

# THE JOURNEY THAT *changed* THE WORLD

A D V E N T 2 0 2 5



# FAMILY DEVOTION

Dear Families,

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...” (Isaiah 9:6)

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, we invite you to journey with us toward the celebration of our Savior’s birth.

The Salvation Army is honored to share this Family Advent devotional with you. This season offers us a beautiful opportunity to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for Christmas—to focus on what truly matters amid the busyness of December.

Each week includes Scripture, reflection, and simple family activities designed to draw you closer to the true meaning of this season—the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

There’s no pressure to be perfect. Whether you use these devotions daily or weekly, in the morning or evening, our prayer is simply that they help center your family on Jesus during this special time.

As you light candles, read God’s Word together, and celebrate the gift of salvation, may you experience the peace, hope, joy, and love that only Christ can bring.

The journey to Bethlehem begins now. May you be blessed during this season of joy.



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## Instructions

CUTTING GUIDE LINE

BENDING GUIDE LINE

CUT AND PASTE IN THE SPACES IDENTIFIED WITH THE SAME LETTER.

B

A

C

D

G

F

E

B

# ACTIVITY 1: PRAYER CHAIN

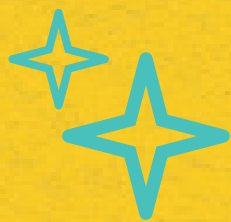
As we enter Advent, we're excited to share a special activity to help prepare for Jesus' birth—a prayer paper chain! Each day, your child will reflect on a prompt, pray, and read a Bible verse as we countdown to Christmas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a family and grow in faith together. The daily act of adding one link reminds us of the true reason we celebrate: the gift of Jesus Christ.

Take a few minutes each day to slow down and reflect together on the precious gift of Jesus Christ. Whether praying for others, giving thanks, or focusing on Christ's birth, we hope this draws you closer to Jesus this season.

**Merry Christmas!**

1. Select “fit to print” when printing or print on 11x17 paper.
2. Print on one side only.
3. Using scissors, cut the strips of paper.
4. Paste, tape, or staple the ends of the first strip together to form a loop. If you are using glue, hold the two ends of the paper together until the glue properly dries.
5. Place the second strip of paper through the newly made loop. Again, join the ends of the strip together with glue, tape, or staples.
6. Repeat the process with the 25 strips of paper.
7. Hang your paper chain and enjoy!

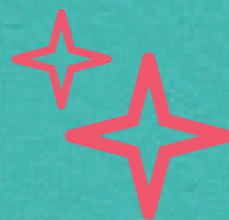


**Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to be our Savior.**  
**John 3:16** – *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,  
 that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**Nov  
30**

**Dec  
01**

**Pray for your family to be full of love and kindness this Christmas.**  
**1 John 4:9** – *“We love because He first loved us.”*

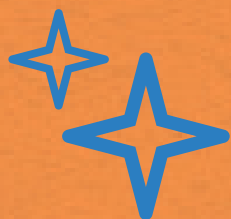
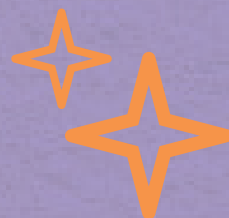


**Thank God for the gift of Jesus and His love for us.**  
**Romans 6:23** – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God  
 is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**Dec  
02**

**Dec  
03**

**Pray for the people who are sad or lonely this Christmas season.**  
**Psalm 34:18** – *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves  
 those who are crushed in spirit.”*



**Pray that your heart will be ready to celebrate Jesus' birth.**  
**Luke 2:11** – *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
 He is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

**Dec  
04**

**Dec  
05**

**Ask God to help you share love with  
 others during this Advent season.**  
**1 John 4:7** – *“Dear friends, let us love one another,  
 for love comes from God.”*



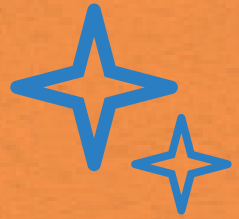


**Thank God for the beauty of the world He created.**  
**Genesis 1:31** – *“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.”*

Dec  
06

Dec  
07

**Pray for peace in the world, that everyone would know God’s love.**  
**Isaiah 9:6** – *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

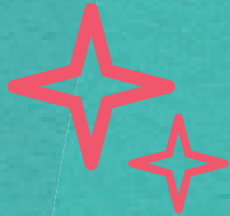


**Pray for the sick or those who need healing this Christmas.**  
**Jeremiah 17:14** – *“Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.”*

