

My ADVENT Adventure

An Advent
Treasure
Hunt



Introduction

Christmas is coming! We all get excited every year thinking about the joy of Christmas. Some people like to think about giving gifts for Christmas. Some people like to bake cookies and cakes for Christmas. Some people like to see their friends and family at Christmas.

Sometimes, we get impatient because we just can't wait! However, Advent is full of good days and good surprises too. Advent is like a long treasure hunt that ends with the best treasure of all: the gift of Jesus on Christmas Day.



What does the birth of Jesus mean for us? God gave us the greatest gift by sending his Son to the world. Jesus comes with the best gifts of all: forgiveness, love, salvation, and eternal life. He's one of a kind, but he belongs to everyone.

During the days of Advent, we can look and see what treasures are already in our homes! Where can we search for them? We might find one in a sister or brother helping you with the dishes. We might find one in the joy of singing a hymn together at church. We might find an unexpected treasure by forgiving the dog for chewing up our shoes! There's so much to discover in Advent, we'll reach Christmas Day before we know it.

This Advent, when you check off each morning towards Christmas, look for what that particular day is giving you. This season is a map to Christmas, and if you follow the clues, you'll find the greatest treasure of all on Christmas Day. Something even more wonderful than that new toy!



Treasure Tips:

Throughout the book, you'll find suggestions for treasures you can make, too. Use modeling dough or mix up a batch of this play clay to make your own crèche. We'll also tell you how to make simple ornaments to hang on a Christmas tree.

To make play clay,
mix together $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, 1 cup flour,
with about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water,
to make a smooth, stiff clay.



December 1

Open up the gates. –Isaiah 26:2

Here's the first clue for your Advent treasure hunt! When you set off on a treasure hunt, you need to know which way to travel. Can we ask for directions? Who's the wisest person you know? A parent or family member? A favorite teacher or good friend? Sit down with someone and ask them to help you figure



out the way to Christmas. Talk over together: what is the most important thing for us to do to get ready for

Christmas?

One wise person was a teacher in Israel. We read his book in the bible during Advent to learn the way to travel to God's treasure at Christmas.

... Solve the puzzle ...

Find the missing words, then read the letters in the box to learn the name of the wise teacher of Israel.

1. In Advent we get ready to celebrate

 c .

2. Where did the wise person teach?

 .

3. At Christmas we celebrate the

 of baby Jesus.



December 2

The eyes of the blind will see. —Isaiah 29:18

Now that we are looking for good direction, we can look to the best guide of all: God! On this treasure hunt, the first treasure you'll find is faith. God gives the gift of faith to God's People in baptism. You might not always feel that God is guiding you, but our feelings don't matter. God promises to guide the whole People of God for all time.

That's why it's important for the People of God to come close to God and close

to one another. The way can be hard even with God's help, so that's when we reach out to one another to learn how to stay close to God and God's People. That's how we learn to put our faith into action every day.

For example God wants peace for God's People. So how do we act in ways to make peace? Talk it over with a friend or family member!



... Activity ...

See if you can put one peace-making idea next to each letter below. We filled in one idea—just to help get you started!

P

Every day find one way to help.

A

C

E



December 3

This is the way; walk in it. –Isaiah 30:21

Our treasure hunt will take many twists and turns. We won't always know where to go. We won't always know which way to turn. But God knows! That's why God sent

Jesus to us. Jesus is our guide to salvation. Jesus told us that he was a good shepherd that knows how to guide all people in the ways that God wants.

... Activity ...

Here's a lost sheep who wants to get back to her shepherd. Can you help her through this maze? She'll be so happy to find the rest of her flock!



Today's

Treasure:

Sheep are always included in a crèche scene. Can you use your play clay to make sheep for the crèche?



December 4

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.
—Isaiah 11:1

Jesse was a very special man in the Bible—and in the treasure hunt for Jesus. Long ago, before Jesus was born, Jesse became the father of King David. Through King David, God guided God's People in new ways of life and faith. Through King David, many other great heroes of the Bible were born.

Jesus himself was from the family of David and Jesse.

