

# Kids' Advent Devotional 2025



Set up a nativity scene that you can play with- feel free to use whatever toys you have on hand! Teddy bears can make a great Joseph and Mary. Have a parent or older sibling read the Christmas story; while they read, use your toys to act out what they are reading!



Set up a palace scene- again, use whatever toys you have! Maybe the throne is a pillow. Maybe a stuffed dino is going to be a soldier standing guard. Now, take a moment to notice the difference from the nativity scene. What sort of things did you include in the palace scene that aren't included in the nativity scene? Probably no sheep in the palace! Jesus is the King of Kings, but choose to be born in a very different situation. Less comfort. Less fancy. Different sorts of folks surrounding Him. We're going to learn more about that as we go through the month.



When babies were born into royalty back then, they would have been born in Jerusalem or even Rome. Big fancy cities. There would have been parades in the streets! Loud announcements being made! Visiting kings and queens from other countries, in their big fancy clothes bringing big fancy gifts. Now listen to the song O Little Town of Bethlehem and notice how the song makes you feel. Listen to the lyrics and use your imagination. What do you picture?



Let's practice caring like Jesus! Some kids don't have a lot of toys to play with. And that can feel particularly sad at Christmastime, even though Jesus wouldn't have had many toys either! Let's help those kids out by sharing some of our toys. Do you have toys you don't really play with anymore? You can donate them and let those toys become someone else's favourite new toy!



Explore- Find Green. How many green Christmas decorations can you find? Did you know we can use all that green to help remind us of Jesus too? See, we use certain types of trees as Christmas trees. Those are called "Evergreen Trees". Because they stay green all year. Most trees go through cycles, green leaves in spring, yellow or red leaves in fall, and then no leaves during winter. But evergreen trees stay green all year. This can remind us of how Jesus is the same all year. And all yearS. He was there before the creation of the world and will still be there for us through eternity.



Prayer Time! Pray for a family member or family friend that seems to be going through a tough time



Set up a comfy place to sit looking at your Christmas tree. Notice the lights and a favourite Christmas ornament or 2. Ask an older sibling or parent to read to you about the Creation of the world from your favourite Children's Bible (if you don't have one, reach out to Kenzie!). Jesus was there for the creation of the universe. Helped create it! And then choose to be born as a little baby amongst us, His creation. Pray, and ask Jesus to help us understand how much He loves us. Because He loves us a whole LOT!



Find More Green! During the day, either today if you read these in the morning, or tomorrow if you read them at night: find more green Christmas decorations: at school, daycare, the store, wherever you go throughout your day. How many can you find? Not only can all these green decorations remind us of Jesus' presence, that He is here with us and will never leave us; it can also remind us of His love. The Bible tells us that His love never fails. Never stops. Never runs out. He has always loved us and will always love us. What a great thing to be reminded of!



Prayer Time! Have you noticed a kid at school that has seemed sad or lonely lately? Let's take some time to pray for them



Explore- Can you find an example of someone living like Jesus? This exploration is going to work best at school or daycare. Today at school, or if you are reading this at night tomorrow at school, use your exploration skills to see if you can notice anyone quietly doing something extra kind for someone else. Not calling attention to it, just quietly, almost secretly, doing the nice thing.



Let's practice caring like Jesus! Some folks struggle to get enough food to feed their families. So we have things called Food Banks—we can donate to them, and then they make sure the folks who need food can get food! This weekend, ask your folks if you can earn some money by helping around the house- maybe doing some extra cleaning. Then use that money to buy some food at the grocery store for someone who needs it. Donation bins can be found by the doors of most grocery stores.



Grab some art supplies- Could be as simple as a pencil and piece of paper. Or if you want, you can make it elaborate with stickers and crayons and whatever else you've got around! During that time in history, the Roman Empire treated the Israelites really badly. Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, they all lived really tough lives. So tough that some people worried it must be because they had made too many bad choices and God had turned His back on them. But of course He still loved them! He always loves! Can you make a picture that shows how good it must have felt for Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds to know that not only did God still love them but loved them enough to come down and live amongst them?



Listen to O Holy Night and notice how the song makes you feel. Listen to the lyrics and use your imagination. What do you picture? Did you notice that the writer of the song talked a lot about how we should love others? And that we should love others BECAUSE we love Jesus? We've talked about that a lot at church, can you explain the connection to your parents?

