A 25-DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

WAITING FOR THE KING

Promises of the Coming King



A 25-Day Advent Devotional for Families

ANDREW DOMINGUEZ

TRINFINITY
Enterprises

Waiting for the King

A 25-Day Advent Devotional for Families

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

Waiting for the King: A 25-Day Advent Devotional for Families

Copyright 2026 by Andrew Dominguez.

I own the copyright to everything in this book. I freely allow anyone to read, copy, print, quote, share, and teach from it, and to hand out or post copies, at no cost, as long as the text is not changed and this notice stays with it.

Publishing this book, meaning releasing it as an edition of your own in print or electronic form, whether sold or given away, requires my written permission first. Requests go to andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.

The full text can be read, printed and downloaded free at trinfinityenterprises.com.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), with familiar English forms of personal names, copyright 2026 Andrew Dominguez. The complete SLB is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.

Independently published. First edition, 2026.

Trinfinity Enterprises, Dayton, Nevada.

A note before you begin. This book is written to teach the Bible and encourage faith. It shares my understanding of Scripture and is offered for study and spiritual growth. It is not counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice. If you are facing a crisis, a health problem, or a legal or money problem, please reach out to a qualified professional as well as your pastor and church family. To the fullest extent the law allows, Andrew Dominguez, Trinfinity Enterprises, and Andrew Dominguez's heirs, estate, successors, and assigns accept no liability for how this material is used.

Questions and corrections: andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com

A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), with familiar English forms of personal names, copyright 2026 Andrew Dominguez. The complete SLB is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.

Contents

Before You Begin....1
Before December: The Light Is Coming....3
Day 1: The First Promise....4
Day 2: A Blessing for Every Family....5
Day 3: The King from Judah....6
Day 4: A Star Out of Jacob....7
Day 5: A Prophet Like Moses....8
Day 6: A Throne Forever....9
Day 7: God with Us....10
Day 8: A Child Born, a Son Given....11
Day 9: A Shoot from a Stump....12
Day 10: Little Bethlehem....13
Day 11: Why the King Came....14
Day 12: The Righteous Branch....15
Day 13: Clear the Way....16
Day 14: My Messenger....17
Day 15: A Prayer Answered in the Temple....18
Day 16: Nothing Is Impossible....19
Day 17: Here I Am, Lord....20
Day 18: Joseph's Dream....21
Day 19: Mary's Song....22
Day 20: The Sunrise from on High....23
Day 21: No Place for Them....24
Day 22: Shepherds in the Night....25
Day 23: Good News of Great Joy....26
Day 24: The Word Became Flesh....27
Day 25: The King Is Coming Again....28
After Christmas: Keep Watching....29
Lighting the Advent Wreath....30
Advent Sundays....32
The Promises and the King....33
About This Book....34

Before You Begin

> *The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, a light has shone on them.*
>
> Isaiah 9:2 (SLB)

For hundreds of years God's people waited. They had promises, but they did not yet have the King. Prophet after prophet told them He was coming. Then came about four hundred years when no new prophet spoke at all. Families kept telling the old promises to their children and kept waiting.

Then one night outside Bethlehem, an angel told a group of shepherds that the waiting was over.

That is what Advent is about. The word *advent* means *coming* or *arrival*. For centuries Christians have used the four weeks before Christmas to slow down, remember how long God's people waited for the first coming of Jesus, and get our own hearts ready. Advent also points forward. The same Jesus who came as a baby in a manger promised to come again, and we are waiting for Him too.

This little book walks through that story in twenty-five short readings, one for each day from December 1 to Christmas Day. The first week follows the earliest promises, from the garden of Eden to King David. The second week listens to the prophets. The third week follows the angel's visits to Zechariah, Mary and Joseph. The last week arrives at Bethlehem, and Christmas Day looks ahead to the day the King comes back.

How to Use This Book

Pick one time each day: breakfast, the drive to school, or the dinner table works well. It takes about ten minutes.

- **Read** the Scripture out loud. Let a child read it if they are able.
- **Think about it.** Read the short reflection. An adult can read it aloud, or older children can take turns.
- **Talk about it.** Each day has a question for the whole family. There are no wrong answers. Let the youngest go first.
- **Pray together.** Use the short prayer as a starting point, then add your own words.
- **Try this.** Each day ends with one small thing to do. Skip it if the day is too full.