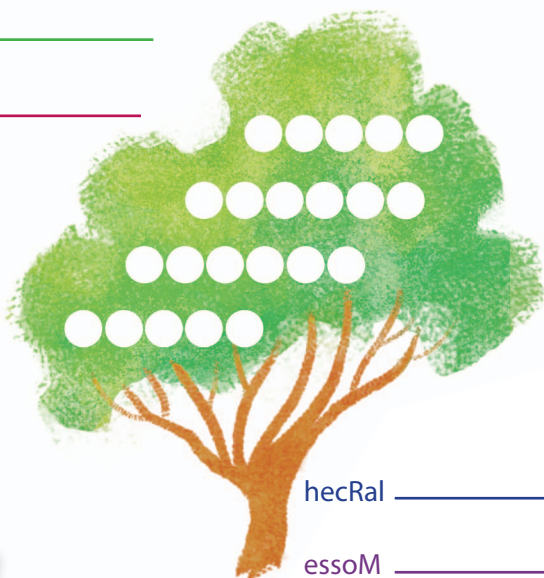
Jesse's family tree is so special that we remember it in Advent. Climb the Jesse tree below and you will find the treasure of Jesus at the very top!

... Solve the puzzle ...

Unscramble the letters to learn some of the names of these heroes. Can you find a parent or teacher to tell you the story of each of these heroes?

vDadi D _____

jlaiE _____



hecRal _____

essoM _____



December 5

They will see the glory of the Lord. –Isaiah 35:2

In this season, we're looking for treasure. The greatest treasure of all is Jesus, God's own child, who came among us just to show us who God is and what God wants. Jesus came to our world as a little

baby, but he was always full of the glory of God. God is beyond anything or anyone we can imagine! So God gave us the child Jesus to show us who God really is.

... Activity ...

Connect the dots to find the picture of God that God gave us in Jesus.



Today's Treasure:

Scripture says that Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger or feeding trough long ago. Can you use your play clay to make a manger for the crèche?



December 6

Give comfort to my people. –Isaiah 40:1

Today is St. Nicholas Day! St. Nicholas was a special saint who shows us one of the most important treasures of Christmas. Legend tells us that St. Nicholas loved the poor and their children most of all. This is what the Church hears from God: we are to prefer the poor, too. We are to share generously and work for a fair world for all people. That's one great treasure of the Church!

St. Nicholas shows the spirit of generous giving. In some countries family hide small gifts in wooden shoes to



remember just how generous St. Nicholas was.

... Family Activity ...

What's a small gift you could give your family today?

Play a game together? Do a chore for a brother or sister? Sing a song to your family? Write or draw your gift idea in the wooden shoe below, then hide this book and tell your family to go on a hunt for it!

Whoever discovers the book gets your gift!



December 7

They that hope in the Lord will renew
their strength. –Isaiah 40:31

What an exciting treasure hunt we've had already! We've found Jesus our Shepherd, the treasure of faith, the treasure of a wise teacher,

and the treasure of generous giving. It feels good when we find something that's missing, or figure out the solution to a mystery. So let's look again!

... Activity ...

In this picture to the right, are four hidden gifts. Below are verses that describe each gift. Can you read the four verses? Can you find the hidden items in the picture?

Can you find ...

...a shepherd with his crook?

I am the good shepherd.

–John 10:11

...a loaf of bread?

I am the bread of life.

–John 6:35

...a water pitcher?

Whoever drinks the water
I shall give will never thirst.