Listen to O Come O Come Emmanuel and notice how the song makes you feel. Listen to the lyrics and use your imagination. What do you picture? The song describes Israel's desperation for God to save them and then celebrates the fact that He does! It also describes how we can long to see Him fix the world, the pain in our own hearts, the pain our friends or family feel, and then celebrates the fact that we can trust that He will. One day, He will return and make all things right again! Did you hear both the desperation/sadness and the celebration?



Explore- Find Lights. We put lights up all over the place during Christmas, don't we? Where are your favourite ones? Maybe your family will have time for a walk around the neighborhood to see how your neighbours are using lights this year! Jesus tells us that He is the Light of the World. Lights are really helpful all year round- they make playing and reading and eating much easier once the sun goes down! Some of us like nightlights, finding that a little light makes it easier to sleep. But lights look the most bright and beautiful when it's really dark out, don't they? Like in the winter, when our nights are long. Same with Jesus. We always need Him, but when our thoughts and feelings seem sad, angry, or scared- kinda dark in a way, His goodness and love almost seems to shine brighter!



Prayer Time! pray for a neighbour you don't know (you can refer to them by describing their house or by their apartment number. Don't worry, God knows who you mean!



Shepherds are folks who take care of sheep. As much fun as hanging out with animals all day sounds, it wasn't a job that was respected. The shepherds didn't own the sheep, they just took care of the sheep for someone else. It was a tough job, sleeping outside, fighting off bears and lions; a tough and very important job! But not respected. In fact, people often looked down on them, didn't want them around. They were often poor, wore scratchy clothes, and lonely. And these are exactly the type of people God wanted to be the first to meet baby Jesus! Listen to the song Silent Night, and imagine what it might have felt like to be those shepherds.



Grab some art supplies- Could be as simple as a pencil and piece of paper. Or you could make it elaborate with stickers and crayons and whatever else you've got around! Read Isaiah 9:6 and then challenge yourself to create a Christmas picture based on that passage. What can you come up with?



Explore- Find Royalty colours like gold and blue and purple. We tend to decorate with these a lot during Christmas. Lots of cultures use these colours in fancy clothing or to decorate the houses of kings and queens. During Christmas, where do you notice them showing up? Jesus didn't wear the clothes or live in the type of houses that Kings live in, but He is actually the King of Kings!





Let's practice caring like Jesus! Have you heard the song "Go Tell It On The Mountain"? It encourages us to tell everyone about Jesus' birth, which is a great idea. But we don't always have to use words to tell people about Jesus. Often, showing people God's love and care through our actions will do a better job of telling people about God's love than our words ever could. Even small actions can make a big impact. Let's try doing something small, especially for someone who seems sad or stressed. Give a compliment to someone today, as a way of showing God's love and care through you.



Explore- God's love is for all people, all over the world. In fact, some of the first folks to know about Jesus birth, as not just any adorable baby, were people from outside the nation of Israel: 3 magi. Take a moment to learn how to say "Merry Christmas" in a couple other languages. Many of you already know more than 1 language, so try to learn how to say it in a language you don't already know. Have you noticed someone in your neighbourhood, at your grocery store, or at our church, who speaks a different language than one you already know? See if you can learn how to say "Merry Christmas" in their language!



Prayer time! pray for a country you've never visited- have your parents help you look up a country online to learn a bit about it. Thank God for some of the wonderful things about that country and its people. And pray for some of the ways they seem to be hurting.



Grab some art supplies and listen to the song "Joy to the World"- Could be as simple as a pencil and piece of paper. Or you make it elaborate with stickers and crayons and whatever else you've got around! The song has the line "Heaven and nature sing", what do you think it would look like to see Heaven and nature singing about God's goodness?



Grab some art supplies and listen to the song "The First Noel"- Sending Jesus had always been the plan, as soon as sin entered the world. How do you think the angels felt seeing Jesus, whom they had known since before the creation of the universe, as a little baby sleeping in the hay surrounded by the animals?

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Let's celebrate by caring for others the way Jesus cares!

Christmas brings all sorts of happiness and cheer, but even at Christmas life isn't perfect. Keep an eye out today for your siblings, or whoever you are celebrating with today. Try to notice if they are starting to have a hard time and see how you can help. Maybe play their favourite game first, instead of yours?

