

Countdown to Christmas:

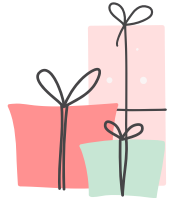
An Advent Paper Chain Kit



Set the scene for a Jesus-focused Christmas with your family!
Our hope is that this set of verses and suggested Advent activities
will help prepare your family to meet Jesus in a new way this Christmas.

Simply cut, create a chain, and let the scriptures walk you
through the story of the Messiah.

(Unless otherwise noted all verses are in the NIV version.)



25 days until Christmas!



24 days until Christmas!



23 days until Christmas!



22 days until Christmas!





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.



Isaiah 9:6



The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The young woman will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)



God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:26-27



Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31



21

days until Christmas!



20

days until Christmas!



19

days until Christmas!



18

days until Christmas!



17

days until Christmas!



16

days until Christmas!





"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:32-33

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."



Luke 1:35



*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.
"May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.*

Luke 1:38

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation."

Luke 1:46-50

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:18-19

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

15

days until Christmas!



14

days until Christmas!



13

days until Christmas!



12

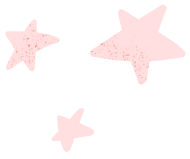
days until Christmas!



11

days until Christmas!





In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

Luke 2:1-3

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:4-5



While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:6-7



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2:8-9



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."

Luke 2:10-11



10

days until Christmas!



9

days until Christmas!



8

days until Christmas!



7

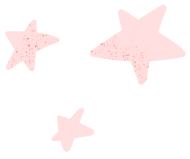
days until Christmas!



6

days until Christmas!





"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Luke 2:12

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."



Luke 2:13-14

When the angels has left them and gone 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 about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:15-18

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.



Luke 2:19

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



Luke 2:20

5

days until Christmas!



4

days until Christmas!



3

days until Christmas!



2

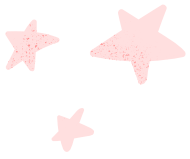
days until Christmas!



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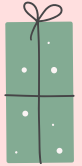
day until Christmas!





The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Matthew 2:10-11

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17



Re-read Luke 2:1-20

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." (Luke 2:10-11)



Advent Activity Ideas



Bake and decorate cookies. Have each person in the family choose a recipient and make a night out of delivering them!



Leave a gift for a stranger somewhere to be found (like a park bench).



Go out as a family and buy gloves or socks and donate them to a local shelter.



Pick a family you know could use a Christmas blessing, buy gifts or treats, and deliver them.



Make and paint salt dough ornaments. All you need is 4 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt and 1.5 cups of warm water. Mix together to make a dough, roll out and use cookie cutters to cut out fun shapes. Use a toothpick to make a hole for the string and bake at 300°F for about an hour. Cool, paint and decorate!



Have everyone in the family write down their favorite Christmas movie on pieces of paper, take turns drawing one out of a jar to watch together during the Christmas season.



Prop Bag Nativity:

Fill a bag with random props (wigs, belts, scarves, hats, etc.), and put on a nativity play using every prop in the bag.

Visit a popular Christmas light street near you and talk about how Jesus is the light of the world.



Design your own wrapping paper. Use a large roll of brown or white paper and color or draw whatever designs you'd like!

Have each person in your family write a Christmas card for a neighbor and then go deliver them.