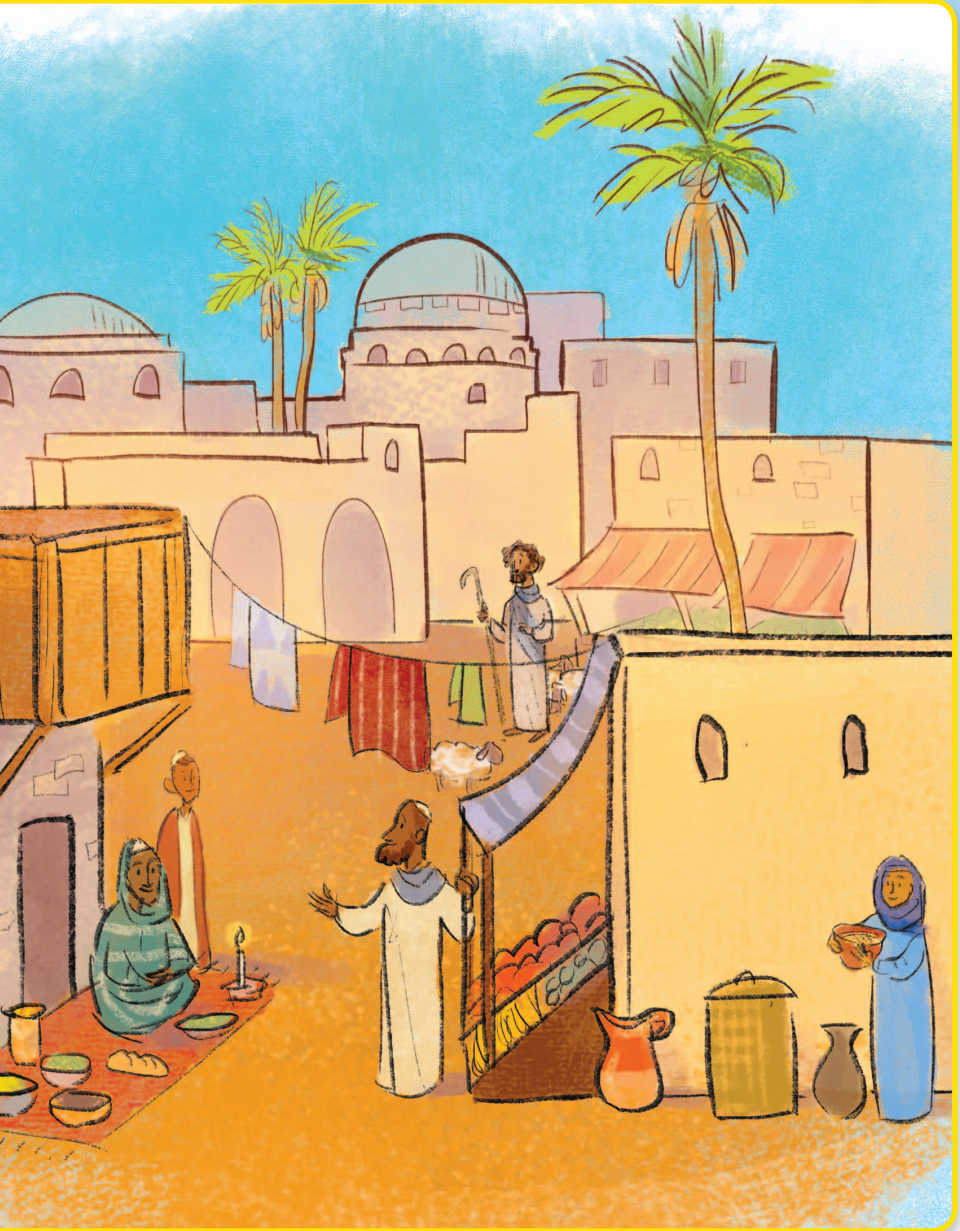
–John 4:14

...a light burning in a candlestick?

I am the light of the world.

–John 8:12





December 8

“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you!” –Luke 1:28

Today is a special day for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The births of Mary, of John the Baptist, and of Jesus were all miracles, births chosen by God to bring treasures to God's People.

Mary's good friend and cousin was an older woman named

Elizabeth. Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth was chosen by God to be the mother of John the Baptist. Here is Mary telling Elizabeth her good news. Elizabeth tells her that her own baby, John, is jumping for joy—even before he is born!

... Activity ...

See the picture of Mary and Elizabeth below. Can you tell their story by putting words in the cartoon bubbles below?



Today's Treasure:

Mother Mary is so important to baby Jesus. Can you use your play clay to make Mother Mary for the crèche?



December 9

“I am the Lord, teaching you
how to prevail.” –Isaiah 48:17

One great treasure from God is how God teaches us to do what’s right and not do what’s wrong. We like doing right because it keeps us closer to God, but sometimes, we just don’t know

what right is! In times like these, we look to Jesus to teach us and help us. With the help of our family, our teachers, and our community, we will find these answers more easily.

... Activity ...

Take a look at the pictures below. Can you circle which picture shows the right way to live? Talk your choices over with a friend or family member.



December 10

Elijah will indeed come
and restore all things. -Matthew 17:11

When we've learned the right ways of God, we can teach others too! Teaching is

one important way that Jesus shared the treasures of God with us.

... Activity ...

Here are some of the teachings of Jesus that God's People treasure the most. Can you unscramble the verses to find each one?



