

ADVENT

Alphabet

AN ADVENT CHAIN & ACTIVITY BOOK



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ADVENT Alphabet

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 about some of the many people, places and ideas that 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 using each letter of the alphabet. Each day also brings 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 what you have just learned that day. This will form the chain that will link us to Jesus. And we will discover that we are links in the chain too, leading the way to Jesus.



The Bible 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-born 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:



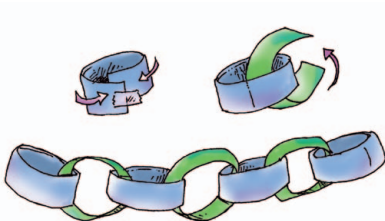
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

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.

HOW TO USE THIS Advent Chain

Each day, as you read about an event from the story of Jesus' birth, cut off the appropriate numbered strip from the end of your page. The strips are titled with the subject of each day, plus each strip has a number (1-24) 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 or tape. You should now have a small, two-chain link. Continue adding links until you reach Christmas Day with 25 links in your chain! Place it on your Christmas tree to remind you about the birth of Jesus.



DECEMBER 1

Angel

Angels are like God's special messengers. In the Christmas story, an angel named Gabriel told Mary she would have baby Jesus. Angels also sang to shepherds to share the big news!



Activity

Make your own angel decorations using paper, glitter, and feathers. Remember how angels were God's messengers, sharing the good news of Jesus' birth.

Search for these words and circle them: **Angel, Gabriel, Mary, Baby.**

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

"And you, Bethlehem Ephrata, are too small to be among the clans of Judah. From you will emerge for me one who is to be the ruler in Israel." —Micah 5:2

ANGEL

DECEMBER 2

Bethlehem

Bethlehem is the little town where Jesus was born. Even though it's small, it was chosen for something very big. It's where Mary and Joseph went for the census and where they found a place for Jesus to be born.



Activity

Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

1. Why Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
3. Mother of Jesus.
4. The city where Jesus was born.

Down:

2. Bethlehem was a ____ town.

1			2		
---	--	--	---	--	--

3			
---	--	--	--

4							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

BETHLEHEM

2

“And the angel entered to her and said: ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.’” —Luke 1:28

DECEMBER 3

Census

A census is when the government counts everyone. Caesar Augustus wanted to count all the people in his empire, so Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for this. It's because of the census that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



Activity

Have a mini-census at home or in class. Count everyone, then make a chart of different traits (age, hair color, eye color). It's a fun way to understand what a census is.

Fill in the Blanks:

A _____ is when people are counted. Mary and Joseph went to _____ because of a census.

"And she gave birth to her firstborn Son. And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." —Luke 2:7

DECEMBER 4

Donkey

A donkey is what Mary might have ridden on her long journey to Bethlehem. Imagine riding a donkey when you're about to have a baby!



Activity

Organize a relay race where you walk or hop with a pillow between your legs, mimicking a donkey's walk. It's a playful way to remember Mary's journey to Bethlehem.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

KYENDO _____

ARMY _____

JYERNOU _____

YBBA _____

DONKEY

4

“And it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, so that the whole world would be taxed” —Luke 2:1

DECEMBER 5

Elizabeth

Elizabeth is Mary's cousin. She was also expecting a miraculous baby, John, who would grow up to prepare people for Jesus. Elizabeth's joy when Mary visited shows the special connection of their babies.



Activity

Write a joyful message to a family member or friend, sharing why they are special to you, just like Elizabeth shared her joy about Mary and Jesus.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

SOINCU _____

HJNO _____

ZAEBHTLE _____

"And entering the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down, they adored him. And opening their treasures, they offered gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." —Matthew 2:11

ELIZABETH

DECEMBER 6

Frankincense

Frankincense is a sweet incense that the wise men (also known as the Magi) brought as a gift for Jesus. It was very valuable and used in worship, showing that Jesus is worthy of our worship.



Activity

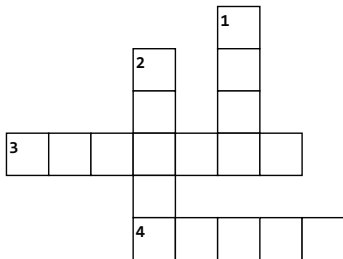
Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

3. What is Frankincense used for?
4. Frankincense smells _____.

Down:

1. The wise men were also known as...
2. Who is worthy of our worship?



FRANKINCENSE

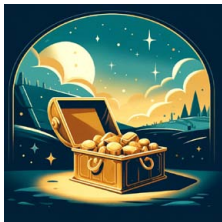
6

“When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” —Luke 1:41

DECEMBER 7

Gold

Gold is a precious metal, and one of the gifts from the wise men to Jesus. It showed that Jesus is a king, even though he was born in a humble place.



Activity

Hide gold-colored items around your home or classroom. Have fun hunting for them, learning about the valuable gift of gold given to Jesus.

Fill in the Blanks:

The _____ men brought gold with them to Nazareth as a gift for _____ because they recognized him as a _____.

