.



I will raise up a righteous branch for David.

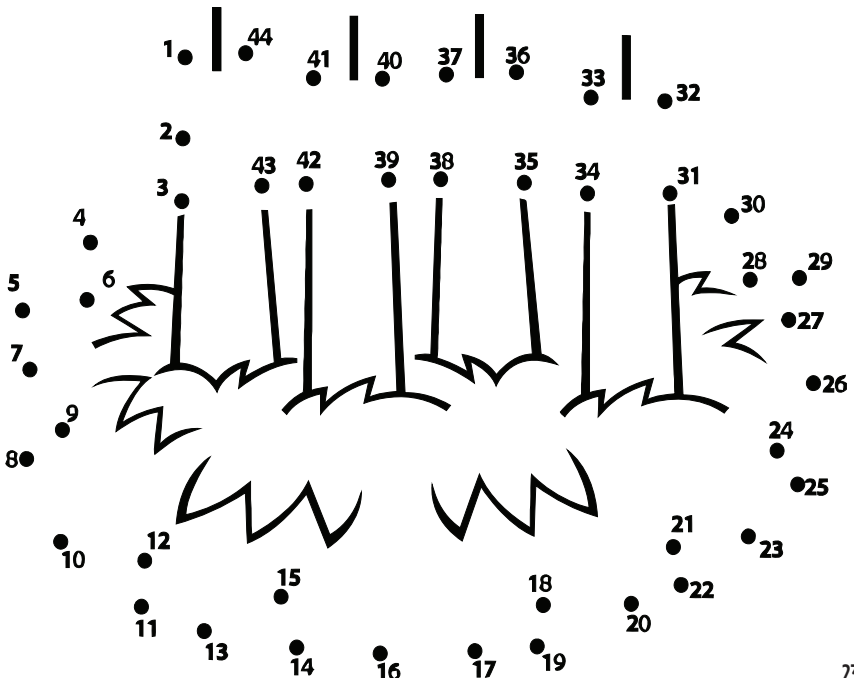
JEREMIAH 23:5

Wake up to the Advent wreath.

In the Bible, branches or vines or trees are common pictures of what good life looks like. Just as a branch grows, so do we! Just as vines bring good things to God's world, so do we! Just as a tree gives happiness to those who hang around it, so do we!

Life and happiness and good things for God's world: an Advent wreath is a symbol of all these things. We light the candles on the Advent wreath. We count down the Sundays until Christmas. We sing songs and pray to Jesus around the wreath: this is one way we enter into Advent joy.

Connect the dots below to discover something beautiful for Advent!



December 19

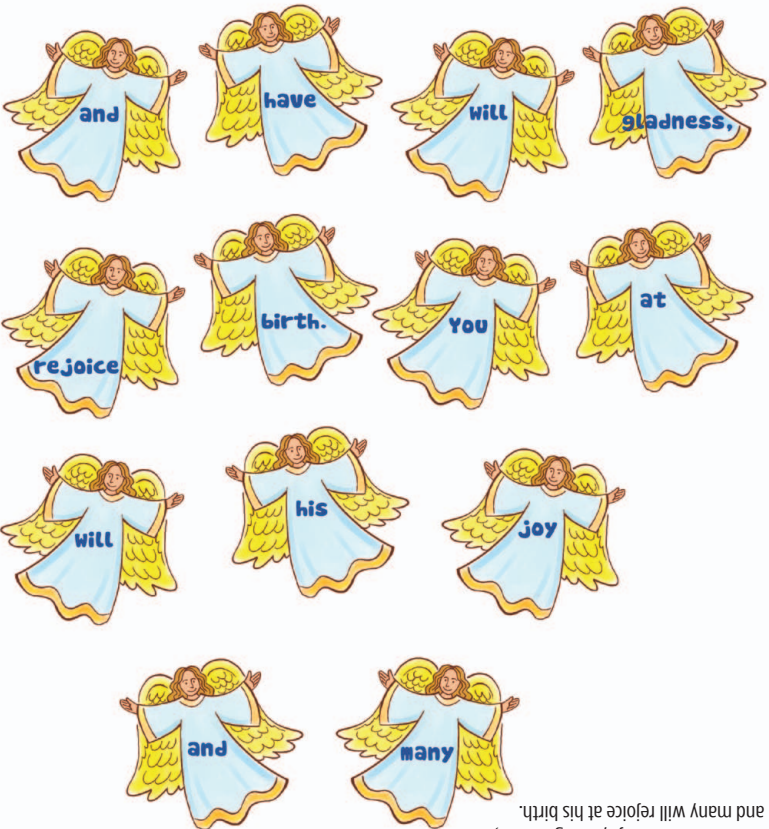
The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah."

LUKE 1:13

Wake up to an angel's message.