-Matthew 5:14

1. uYo are the glhti of the rwlod.

You are

2. In ym father's sheuo there are nmay dwelling sclape.



-John 14:2



-Matthew 25:35

3. rFo I was hungry, nda you vgea me ofdo.

Answers: 1.) You are the light of the world. 2.) In my father's house there are many dwelling places. 3.) For I was hungry and you gave me food.

December 11

“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you.” –Matthew 11:10

Jesus coming to the world was the best treasure of all! This treasure was so great that God sent messengers to let everyone know who was coming. Some of God’s messengers were holy angels. Some were humans, like John the Baptist. John baptized people to get them ready for God’s great trea-

sure—and then John taught the people, too. “Someone is coming!” John preached.

Later John wondered: was Jesus really the one God had sent?

John’s students asked Jesus that very question.



... Solve the puzzle ...

Below is the message Jesus sent to John. Can you solve it? Ask a friend or family member to help! You’ll find clues in Matthew 11:4-5.



T + L J +



what U 

& h + 

Go tell

December 12

“I will dwell in your midst.” —Zechariah 2:14

Today is another day of love for our Holy Mother Mary, another beautiful treasure from God! Today we learn just how much one person can change the world. Mary changed the world by agreeing to be the mother of Jesus. Because of Mary, Jesus came to live with us.

Juan, a simple man in

Mexico, had a vision of Mary. He did just what she told him to do. Because he did, his whole country came to know: God loves us, too. God comes to live with us.

Every day we have the chance to choose God's way. Every day we can show that we trust God, walk with Jesus, and love our Mother Mary.

... Activity ...

One tradition for this special day of Mary's is singing songs to her in the morning. Many people have made songs from the words of the Bible for Mary. Can you make up a way to sing these words, too?

 Hail Mary 
Full of grace
The Lord is with you!
 Blessed are you 
among women!
And blessed is the fruit of
your womb, Jesus.



December 13

Call upon the name of the Lord. —Zephaniah 3:9

Today we remember another treasure: a woman we know as Saint Lucia or Saint Lucy. We do not know much about her life, but we do know what her name means: light. Saint Lucy, like every saint, loved the light of God. She loved and followed Jesus. She knew that Jesus brought God's light to the whole world.

Names are treasures, too! Ask your parents about your

name. Why did they choose it? How about the other names in your family?

The name "Jesus" means Savior. God sends Jesus to save all people. We also call Jesus "Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." The title for Jesus is "Christ," which means "anointed one." God chose Jesus to love each and every one of us. Other names for Jesus are King, Lord, and Son of God.

... Family Activity ...

Tonight at dinner, ask your family to light candles to remember Saint Lucy. Then talk this over with your family. What name for Jesus do you love best? Why?



December 14

This is for me like the days of Noah. —Isaiah 54:9

Do you remember the Jesse Tree we made? (See December 4.) We remembered heroes from the Bible who lived before Jesus. Today let's remem-

ber another hero: Noah.

God asked Noah to save animals and people from a flood that was coming.

... Activity ...

The story of Noah tells us that Noah gathered animals "two by two." Can you match up the animals in the picture on the next page for Noah?