Dec  
08

Dec  
09

**Thank God for your friends and ask Him to bless them.**  
**Proverbs 17:17** – *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”*

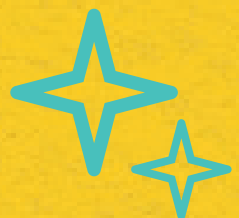


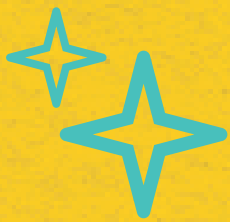
**Ask God to help you be generous to those in need.**  
**2 Corinthians 9:17** – *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Dec  
10

Dec  
11

**Thank God for the Church and the people who help others.**  
**1 Corinthians 12:27** – *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*





**Pray for your teachers and leaders to have wisdom and strength.**

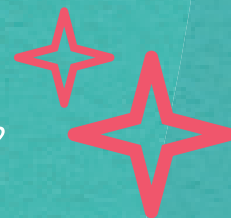
**James 1:5** – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

**Dec  
12**

**Dec  
13**

**Pray for those who don't know about Jesus to hear the Good News.**

**Romans 10:14** – *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?”*



**Thank God for His gift of forgiveness and grace.**

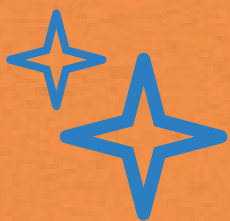
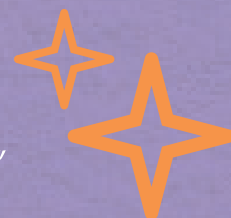
**Ephesians 1:7** – *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.”*

**Dec  
14**

**Dec  
15**

**Ask God to help you be patient and kind like Jesus.**

**Colossians 3:12** – *“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*



**Pray for the world to experience God's love and joy this Christmas.**

**Luke 2:10** – *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’”*

**Dec  
16**

**Dec  
17**

**Thank God for all the special traditions and memories you share with your family.**

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7** – *“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*



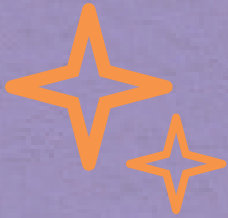
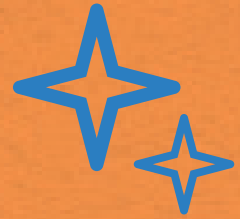


**Pray for the people who work to help others.**  
**Mark 10:45** – *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

Dec  
18

Dec  
19

**Thank God for the gifts He has given you and your talents.**  
**1 Peter 4:10** – *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*



**Pray for a heart of gratitude and thankfulness.**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:18** – *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Dec  
20

Dec  
21

**Pray for safety for all those traveling during the holidays.**  
**Psalms 121:8** – *“The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”*

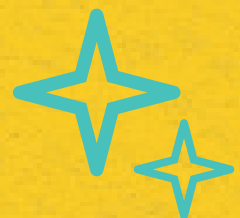


**Ask God to help you be a light to others this Christmas.**  
**Matthew 5:14** – *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

Dec  
22

Dec  
23

**Thank you, God, for the birth of Jesus and for loving us so much.**  
**Luke 2:10-11** – *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.’”*





**Pray for a heart full of joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!**  
**Luke 2:13-14** – *“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.’”*

Dec  
24

Dec  
25

**Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus,  
who brings light into the world.**  
**John 8:12** – *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’”*



# ADVENT SCRIPTURE MAP

We're excited to share a special resource for this Christmas season—an Advent Map! This tool helps your family journey through the Christmas story in a meaningful way, pointing to the heart of Advent: Jesus, the Savior who changed the world.

How it works: Each day, move the Mary and Joseph game piece along the map, read the passage together, and talk about what it means to your family.

The map has four sections:

- The Promise – Old Testament prophecies pointing to a coming Savior
- The Preparation – Events leading to Jesus' birth, including Mary and Joseph's faithful obedience
- The Announcement – Angels proclaim the good news to the shepherds
- The Arrival – Jesus is born! God's promises fulfilled

This journey shows how the Old and New Testaments come together in Jesus' story, making it easy for kids to see how everything connects.

Our prayer is that this Advent map helps your family draw closer to Jesus and experience the wonder and joy of Christmas.

