

Advent 2020

The run up to Christmas may have changed this year, but the meaning of Christmas certainly hasn't! Gather around as a family every day this month to read the story of how God sent joy to the world with the gift of His son, Jesus. Spend time together praying and remembering the real reason for Christmas.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
<p>The birth of John is Foretold! (Luke 1:5-25) Get Creative and make a Christmas Decoration that tells the meaning of Christmas. Display it in your house!</p>	<p>Many years before, God promised that a messenger would come to prepare the way for Jesus - who do you think that messenger could be? (Malachi 3:1) Have a think together about some of the promises God makes in the Bible and how he always keeps his promises!</p>	<p>God sends Gabriel to Mary. He has some very special news! But Mary is confused! (Luke 1:26-29) What is the best news you've ever received? Share that together and thank God for it!</p>	<p>Gabriel tells Mary who Jesus is so she doesn't have to be afraid (Luke 1:30-33) Many people find it hard to feed their family- especially this year. List some things you can give to a food bank, like Bob's store, this Christmas</p>	<p>Mary asks "How?", but she trusts God is in control (Luke 1:24-28) Discuss the things that can make us afraid and how knowing God is in control helps!</p>	<p>Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth and sings praises to God. (Luke 1:39-56) Singing praises to God is so important. Pick your favourite worship songs and spend time worshipping God together!</p>	<p>A very special baby is born - John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66) Share with each other someone who helps you to love Jesus more, make a Christmas card to give them and pray for them.</p>
<p>God speaks through Zechariah! He tells of who John is and who is yet to come! (Luke 1:67-80) Play the Whisper Challenge (You can find rules online). Discuss how we can listen to what God is teaching you.</p>	<p>An angel visits Joseph. He trusts and obeys God (Matthew 1:18-24) This year has been hard, especially for people living alone, can you think of anyone you know? How could you show you are thinking of them? Maybe a homemade card and gift left at their door?</p>	<p>Caesar calls a census, Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5). Try to build and decorate a gingerbread house. Think about the journey home Mary and Joseph had to take. Pray for people, like refugees, who can't spend Christmas at home.</p>	<p>Many years before this, God told his people that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem! (Micah 5:2-5a) Bake some Christmas cookies, but bake some extra to give to a neighbour!</p>	<p>Hallelujah! Jesus is Born! He is wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger (Luke 2:6-7) Look through old family pictures. Tell stories of your favourite Christmas memories. Remember how God has been faithful to you all & thank Him for it.</p>	<p>At night in a nearby field, Shepherds hear from angels that a Saviour has been born! (Luke 2:8-14) Switch off technology for an evening together. Wrap up warm and take a walk. Talk about your favourite Christmas memories or play a board game.</p>	<p>Years before, God speaks of Shepherds and a Saviour (Jeremiah 33:12-17) What are you thankful for? Make dinner together and answer that question while cooking. Before eating spend time thanking God for these things!</p>
<p>The Shepherds visit Jesus and praise God (Luke 2:15-20) Talk about ways that you can Praise God! Listen and Sing along to "Born is the King (It's Christmas)" - Hillsong Worship.</p>	<p>The Wise men see a star (Matthew 2:1-2) Go for a drive or wrap up warm & go for a walk to see and enjoy all of the Christmas Decorations. As you do this pray for the people in your community.</p>	<p>Herod angrily sends the wise men to find the Messiah (Matthew 2:3-8) Listen to "Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)"- Phil Wickham, Think about the lyrics- what does Jesus' Birth means for you?</p>	<p>Wise Men give important gifts - Gifts for a King! (Matthew 2:9-11) Put on Christmas music & wrap presents for family and friends together while remembering the gifts that the wise men gave Jesus & what they meant.</p>	<p>God protects Jesus and the wise men from Herod's wicked plans (Matthew 2:12-17). Spend time together as a family watching a Christmas movie together and share your favourite parts at the end.</p>	<p>Simeon declares Jesus is the Saviour! (Luke 2:25-34) Look at a World Map and Open Door's World Watch List. Pray for those around the world who are persecuted for Loving Jesus.</p>	<p>Anna tells everyone the rescuer they have waited on has come! (Luke 36-40) Thank God for the best gift ever - Jesus! Pray for those who have never heard about Jesus & think of how you can share Him with others!</p>
<p>John is the messenger who was promised, and he speaks about Jesus! (Mark 1:1-7) Video Call someone to wish them a Merry Christmas! Why not remind them about the true meaning of Christmas?</p>	<p>Jesus came so that we could be forgiven and free from our sin - He is the greatest gift of all! (John 3:16-17). Remember why Jesus came to earth, to save us. Spend time together sharing your favourite moments in the Bible with each other and worshipping Christ together.</p>	<p>Jesus is the Word, who existed before creation, Jesus is God, but people didn't recognise Him. (John 1:1-14) Light some candles and have your own Christmas Eve Candle lit Carol service by singing your favourite carols to worship Jesus!</p>	<p>For Unto Us a Child is Born, Unto us a Son is Given. The Government will rest upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity..." Isaiah 9:6-7 Jesus is the Saviour promised to us years before He came to earth. He is the Son of God, who is our hope today and always! Amongst the busyness and excitement of today spend time reading the Christmas story again, singing some carols and thanking God for sending His Son to earth to save us.</p>			