“Then Herod, perceiving that he had been deluded by the Magi, was exceedingly angry, and sending his soldiers, he killed all the boys who were in Bethlehem.” —Matthew 2:16

GOLD

DECEMBER 8

Herod

King Herod was the ruler who felt threatened by the birth of Jesus, whom he heard would be “King of the Jews.” He tried to find Jesus to harm him, showing that not everyone welcomed Jesus with joy.



Activity

Search for these words and circle them: **Herod, Harm, Ruler, Birth.**

Y	H	U	H	Y	H	Q
K	U	T	E	A	M	L
P	T	Q	R	U	B	K
W	B	M	O	I	S	S
F	H	S	D	J	B	B
R	E	L	U	R	L	F
W	D	U	O	T	T	F

HEROD

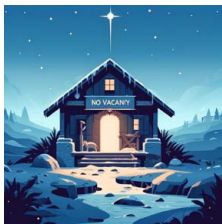
8

“And entering the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down, they adored him. And opening their treasures, they offered gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” —Matthew 2:11

DECEMBER 9

Inn

An inn is like a hotel. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room in the inn, so Jesus was born in a stable instead. It shows that Jesus came in humility.



Activity

Build your own inn scene using boxes and craft supplies. Remember how there was no room at the inn for Mary and Joseph.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

TLEHO _____

PHSEOJ _____

LBTSAE _____

LIMUHITY _____

“And she shall bring forth a son. And you shall call his name Jesus. For he shall save his people from their sins.” —Matthew 1:21

THE INN

DECEMBER 10

Jesus

Jesus is the center of the Christmas story. He was born to be God's gift to the world, bringing hope, love, and the chance for us to be close to God again.



Activity

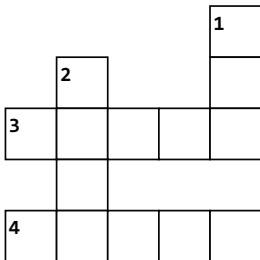
Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

3. The earth, together with all of its countries and peoples
4. The Center of Christmas

Down:

1. The creator of all things.
2. Jesus brings hope and _____.



JESUS

10

"And she gave birth to her firstborn Son. And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."—Luke 2:7

DECEMBER 11

King

Jesus is called a king, but not the kind with a big castle. He's a king over our hearts, showing love and teaching us how to live.



Activity

Make paper crowns and decorate them with jewels (stickers). Talk about how Jesus is a different kind of king, one who leads with love.

Fill in the Blanks:

Jesus is a _____,

but not like one with a castle.

He demonstrates his _____ and
shows us how to _____.

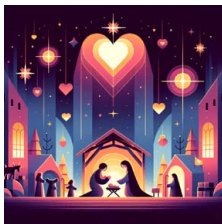
“For God so loved the world as to give his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have life everlasting.” — John 3:16

KING

DECEMBER 12

Love

Love is at the heart of the Christmas story. Jesus' birth was a sign of God's great love for us, showing us how much we are valued and loved.



Activity

Write letters to family members telling them why you love them, inspired by the love God showed by sending Jesus.

Search for these words and circle them: **Love, Jesus, Gift, Heart.**

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

LOVE

12

“Jesus answered: ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would certainly strive so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.’” —John 18:36

DECEMBER 13

Mary

Mary was Jesus' mother, chosen for her faithfulness. She trusted God's plan, even when it was scary or didn't make sense, showing us the importance of faith.



Activity

Draw a map of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, adding in all the places they might have seen or stopped.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

ARMY _____

ERHTMO _____

USDETR _____

ITHFA _____

"And arriving, he dwelt in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" —Matthew 2:23

MARY

“And the angel said to her, ‘Do not fear, Mary, for you have found grace with God.’” —Luke 1:30

NAZARETH

14

DECEMBER 14

Nazareth

Nazareth is where Mary and Joseph lived before Jesus was born. It's a reminder that Jesus came from a regular, humble place, just like any of us.



Activity

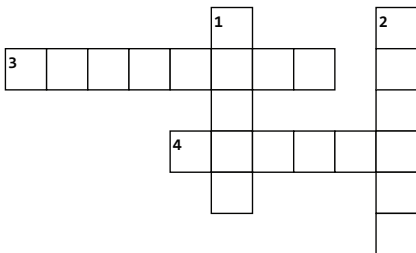
Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

3. The city where Joseph and Mary were from
4. Simple and modest.

Down:

1. Child of Mary
2. Husband of Mary



DECEMBER 15

Obedience

Mary and Joseph showed obedience to God's plans. Even when it was hard, they trusted and followed what God asked of them, setting an example for us.



Activity

Set up an obstacle course where friends follow instructions to get through. It's a fun way to talk about obedience to God's plan.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

PHESJO _____

NCEIEDOBE _____

TSTURDE _____

PLEEXMA _____

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will!" — Luke 2:14

OBEDIENCE

DECEMBER 16

Peace

The birth of Jesus brought peace, just like the angels said. He came to teach peace and show us how to have peace in our hearts, even when things around us are not peaceful.



