

# Week 1 Advent Devotions



## Wednesday

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:19-20

**Question to Discuss:** Take a few minutes of silence to “ponder in your heart” what happened on the first Christmas Day. Then share what you think about.

**Prayer:** Like the shepherds, ‘glorify and praise’ God for something wonderful He has done in your life.

## Thursday

**Scripture Reading:** Galatians 4:4-5

**Question to Discuss:** It took a long time for Jesus to come to earth, but he came at the exact, right time. Do we have to wait for God sometimes? Is this easy or hard? What does the Christmas story teach us about God’s timing?

**Prayer:** If there is something you are impatient about right now, ask God to help you wait for his perfect timing.

## Friday

**Reading and Discussion:** Read out the words to one of your favorite Christmas carols. Talk about what the song means.

**Prayer:** Pray for someone in the church that you think may be lonely today. (Why not send them a card?)

## Saturday

**Reading and Discussion:** Read out the words to another of your favorite Christmas carols. Talk about what the song means.

**Prayer:** Take a phrase in the song, and “pray it back to God” in your own words.



## Sunday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:18-19

**Question to Discuss:** Doing what God wants of us is not always easy. What do you think Mary and Joseph’s friends and neighbors thought of Mary’s pregnancy? Have you ever been made fun of for being a Christian or doing the right thing?

**Prayer:** Ask God for strength to do what he tells you to do, no matter what others may think of you. Pray for one of the church’s missionaries.

## Monday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:20-21

**Question to Discuss:** Jesus came to ‘save us from our sins’. There are dozens of sins we struggle with. What’s one “big” one that you want Jesus to save you from?

**Prayer:** Ask God’s forgiveness for any sin you thought of. Ask for his strength to make a different choice next time you are tempted in that area.

## Tuesday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:22-23

**Question to Discuss:** See if you can find who originally spoke this prophecy, and where it’s at in the Bible. Did you know this prophecy was written *700 years* before Jesus was born! What does this mean? What does this prove?

**Prayer:** Tell God one reason why you’re thankful for the Bible.

## ***Wednesday***

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:24-25

**Question to Discuss:** “Joseph...did what the angel...commanded him.” How many of the 10 Commandments can you think of?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you obey what he commands.



## ***Thursday***

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:1-2

**Question to Discuss:** The Magi were great and important men in their time. Yet they still

came to worship Jesus. Why do great, rich, powerful people need to worship God? Don't they have everything they need?

**Prayer:** Go stand outside – or look outside – right now. Listen and look quietly for 1 minute, then thank God for one thing you see.

## ***Friday***

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:3

**Question to Discuss:** King Herod was a wicked king. Why do some people hate God?

**Prayer:** Take 5 minutes and browse through [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com). Pray for Christians around the world who are suffering for their faith.

## ***Saturday***

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:4-7

**Question to Discuss:** Bethlehem – where Jesus was born – was a small, dumpy town. Why do you think Jesus was born here, rather than in Rome, Jerusalem or some other important place? What do we learn about God here?

**Prayer:** Ask God to use you this week to be a blessing to someone whom other people would tend to ignore or overlook.

# ***Week 4 Advent Devotions***



## ***Sunday***

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:11-12

**Question to Discuss:** Someone has observed that a Christian not only takes Jesus as a “Savior” but as “Lord”. What's the difference?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you make Jesus the Lord of a specific area in your life.

## ***Monday***

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:13-15

**Question to Discuss:** If Jesus the Messiah has come, why isn't there still peace on earth?

**Prayer:** Pray for one area on earth where there is no peace right now.

## ***Tuesday***

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:16-18

**Question to Discuss:** The shepherds were eager to make Jesus known to others. Do you find it easy or hard to talk about Jesus with others? Talk about what can make it hard sometimes.

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you be a better witness of your faith.

# Week 2 Advent Devotions

## Wednesday

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:1-5

**Question to Discuss:** Why should we obey civil authorities? Are there times when we should not obey them? (See Acts 5:29)

**Prayer:** Pray for government leaders God has placed around us.



## Thursday

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:6-7

**Question to Discuss:** Do people still keep Jesus outside in the cold, like they did when he was born? Is there room in your heart for Jesus today?

**Prayer:** Pray for a relative or friend who does not know Jesus.



## Friday

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:8-9

**Question to Discuss:** Shepherds were the poorest of the poor back in Jesus' day. Why would God first announce the birth of his son to poorest of the poor?

**Prayer:** Pray for the poorest of the poor in your community. Think about something you can do to help them this Christmas.

## Saturday

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:10-11

**Question to Discuss:** "Do not be afraid." What is something you are afraid of? How can you overcome this fear?

**Prayer:** Read Psalm 46:1-3. Then ask for God to give you courage over what frightens you.

## Sunday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:8

**Question to Discuss:** Why did Herod lie? What are ways people tell lies? Why do people lie? Have I ever lied?

**Prayer:** Thank goodness there aren't too many leaders like Herod around! Pray for some of our leaders.



## Monday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:9-10

**Question to Discuss:** Name some things that fill you with joy.

**Prayer:** Read or sing through the words of the carol "Joy To The World" (or listen to it.) In your own words, ask God to help you experience more joy this Christmas season.

## Tuesday

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:11

**Question to Discuss:** What is something you could give to God this Christmas as an act of worship?

**Prayer:** Ask God to show you how to be a better "giver" this Christmas.

## **Wednesday**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:12

**Question to Discuss:** What are some ways God speaks to us? Have I ever been “led” by God?

**Prayer:** Ask God for wisdom and direction for an area in your life.



## **Thursday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-28

**Question to Discuss:** What do you think God made angels for? If you wanted to find other Bible verses that talk about angels, how would you find them?

**Prayer:** Pray for your parents and

grandparents.

## **Friday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:29-30

**Question to Discuss:** Do I want to find “favor with God”? What are some ways we can gain God’s “favor”?

**Prayer:** Pray for your brothers, sisters, and anyone in your extended family that God brings to mind.

## **Saturday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:31-33

**Question to Discuss:** How is Jesus “reigning” today? How is his “kingdom” spreading?

**Prayer:** Pray for people from Bridgeway who need God’s touch.

# **Week 3 Advent Devotions**



## **Sunday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:34-35

**Question to Discuss:** The Holy Spirit helped bring the miracle of Christmas about. Romans 8:26 says, “*The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.*” How does the Holy Spirit of God help us in our weaknesses?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you in one area of weakness in your life.

## **Monday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:36-37

**Question to Discuss:** Meditate on the phrase: “*Nothing is impossible with God.*” (How do I “meditate”? Try these! 1. Repeat the verse emphasizing a different word each time. 2. Rewrite the verse in your own words. 3. Turn the verse into a prayer.) What do I learn?

**Prayer:** As you pray, fill in the blank with some problem or difficulty in your life. “Dear God, \_\_\_\_\_ is impossible with you.”

## **Tuesday**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:38

**Question to Discuss:** Mary saw herself as a servant. What does it mean to be a “servant”?

**Prayer:** Is there an area in your life where you have been fighting God, rather than serving him? Talk to him about it, and ask him to give you a servant’s heart.