GAME  
PIECE



# Advent Map

START

NOV 30TH  
Genesis 3:15

DEC 1ST  
Isaiah 7:14

DEC 2ND  
Isaiah 9:6-7

DEC 3RD  
Micah 5:2

DEC 4TH  
Jeremiah 33:14-15

DEC 5TH  
Malachi 3:1

DEC 6TH  
Luke 1:30-33

DEC 7TH  
Luke 1:26-27, 30-33

DEC 8TH  
Luke 1:38

DEC 9TH  
Matthew 1:18-21

JESUS  
DEC 10TH  
Matthew 1:24-25

DEC 11TH  
Luke 1:39-40

DEC 12TH  
Luke 2:1-3

DEC 13TH  
Luke 2:4-5

DEC 14TH  
Luke 2:8-9

DEC 15TH  
Luke 2:10-11

DEC 16TH  
Luke 2:13-14

DEC 17TH  
Matthew 2:1-2

DEC 18TH  
Matthew 2:9-10

DEC 19TH  
Luke 2:17-18

PRISE  
DEC 20TH  
Luke 2:20

DEC 21ST  
Luke 2:6-7

DEC 22ND  
Luke 2:15-16

DEC 23RD  
Matthew 2:9-11a

DEC 24TH  
John 1:14

DEC 25TH  
Luke 2:1

WEEK 1: The Promise

WEEK 2: The Preparation

WEEK 3: The Announcement

WEEK 4: The Arrival



# WEEK 1

## DEVOTION - THE JOURNEY OF THE ANGELS

### Read Luke 2:8-14

I love surprises – don't you? Have you ever walked into a room thinking nothing special was happening...and then – SURPRISE! Everyone jumps out and shouts “Happy Birthday!” It's the best feeling ever especially when you didn't see it coming. Or maybe someone you love came to visit without telling you first. Fun surprises like that can make our hearts feel so happy!

Well, one night, a group of shepherds got the biggest surprise of their lives. They were out in the fields taking care of their sheep, and everything was calm and quiet. Then – BOOM! The sky lit up like it was daytime, and an angel appeared right in front of them! The angel had a message from God: “Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior – Jesus – is born!”

Then the angel told them exactly where to find baby Jesus: wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And just when the shepherds thought it couldn't get more amazing, the whole sky filled with a crowd of angels! They were all singing and praising God. It was like the biggest, brightest celebration ever!

That night reminds us of something really important: the angels didn't keep the good news to themselves – they shared it right away! They couldn't wait to tell the shepherds that Jesus, the Savior, had been born. We can do the same thing today. We can be like the angels and tell our friends and family all about Jesus. It's exciting to share something so wonderful!

Another thing we learn from this story is that the angel said the good news was for everyone. It wasn't just for shepherds or people living in Bible times. It was for all people – then and now! That means it's for you, me, your neighbors, your classmates, and everyone in the whole world. Jesus came for all of us.

Who can you share the good news with? Who needs to hear that Jesus was born and that he brings hope, love, and joy? Mark 16:15 tell us, “Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone.” We can be like the angels – celebrating, praising God, and sharing the best news ever.

**“Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!”**



## BIG IDEA

The angels shared the good news. We can too!



## MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people." Luke 2:10 (NIRV)



## LET'S TALK

- Why do you think the shepherds were afraid at first?
- What do you think the angels' singing sounded like?
- What's one way you can share the good news of Jesus?



## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for sending the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus. Help us to be brave and excited to tell others the good news too! In Jesus' name, Amen.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Angel Craft: Make simple paper angels and write the memory verse on their robes.

# CRAFT: PAPER ANGEL ORNAMENT

## Supplies

- Scrapbook paper
- Wooden beads – 1/2" (12mm) to 3/4" (20mm)
- Twine
- Double sided tape
- Fine point sharpie
- Glue or a glue gun
- Pipe Cleaners



## Directions

1. Fold each square in a back-and-forth pattern to make a fan. For best results, try to make each fold approximately the same size on both angels.
2. Next, fold the large fan in half. Mark the halfway point with a small dot.
3. Put the two fans together, pattern sides facing you. Use a 12" twine, tie the two squares together, centering the top (4") fan in the middle of the 6" fan.
4. Bend the large fan in half where you made the dot. Using double-sided tape, tape the two fans together in the center. Then tape the bottom of the small fan to the top of the large fan on each side.
5. For the bead, draw a face on the bead using a sharpie if you choose.
6. Slip the ends of the twine through the bead and secure the bead to the top of the angel using a small bead of glue on the back side of the ornament. (A glue gun works best!)
7. Cut a 2 1/2" piece of pipe cleaner and bend it into a small circle, overlapping the ends to get it to stay together.
8. Slip the twine through the pipe cleaner so it sits on top of the wooden bead for the halo. Secure it with a dab of glue.
9. To finish your paper angel ornament, tie another knot in the top of the twine. Cut away any excess twine. Your angel is now ready to hang on your tree!

### Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you that the words you sent to Mary are still true today. Even though so many things around us may try to bring fear into our lives, we can trust that we do not need to be afraid, because You are greater than anything that comes our way. Help us to remember Your Word, especially when we find ourselves feeling afraid. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# WEEK 2

## DEVOTION - THE JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

### Read Matthew 2:1-12

I'm not very good at directions. If you tell me to "head east," I have no idea what that means! I'd much rather hear, "Turn left at the McDonald's." Even now, I still use my GPS almost everywhere I go.

When I was a kid, we didn't have a GPS. On road trips, my parents used a big paper map that they would spread out in the front seat of the car. That map helped us find our way. Long ago, people used other things to help them travel – like compasses, rivers, mountains, or even the stars in the sky.

In today's Bible story, some very wise men went on a long journey to find a baby king. They didn't have a map or GPS. Instead, they followed a star that God placed in the sky just for them.

These wise men, also called Magi, studied the stars. They were smart and watched the sky every night. When they saw a new star that matched what the Old Testament said about the coming King, they knew it was time to go.

They packed up their gifts, climbed onto their camels, and traveled a long, hard road to find Jesus. Along the way, they met King Herod. Herod didn't want to worship Jesus – he was scared of losing his throne. But he pretended to be interested and told the wise men, "When you find Him, let me know, so I can worship Him too."

But the wise men didn't stop. They kept following the star, and it led them right to Bethlehem – right over the place where Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus were staying.

When they saw the star stop, they were filled with joy! They went inside, knelt down, and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Him gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time to leave, they went home a different way because God warned them not to go back to Herod.

Did you know God still leads people to Jesus today? He may not use a star, but He uses the Bible, prayer, and wise people – like your Corps Officers, leaders, or parents – to help guide you to Him.

Do you want to find Jesus this Christmas? Jeremiah 29:13 says, "When you look for me with all your heart, you will find me." If you look for Jesus, you will find Him. So read your Bible. Pray. Ask questions. And when you find Him – worship Him!

**"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"**



## BIG IDEA

Just like the wise men followed the star, we can follow God with our hearts.



## MEMORY VERSE

“We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2 (NIRV)



## LET’S TALK

- Why do you think the wise men wanted to find Jesus?
- Have you ever followed something, like a map or a clue? What happened?
- How can we follow God today, even if we don’t have a star to follow?



## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for showing the wise men the way to Jesus. Help us to follow You every day, even when we don’t know where we’re going. Help us to worship You just like they did. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Star Hunt: Hide paper stars around a room and let the kids “follow the stars” to a special surprise (like a nativity figure of baby Jesus).

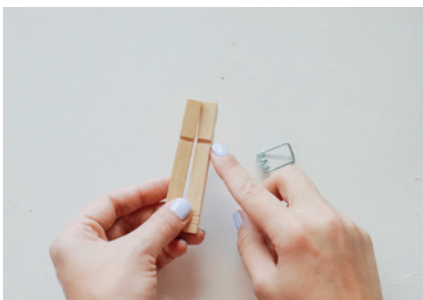
# CRAFT: CLOTHESPIN STARS

## Supplies

- Clothespins (8 each in 2 different sizes)
- Hot glue

## Directions

1. Start by taking apart your clothespins. You'll need to remove the wire spring.
2. You'll be left with two pieces each per clothespin. On the back sides you'll notice a small wood slit. Making sure these slits are facing each other, secure the two pieces together with hot glue. You'll need to make a total of 8 like this.
3. Start building your star by gluing the pieces together. Glue two pieces together and then glue those two to another pair. Once your star has 4 points, add clothespins in between.
4. If you use two different sizes, you can glue the smaller star on top of the large one for a finished look.



## Prayer

Dear Lord,

You are truly worthy of our worship. There is no god like You. The magi recognized it and may we also never lose sight of how great You are. Thank you for loving us just as we are and never giving up on us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# WEEK 3

## DEVOTION - THE JOURNEY OF THE SHEPHERDS

### Read Luke 2:8-20

Have you ever heard the words “glorify” or “praise” in the Bible? They show up a lot! In our story today, the shepherds glorified and praised God when they saw baby Jesus. But what does that actually mean?