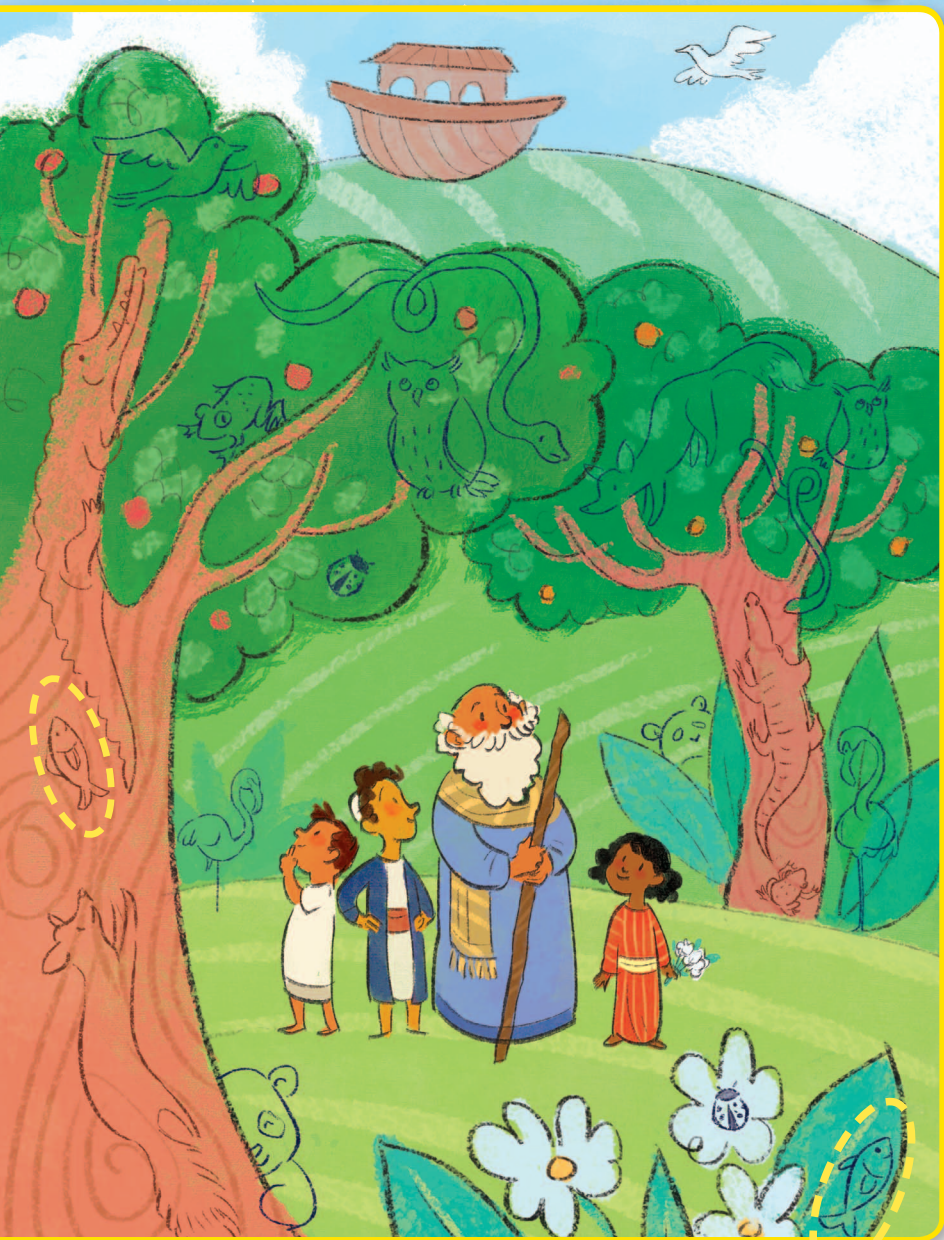


~~fish~~
fox
bear
alligator
owl
snake
frog
flamingo
ladybug
dove



Today's Treasure:

Before we suggested you use your play clay to make sheep for the crèche. What other animals could you make for the crèche?



December 15

“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” —Luke 7:19

Secret signs can point the way to treasure! Some signs aren't so secret. When you see a red sign with the word STOP, you know drivers need to stop their cars. When you see a cross on a building, you usually know you've found a church.



For two thousand years
Christians have
used many

symbols or pictures to show who they are and what they do. One early picture Christians used was of a shepherd holding his sheep: that was a sign of Jesus! Another symbol or sign was a fish. The Greek word for fish used five letters. Each letter stood for one word about Jesus: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”



... Activity ...

Now let's find signs in your own home and at church that show that Christmas is coming! List them below.

Christmas is coming ... at home:

crèche

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Christmas is coming ... at church:

poinsettia

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

December 16

He was a burning and shining lamp. —John 5:35

A treasure hunt can take you into dark and mysterious places! Fortunately, a flashlight or a lantern can help you find your way.

Jesus said that John the Baptist, a prophet and teacher, was like a bright lamp to show the way. John the Baptist said that Jesus was the one who would bring the Holy Spirit to God's People.

Each of us is called to be a light in the world, too. We are called to live the way God's Holy Spirit wants us to live. What are ways we can be a light for others at home? At school? In the world?

In New Mexico, people remember the light of Jesus by cutting designs into paper bags that glow from lights inside. These are called luminarias and they light the way to Church!



... Activity ...

See if you can rearrange the luminarias to spell out a verse from today's story. Look at Isaiah 56:1 for help!

