



Follow the Star

An Advent Sticker Journey







Introduction



Follow the Star is more than a title—it's an invitation. Long ago, wise men followed a shining star across the sky, and it led them to Jesus. But they weren't the only ones on a journey. The Christmas story is full of people, places, and signs that pointed the way to God's greatest gift.

In this book, you'll get to know 25 of those special parts of the story—from the prophet Isaiah, who told us Jesus was coming, to the angels, shepherds, and even the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each day you'll read a short Bible verse, a devotion and then answer a simple question. You'll then place a sticker on your **Follow the Star** sticker card.

As the days go by, the story will grow fuller and brighter—just like the sky over Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. By Christmas Day, you'll see how every person, every place, and every promise was part of God's plan to lead the world to Jesus.

So open the first page, look for the light, and get ready to follow the star—one step closer to Christmas each day!

December 1

The Prophet Isaiah

"A child will be born to us..."

—Isaiah 9:6



Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave a message to Isaiah. He told the people to watch for a special child who would bring peace and joy. That child would be called Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace. Isaiah helped everyone know that something amazing was coming: Jesus!

***Why do you think people
needed hope before Jesus came?***

December 2

Caesar Augustus

"Caesar Augustus issued a decree..."

—Luke 2:1



Caesar Augustus was a powerful ruler who made a law that everyone had to travel to their hometown to be counted. Because of this, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. Even though the emperor didn't know it, God used his order to make sure Jesus would be born in the right place!

***How do you think God uses
things in surprising ways?***

December 3

The Angel Gabriel

“The angel Gabriel was sent by God...”

—Luke 1:26



Gabriel was God’s messenger. He came to share big news with Mary: she would have a baby named Jesus! Gabriel often appears in the Bible to tell people what God wants them to know. Angels remind us that God is always speaking—sometimes in quiet ways, sometimes in wonderful surprises.

***What’s one thing you think
God wants you to know?***

December 4

Zechariah

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah...”

—Luke 1:13



Zechariah was an old priest who loved God. One day, while praying in the temple, an angel told him he would have a son—John the Baptist! Zechariah didn’t believe it at first. But even when we doubt, God can still do amazing things. His promises come true!

***When have you been surprised
by something good?***

December 5

Elizabeth

“Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” —Luke 1:41



Elizabeth was Mary's cousin. Even though she was very old, she had a baby growing inside her—John the Baptist! When Mary visited, Elizabeth's baby leaped with joy. Elizabeth praised God and reminded Mary how special her baby would be. She was full of faith and joy.

*Who in your life helps you
feel close to God?*

December 6

Mary

**“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary said.
—Luke 1:38**



Mary was a young woman who loved God with her whole heart. When the angel told her she would be the mother of Jesus, she said “yes,” even though she didn't know what would happen next. Her faith and trust in God are a beautiful example for all of us.

*What's one way you can
say “yes” to God today?*

December 7

Joseph

“Joseph did what the angel of the Lord commanded.” —Matthew 1:24



Joseph cared deeply for Mary and wanted to do what was right. When he learned that Mary would have God’s Son, he wasn’t sure what to do. But God sent an angel to help him understand, and Joseph obeyed. He protected Mary and Jesus with love and courage.

How can you show love through your actions?

December 8

The Annunciation

“You will conceive and give birth to a son...” —Luke 1:31



The Annunciation means “the announcement.” It’s when the angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby named Jesus. This was the beginning of the Christmas story! The angel’s message brought joy, and Mary’s “yes” brought Jesus into the world.

What joyful message have you heard this week?

December 9

The Visitation

**"Mary got ready and hurried...
to visit Elizabeth."** —Luke 1:39



After hearing the angel's message, Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Both women were expecting babies, and they rejoiced together. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy! Their visit reminds us how important it is to celebrate and encourage one another.

***Who can you bring joy to
with a visit or kind word?***

December 10

The Magnificat

"My soul glorifies the Lord..."
—Luke 1:46



When Mary visited Elizabeth, she sang a prayer of praise called the *Magnificat*. In it, she thanked God for all he had done. Even though she didn't have much, Mary was full of joy and trust. Praising God helps us remember his love and faithfulness.

***What's something you can
thank God for today?***

December 11

John the Baptist

“He will be great in the sight of the Lord.” —Luke 1:15



John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. Even before he was born, he leaped for joy when Mary came to visit Elizabeth. When John grew up, he told everyone to get ready—because the Savior was coming soon! John reminds us to make room in our hearts for Jesus.

What can you do to help others get ready for Jesus?

December 12

Nazareth

“God sent the angel Gabriel... to Nazareth.” —Luke 1:26



Nazareth was a small, quiet town where Mary and Joseph lived. It wasn't a famous place, but God chose it as the beginning of the Christmas story. God often works in little places and with little people to do big things. He loves using the ordinary for something extraordinary.