Let’s imagine something together: picture a tiny note written in teeny-tiny handwriting. It’s really hard to read! But then, you pull out a magnifying glass and place it over the words. Now they look bigger and clearer. Suddenly, everyone can read the message!

That’s kind of what it means to glorify God. We already know how good God is and what He’s done in our lives – but when we glorify Him, we’re like a magnifying glass. We help others see how good God is too!

Praising God can look like lots of different things. Sometimes we praise Him by singing worship songs. Other times, it might be telling a friend how God helped us or showed up in a special way. And sometimes, praising God means choosing to thank Him even when life feels tough or uncertain. No matter how we do it, each of these moments is like holding up a magnifying glass to help others see God’s love and goodness more clearly.

In our Bible story, the shepherds did just that. After the angels told them that Jesus had been born, they ran to see it for themselves. And when they found baby Jesus, just like the angels said, they couldn’t keep it to themselves! They ran out and told everyone what they had seen, praising God the whole way. It was like they were shouting, “Look! Look at this amazing gift God gave us!”

The Bible reminds us to praise God all the time. Psalm 34:1 says, “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

That means our whole lives can be like magnifying glasses – helping people see how great our God is! So, here’s a question for you: What’s one way you can praise God this week?

**“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!”**



## BIG IDEA

The shepherds were excited to see Jesus and tell others. We can be excited about Jesus too!



## MEMORY VERSE

“The shepherds went back. They gave glory and praise to God.” Luke 2:20 (NIRV)



## LET'S TALK

- What would you have done if you saw baby Jesus that night like the shepherds?
- What are some different ways we can praise and glorify God?
- How will you praise God this week?



## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for this story of the shepherds who praised You when they heard about Jesus. Help us to be like them – full of joy, ready to tell others, and always praising You. We are so thankful for Jesus, the best gift of all. Amen.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Sheep Hunt Game: Hide cotton balls (“sheep”) around the room. Let kids play “shepherd” and find them all!

# CRAFT: YARN WRAPPED SHEEP

## Supplies

- A piece of cardboard
- White yarn
- White and black paper
- Scissors
- Tape/glue

## Directions

1. Grab the piece of cardboard and cut out a cloud shaped piece.
2. Take the loose end of yarn and secure it firmly to back of your cloud shape using tape or glue.
3. Wrap the yarn around the cardboard shape in various directions until it is well covered as well as nice and puffy! Snip the remaining yarn off and glue the loose end down on the back of the sheep shape.
4. Cut out a mushroom shaped head and add a face to the front of it. Next cut out two rectangle legs and glue the legs and head to the front of the sheep. Your yarn sheep is finished!



## Prayer

Dear Lord,

I praise You for Your love and kindness toward us. You have shown us that we all matter to You. Help us to also see everyone around us as someone that is important. And help us to remember that You can use us no matter how weak and imperfect we may feel. We commit ourselves into Your hands and trust You to use us however You choose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# WEEK 4

## DEVOTION - THE JOURNEY OF MARY

### Read Luke 1:26-38

Have you ever had a moment where saying “YES!” was easy and exciting? Maybe someone at school invited you to sit with them at lunch when you were the new kid – YES! Or maybe your mom asked if you wanted ice cream after dinner – YES! Or how about when someone offers you your dream job, or a special person asks, “Will you marry me?” – YES!

Some yeses are fun to say. They come with excitement, happiness, and sometimes even sprinkles on top. But what about when saying “YES” is hard? When it’s scary? When it might cost you something?

In today’s story, Mary – the mother of Jesus – was visited by an angel. That alone would be a little scary! And the angel didn’t come with a simple message. He told Mary that she would have a baby. Not just any baby – God’s Son. This child would be a King whose kingdom would never end.

Can you imagine how Mary felt? She was young. She wasn’t married yet. This was going to be complicated. She had every reason to say, “No,” or “Can I think about it?” But instead, after asking one question, Mary simply said:

“I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” Luke 1:38 NLT

Mary said “YES!” to God’s plan – even though it was big, scary, and uncertain. She trusted that if God asked her to do something, He would help her through it.