An angel from God brings a message to an old man named Zachariah, who never thought he and his wife Elizabeth could have a child together. The angel tells him good news: Zechariah and Elizabeth will have a baby boy.

The word 'angel' means "messenger" because in the Bible that's what angels do. They bring messages from God. **The angels below are carrying a message from God found in Luke 1:14. Put them in order to read the message!**



Answer: You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

December 20

The young woman shall name him Emmanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14

Wake up to an Advent prayer.

Isaiah has another name we Christians use for Jesus—and this name is a prayer. The name is “Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” When we sing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” we are praying to Jesus to come and be with us.

We find another Advent prayer in the book of Revelation. The prayer is: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” Long ago, Christian artists would decorate the first letter of a special word with designs. Like this:



Decorate the A, C, L, and J in the prayer below by drawing around it good things that will happen when Jesus comes.

Amen
Come
Lord
Jesus

December 21

Most blessed are you among women.

LUKE 1:42

Wake up to the mother of Jesus.

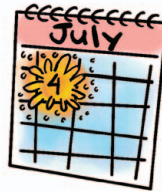
Today we remember again the Blessed Mother Mary, mother of baby Jesus. The most important thing to remember about Mary is that she said, “YES!” to God. When God asked her to be the mother of God’s own child, Mary said, “YES!”

Put a circle around the picture that answers the question asked.

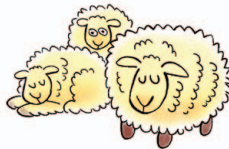
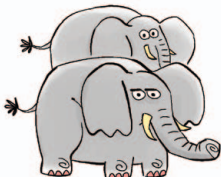
- In what book can we hear the story of Jesus?



- On what day do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?



- What kind of animals did shepherds watch when angels sang to them?



Answer: The Gospel of Luke, December 25, sheep

December 22

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

MATTHEW 1:18

Wake up to the last week of Advent.

There are four Sundays in every Advent, even though Advent can have a different number of days. During the fourth week of Advent we light all four candles on the Advent wreath. On the fourth Sunday we hear: it's almost time! Emmanuel: God is with us! Grace and peace to you!

Are you ready for Christmas? Take a look at the checklist below.
Would you add anything to it? Can you check off anything on it?



The time came.

LUKE 2:6

Wake up to ten words for Advent.

Advent is almost over. See what you've learned about this special time!

Write the answers in the blanks. **Find the answers in the word search puzzle on the next page.** Words might be forwards, backwards, upside down or diagonal. **Hint:** You'll find clues everywhere in this book!

1. What do we call this season? _____ (Hint: See December 1)

2. It's purple or rose and we light one each Sunday.

What is it? A _____ (Hint: See December 15)

3. How many Sundays are there in Advent? _____ (Hint: See December 22)

4. We read many promises from this prophet in Advent! You'll find this book

BEFORE the book of Jeremiah in your Bible! _____
(Hint: See December 7)

5. In Advent, we look for the coming of whom? _____
(Hint: See December 17)

6. The husband of Mary took care of baby Jesus. What's his name? _____
(Hint: See December 14)

7. What's the name of the mother of Jesus? _____
(Hint: See December 21)

December 23

8. "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" is a special _____ for Advent.
(Hint: See December 20)
9. What color do we use for Advent? _____ (Hint: See December 16)
10. What's round and green and holds candles for Advent? _____
(Hint: See December 18)



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

The daybreak from on high will visit us.

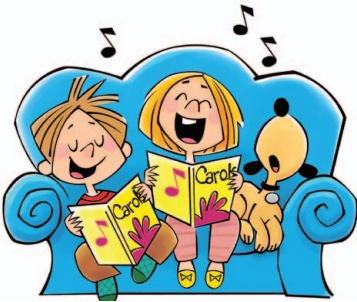
LUKE 1:78

Wake up to Christmas Eve.

It's Christmas Eve, the very last day of Advent. Christmas begins tonight with Midnight Mass.

What's the difference between Christmas eve and Christmas? You tell us!

Circle the right day for the clues below.



We start singing Christmas carols.

- A.) Christmas eve
- B.) Christmas

The priest wears purple vestments at Mass.

- A.) Christmas eve
- B.) Christmas



We lay the baby Jesus figure into the crèche.

- A.) Christmas eve
- B.) Christmas



December 25

“Behold, I am coming soon.”

REVELATION 22:7

Wake up to Christmas.

Wake up to light.

Wake up to joy.

Wake up to peace.

Wake up to hope.

On this best morning of winter, wake up to the day we remember God’s gift to us—the gift of Jesus, our brother.

Ask your family:

Ask your family to sing a Christmas carol with you as you gather around a tree, crèche, candle or table. However you celebrate Christmas, know that God is with you as you wake up today. And every day.