Where are some small or quiet places you can find God?

December 13

Bethlehem

“So Joseph went... to Bethlehem.”

—Luke 2:4



Bethlehem means “house of bread,” and it was King David’s hometown. The prophet Micah had said the Savior would be born there—and he was right! Mary and Joseph arrived just in time for Jesus to be born. Bethlehem reminds us that God always keeps His promises.

*Why do you think God chose
Bethlehem for Jesus’ birth?*

December 14

King David

**“Jesus... came from the family line
of David.” —Luke 1:32**



King David was one of the greatest kings of Israel. He loved God and wrote many psalms. A promise was made that one day, someone from his family would be the Savior—and that someone was Jesus! Jesus is the true King who will reign forever.

*What do you think makes
someone a good king or leader?*

December 15

The Innkeeper

“There was no guest room available for them.” —Luke 2:7



When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there were no rooms left. An innkeeper let them stay in a stable, a place where animals rested. Even though it wasn't fancy, it became the birthplace of Jesus. God can turn even the simplest places into something holy.

How can you welcome Jesus into your home or heart today?

December 16

Swaddling Cloths

**“She wrapped him in cloths...”
—Luke 2:7**



When Jesus was born, Mary gently wrapped him in swaddling cloths to keep him warm and safe. He didn't have fancy baby clothes or a soft crib, but he had love. Even something as simple as a cloth can remind us that God's love wraps around us every day.

What makes you feel safe and loved?

December 17

Manger

“And placed him in a manger...”

—Luke 2:7



Jesus' first bed was a manger—a box used for feeding animals! It wasn't soft or shiny, but it held the King of Kings. The manger reminds us that Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve. He chose humility and love from his very first day.

*How can you show
humble love like Jesus?*

December 18

Shepherds

**“There were shepherds living out
in the fields...”** —Luke 2:8



The first people to hear about Jesus' birth were shepherds—ordinary, hardworking people. God didn't choose kings or rich men. He chose the lowly to receive the good news first. That's how we know Jesus came for everyone, no matter who we are or where we live.

*Who do you know that needs
to feel special and included?*

December 19

Angels

"A great company of the heavenly host appeared..." —Luke 2:13



One angel brought the message, but then a sky full of angels appeared! They sang "Glory to God in the highest!" and filled the night with music and light. Angels remind us that heaven is full of joy whenever Jesus is near.

***What is one way you
can praise God today?***

December 20

Silent Night

"Mary treasured up all these things..." —Luke 2:19



After all the visitors left, the stable became quiet again. Mary held baby Jesus and thought about everything that had happened. That peaceful night reminds us to slow down and remember why Christmas matters. Jesus came quietly—but he brings a deep peace that fills our hearts.

***When can you find a quiet
moment to pray today?***

December 21

Star of Bethlehem

"We saw his star when it rose..."

—Matthew 2:2



Far away, wise men saw a new star in the sky. It was a special sign that a new King had been born. The Star of Bethlehem led them all the way to Jesus. God still uses signs—big and small—to lead us closer to his Son. We just have to keep looking up.

***What helps you remember
to keep your eyes on Jesus?***

December 22

Wise Men (Magi)

**"Wise men from the east came
to Jerusalem." —Matthew 2:1**



The wise men studied the stars and knew something special had happened. They traveled a long distance just to worship Jesus. Even though they were important people, they knelt down and offered gifts. Wise people still seek Jesus today—with open minds, open hearts, and humble hands.

***What would you bring to Jesus
if you could visit Him?***

December 23

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

“They opened their treasures...”
—Matthew 2:11



The wise men brought gold for a king, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for healing. Each gift showed something special about Jesus. We may not have treasures like that, but we can offer our time, our prayers, and our kindness. Those gifts are precious to God too.

***What special gift can you offer
to Jesus this Christmas?***

December 24

Emmanuel

**“They will call him Emmanuel,
which means ‘God with us.’”**
—Matthew 1:23



Jesus has many names, and one of the most special is Emmanuel—God with us. That means we’re never alone. God came close in the form of a baby, and he stays close to us through his love. Emmanuel is a promise that lasts forever—at Christmas and every day.

***How can you remember
that God is always with you?***

December 25

Jesus

**"She gave birth to her firstborn,
a son..." —Luke 2:7**



The waiting is over—Jesus is born! He came as a tiny baby, but he is the Savior of the world. Jesus brings hope, peace, and love to every heart that welcomes him. Today we celebrate the best gift we've ever received: God's own Son, come to be with us forever.

***What does it mean to you
that Jesus was born?***

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 heavens 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 Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.