My

December 17

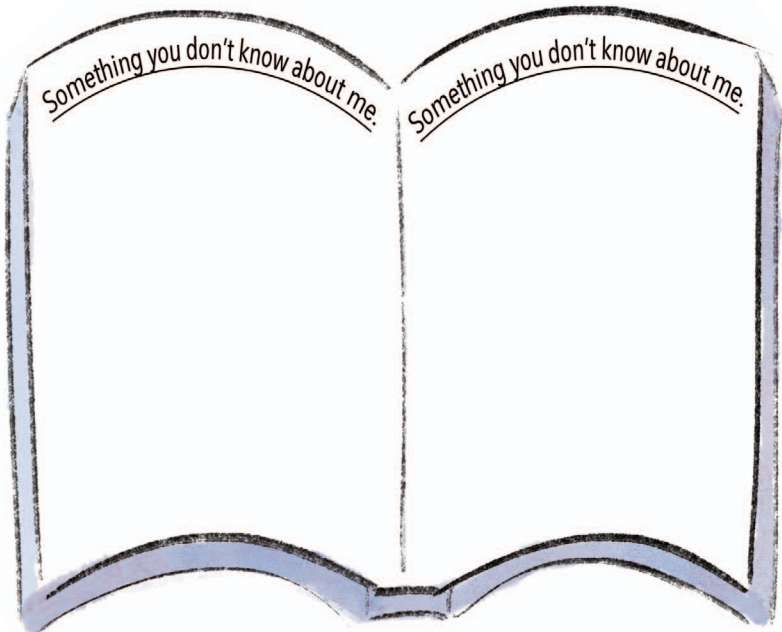
Listen to Israel, your father. –Genesis 49:2

Has your family helped you out on this Advent treasure hunt? Now let's look for treasure in your family! Did your mom have any pets growing

up? What's your dad's favorite book or movie? Listening is how we learn about people. Listening is how we learn about God, too.

... Family Activity ...

Below is a family album. On one side, write or draw about yourself. Now ask a family member to fill in the other side. It's exciting to learn something new about someone you know!



December 18

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. –Matthew 1:20

God gave Joseph an awesome adventure. God asked Joseph to take care of God's greatest treasures: baby Jesus and Mother Mary. Joseph didn't know what to

do! But God sent a message to Joseph in a dream. Joseph dreamed that an angel came to him and told him just what God wanted him to do.

... Activity ...

Can you read the angel's message below? Unscramble the words to find what God told Joseph in his dream. You can find help in Matthew 1:21.



She



Today's Treasure: Mother Mary and baby Jesus need Father Joseph. Can you use your play clay to make Joseph for the crèche?

December 19

He was gesturing to them
but remained mute. —Luke 1:22



Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth, was also given a treasure by God. At first he couldn't believe that he would be a father! For months, he could not speak until baby John was born and named.

We love the treasure of words that we say or hear, but God has other treasures, too. Speaking out loud isn't the only way love speaks to us. We can taste God's love when we take communion. We can feel God's love when a parent kisses us goodnight. We can hear God's love when we sing together or when we hear music at Mass.

... Activity ...

Look at the sign language below.
Can you use these signs to remember
the love of Jesus without speaking out loud?



Jesus



loves



me.

December 20

“Behold, I am the handmaid
of the Lord.” —Luke 1:38

We’re getting closer to the end of our adventure! Long ago, Mary found out she would have an amazing adventure. God sent an angel to tell Mother Mary amazing

news: Mary will be the mother of baby Jesus.

This is the first good news of the story of Jesus! Can you make a newspaper headline for this great good news?

... Activity ...

Can you find a verse from Luke 1 to add to your newspaper story below?



Today’s Treasure: What makes you happy... kicking a soccer ball, playing a flute or drawing with crayons? From colorful paper cut out the shape of whatever makes you happy. Put a loop of yarn through it. You can hang this on the Christmas tree!

December 21

Sing joyfully, Israel. –Zephaniah 3:14

The treasure of Christmas comes closer every day. How will we celebrate? One favorite part of Christmas is its beautiful music. Every year we sing and hear carols old and new! We sing them to welcome Jesus to the world. We sing them to praise God for the wonderful gift of Jesus. We sing them to remem-



ber the night Jesus was born, and to celebrate our joy together.