Activity

Craft peace doves out of paper and write messages of peace on them, remembering the peace Jesus brings.

Fill in the Blanks:

The angels said that _____
birth would bring peace.

Even though things are
not always peaceful around us,
Jesus shows us how
to have peace in our _____.

PEACE

16

“Saying: ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me. Yet truly, let not my will, but yours, be done.’” —Luke 22:42

DECEMBER 17

Quiet

Imagine the quiet night when Jesus was born, with stars twinkling above. This quiet reminds us to pause and appreciate the peaceful moments, especially the miracle of Jesus' birth.



Activity

Have a quiet time where you can draw or write what you think the night Jesus was born might have looked like.

Search for these words and circle them: **Quiet, Stars, Miracle, Birth.**

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

“And it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, so that the whole world would be taxed.” — Luke 2:1

QUIET

DECEMBER 18

Romans

The Romans were in charge when Jesus was born, making laws and collecting taxes. It was a Roman census that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.



Activity

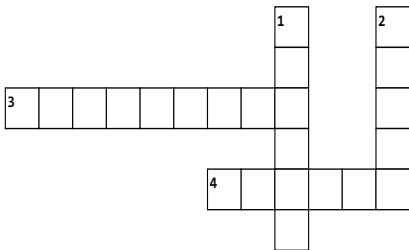
Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

3. Where Jesus was born
4. A counting of all people

Down:

1. The name of the government in the time of Jesus
2. A fee you pay to the government



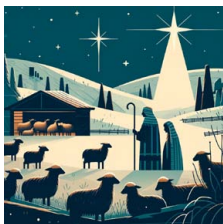
ROMANS

“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.” —Psalm 46:11

DECEMBER 19

Shepherds

Shepherds were some of the first to hear about Jesus' birth, from angels no less! Their job was seen as lowly, but God chose them to hear the good news first, showing that everyone is important.



Activity

Create shepherd's staffs from paper towel tubes or crafting sticks. Act out the shepherds visiting baby Jesus.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

SDHERPESH _____

HTRIB _____

ASLNGE _____

WLYOL _____

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.” —Proverbs 3:5

SHEPHERDS

19

DECEMBER 20

Trust

Trust is a big theme in the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph trusted God's plan. We're also encouraged to trust in God's love and promises.



Activity

Pair up and have one partner blindfolded while the other guides them around, teaching about trust through experience.

Fill in the Blanks:

An important theme of the Christmas story is about _____.

Just like Mary and Joseph we are also encouraged to trust in the _____ and _____ of God.

TRUST

20

"The shepherds said one to another: 'Let us cross over to Bethlehem and let us see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.'" —Luke 2:15

DECEMBER 21

Understanding

Jesus' birth brings understanding of God's love for us. It helps us see how much God wants to be close to us.



Activity

Make heart-shaped crafts to represent understanding and love, discussing how Jesus helps us understand God's love.

Search for these words and circle them: **Birth, God, Love, Close**

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

"Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." —Isaiah 7:14

UNDERSTANDING

DECEMBER 22

Virgin birth

Jesus' birth was a miracle because Mary was a virgin. This shows that Jesus is no ordinary person; he's the Son of God, sent to us in a very special way.



Activity

Create a simple puzzle that illustrates the story of Mary being told she would have baby Jesus, emphasizing the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

RTHBI _____

ALCEMIR _____

SUSJE _____

LIACESP _____

VIRGIN BIRTH

22

“Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore, acquire wisdom. And with all your acquisition, acquire understanding.”—Proverbs 4:7

DECEMBER 23

Wise Men

Wise men traveled far, following a star to find Jesus. They brought gifts, showing that Jesus is important and to be honored.



Activity

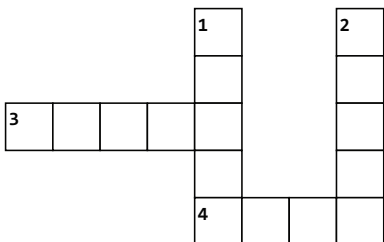
Solve this crossword puzzle:

Across:

3. Presents presented to someone.
4. A bright light in the night sky.

Down:

1. The reason for the Christmas season.
2. To treat someone with admiration and respect.



“But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.”—Luke 2:19

WISE MEN

DECEMBER 24

eXtraordinary

Jesus' birth was extraordinary, not just because of how it happened, but because of why. He came to change the world with love.



Activity

Design Christmas cards that show something extraordinary about Jesus' birth, like the star or the manger, and give them to friends or family.

Unscramble these words from the lesson above:

SUJES _____

NGECHA _____

LDROW _____

VELO _____

EXTRAORDINARY

24

Wise men 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 25 (PART 2)

Zeal

Zeal means great energy or enthusiasm. The Christmas story inspires zeal in us to share love and joy, just like the angels and shepherds did.



Activity

Search for these words and circle them: **Birth, Zeal, Jesus, Love**

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

She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.” —Matthew 1:21

ZEAL

26