All throughout the Bible, we see people who said “YES!” to God. Noah said yes and built a giant ark though there was no rain in sight. Abraham said “YES!” and trusted God with a big promise, even when it didn’t make sense. Moses said “YES!” and bravely led God’s people out of slavery in Egypt. And Mary said “YES!” and became the mother of Jesus, the Savior of the world. Each of them chose to trust God and obey, even when it was hard.

There are times in our lives when God asks us to say “YES” too. Maybe He’s nudging you to talk to someone who doesn’t have many friends. Maybe He’s asking you to be kind when it’s not easy. Maybe He’s asking you to invite a friend to church, or to pray with someone who’s hurting. These things can feel scary, but when God calls us to do something, He promises to walk with us.

When we say “YES!” to God, even in small things, we become part of His big story. So, what’s something God might be asking you to say “YES!” to today?

**“Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God?”**



## BIG IDEA

Mary said yes to God. We can say yes to God too!



## MEMORY VERSE

"I serve the Lord...May it happen to me just as you said it would." Luke 1:38 (NIRV)



## LET'S TALK

- How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?
- What would you do if God asked you to do something really big?
- What's one way you can say "yes" to God today?



## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for Mary and how she said yes to Your plan. Help us to be brave and trust You, even when we're not sure how things will go. We want to say yes to You too! In Jesus' name, Amen.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Drama: Act out the angel visiting Mary with simple props and costumes. Let kids take turns being Mary and Gabriel.

# CRAFT: STAINED-GLASS ORNAMENT

## Supplies

- Card stock paper
- Joseph and Mary craft printable
- Markers
- Yarn or ½ inch ribbon
- Scissors
- Hole punch

## Directions

1. Print the Joseph & Mary craft printable on card stock and cut out the image.
2. Punch the hole marked at the top of the image.
3. Color each piece of the image with a color of your choice alternating between 4 to 6 colors to create the illusion of a stained-glass effect.
4. Pass the yarn through the hole and tie the ends to form a loop.
5. You should end up with a stained-glass looking ornament for your Christmas tree.

### Prayer

Dear Lord,

You have shown again that You can be trusted. You are faithful to Your word. Help us remember this truth when we are faced with the choice to follow You or follow the world. You are a good God, and we are your servants. Use us as You would. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# CHRISTMAS DAY

## DEVOTION - THE GREATEST GIFT

### Read Luke 2:1-7

Can you think of the best gift you've ever received? Maybe it was that Lego set you had been dreaming about. Or the coolest new shoes. Or maybe it was something really big – something that cost a lot and made you feel extra special.

Today, we're talking about the very best gift ever given – a gift that came over 2,000 years ago on the very first Christmas.

In Luke 2, we read that Caesar Augustus, the Roman ruler, made a decree that everyone had to be counted. This meant each person had to travel back to their family's hometown. For Mary and Joseph, that meant leaving their home in Nazareth and traveling to Bethlehem.

Now Bethlehem was about 70 miles away – and remember, they didn't have cars, trains, or planes! Mary, who was very pregnant at the time, likely rode on a donkey for the journey. It probably took them about a week to get there, and it couldn't have been comfortable.

When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, things didn't get any easier. Every inn and guesthouse were full. There were no rooms left – no cozy bed, no warm meal, no quiet place to rest. The only spot left for them was a stable, a place where animals stayed. It was likely noisy, messy, and very smelly.

But then, in the middle of all that – something incredible happened.

Mary gave birth to a baby. Not just any baby. This baby was Jesus, the Son of God. She wrapped him in cloths and laid Him in a manger – a feeding trough for animals.

It might not sound like the setting for the biggest moment in history, but it was! Jesus had arrived. The Savior of the world was born!

That night, God gave us the most amazing gift: His Son. Jesus came to Earth so we could be close to God again. Because of sin, people had been separated from God, but Jesus made a way for us to come back – to be forgiven, to be loved, and to have eternal life.

In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus made the way for us to know God.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's remember: Jesus is the greatest gift of all. He is our hope. He is our Savior. He is Immanuel – God with us.

**"Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light."**



## BIG IDEA

Jesus is the best gift of all. He came to save us!



## MEMORY VERSE

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.”  
Luke 2:11 (NIRV)



## LET'S TALK

- Why do you think God sent Jesus as a baby?
- How is Jesus different from any other gift?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus came for you?



## PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for coming into the world. You are the best gift ever! Help us to love You, follow You, and remember why You came. Thank You for being our Savior. Amen.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Birthday Party for Jesus: Have a little celebration with cupcakes and candles. Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus and talk about why we celebrate Him.