... Activity ...

Want to find a carol just made for you?
Take the Christmas quiz below and start practicing!



1. Are you:
 - a. Shy
 - b. Loud
 - c. Serious



2. What's your favorite time during Christmas?
 - a. Christmas Eve
 - b. Christmas dinner
 - c. Christmas morning
3. Do you prefer songs with:
 - a. Easy words
 - b. A story
 - c. Grand choirs
4. Do you like songs that are:
 - a. Pretty
 - b. Fun
 - c. Dramatic
5. Who do you want to hear singing?
 - a. Yourself
 - b. Your whole family
 - c. A whole choir

If you answered mostly **A**, we think you'll like "Silent Night!" A beautiful lullaby for the baby Jesus on a winter's night.

If you answered mostly **B**, we think you'll like "Deck the Halls!" A loud, fun song to sing with your whole family.

If you answered mostly **C**, we think you'll like "O Come All Ye Faithful!" A majestic song for church, proclaiming the Lord has come!

December 22

The Mighty One has done
great things for me. —Luke 1:49

Our Christmas treasure comes closer every day. After God sent the angel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of baby Jesus, Mary went to visit her older cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was

going to be the mother of baby John. The two mothers prayed and sang together!

We know Mary was full of joy because she sang a song about what God was doing for everyone through her.



... Activity ...

Here are two lines from
Mary's song below.
Can you make up two more
lines to go with it?
You can find her whole song
in Luke 1:46-55.

*From now on all generations will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me.*

December 23

What, then, will this child be? —Luke 1:66

God's treasures are best found in all the people of the world. God makes the world—and gives every person a part in making the world. That means you, too! God wants to make good things happen for the whole world through you and every other human being.

Every time you make something, you are like God, who



makes all things. Every time you show love to someone, you are like God, who loves all people. Every time you feel joy, you are like God, who gives joy to all.

... Puzzle Activity ...

Find letters in the bowl of alphabet soup to put in the missing blanks below. Then read the message. It was said to baby John when he was born, but it's a message for each and every one of us, too!



You u, a child, will e called the prophet of the sos. High, for ou will go before he lord.

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord.

Answer:

December 24

Guide our feet into the path of peace. —Luke 1:79

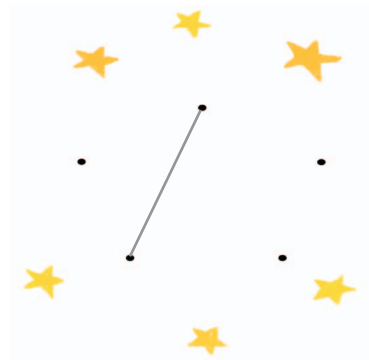
We've come to the end of our quest! Do you think you've found all the treasures of Advent? How does it feel to arrive at your destina-

tion? When Jesus was born, many traveled to see him. There was a special sign that showed the way.

... Activity ...

Look at the dots below and follow the instructions. When you're done, you'll have unlocked the final clue to guide you to Christmas!

1. Draw a diagonal line from the bottom left dot to the very top center dot.
2. Draw a diagonal line from the very top center dot down to the bottom right dot.
3. Draw a diagonal line from the bottom right dot to the far left top dot.
4. Draw a straight line from the far left top dot to the far right top dot.



5. Draw a diagonal line from the far right top dot to the bottom left dot.



Today's Treasure: Stars make beautiful decorations. Use a star-shaped cookie cutter to trace a star shape onto colorful paper. Decorate the star & put a yarn loop through it to hang on the Christmas tree.

December 25

Glory to God in the highest. –Luke 2:14

Merry Christmas! Today, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We join the angels song when we sing, "Glory to God!" Angels are the holy messengers of God. They appeared to the Isaiah, the Advent prophet, to Mary, to

Joseph, and to the shepherds to tell them about the coming of Jesus. They say, "Do not be afraid," when they appear. They're a surprise when they show up, but they always bring great news.

... Activity ...

Solve the code below to find the great message of the first Christmas from a choir of angels. Then tell the good news of that message to your whole family. Merry Christmas!

Key:



= A



= S



= V



= I



= O



= R



= H



= E



= N



= F



= Y



= U



= B



A



Today's Treasure: The time has come to add baby Jesus to the crèche! Can you use your play clay to make baby Jesus?