If you miss a day, do not try to catch up all at once and do not quit. Read the one for today and keep going. The goal is not to finish on time. The goal is to meet the King.

If You Start on the First Sunday of Advent

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, so it often starts a few days before December 1. In 2026 the first Sunday of Advent is November 29. If you start early, read the page called *Before December: The Light Is Coming* on the days before December 1. If your family uses an Advent wreath, the Sunday candle readings and a table of Advent Sundays are at the back of the book.

About the Scripture

The Scripture in this book comes from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), a word-for-word translation in today's language. Words added in English to make the sense clear are printed in bold italics. The SLB uses LORD in capital letters where the Hebrew has God's personal name.

Before December: The Light Is Coming

> *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has dawned on you. For look, the darkness will cover **the** earth, and thick darkness the peoples; and on you the LORD will dawn, and His glory will appear over you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.* (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Think About It

Before the first candle and the first reading, think about the darkest night you can remember. Maybe the power went out in a storm. Maybe you were driving a lonely road with no lights for miles. Here in the Nevada desert, on a night with no moon, you cannot see your hand in front of your face.

That is how the Bible describes the world before Jesus came: people sitting in darkness. Not just a lack of light bulbs, but a darkness of sin, fear and death that nobody could fix on their own.

God did not leave it that way. Through the prophet Isaiah, about seven hundred years before Bethlehem, He promised that a light would rise. Nations and kings would come to it. Advent is the season when we remember that the light came, and we wait for it to shine fully when Jesus returns.

Talk About It

What is one dark or hard thing in our family, our town or the world that we want Jesus to shine on this Christmas?

Pray Together

> *Father, You promised that light would come into our darkness. Get our hearts ready this Advent to welcome Jesus, the true Light. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Turn off every light in the house for one minute. Then light one candle or turn on one small lamp and notice how far one light reaches.

Day 1: The First Promise

> *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you **on the** head, and you shall bruise him **on the** heel.* (Genesis 3:15)

Think About It

The Christmas story does not start in Bethlehem. It starts in a garden.

Adam and Eve had everything God made for them, and they still listened to the serpent instead of to God. Sin came into the world, and with it shame, fear and death. Right there, before God sent them out of the garden, He made a promise.

He told the serpent that a child would come from the woman. The serpent would strike at His heel, but He would strike the serpent's head. A bruised heel hurts. A crushed head is the end.

Christians have long called this verse the first gospel, the first hint of good news in the Bible. Thousands of years later a child was born of a woman in Bethlehem. On the cross the enemy struck His heel. But Jesus rose from the dead, and His victory over sin, death and the devil is final.

Notice when God made this promise. It was not after Adam and Eve had cleaned up their mess. It was on the worst day in human history. God's answer to our sin was not to give up on us. It was to send a Savior.

Talk About It

Why do you think God made a promise of rescue on the same day Adam and Eve sinned?

Pray Together

> *Father, thank You that You did not give up on us when we sinned. Thank You for promising a Savior on the very first day we needed one. Help us trust Jesus, who crushed the enemy. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Draw a simple picture of a garden and a bright star above it. Keep it on the fridge as a reminder that God's plan to send Jesus started in the garden.

Day 2: A Blessing for Every Family

> *And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great; and be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who disdains you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.* (Genesis 12:2-3)

Think About It

After the flood and the tower of Babel, the world scattered. Then God called one man, Abram, later named Abraham, out of a city called Ur and gave him a remarkable promise.

God would make Abraham into a great nation. God would bless him. And through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Every family. Not just one nation. Not just one tribe. From the start, God's plan was bigger than Israel. He chose one family so that through that family He could bring blessing to the whole world.

Abraham never saw how it would happen. He died with the promise still waiting. About two thousand years later, Matthew opened his Gospel by calling Jesus the son of David, the son of Abraham. Jesus is the blessing God promised. Through Him, people from every family on earth can be forgiven and brought into God's family.

That includes your family. When you read the Christmas story this month, you are reading about a promise God made with you in mind.

Talk About It

Our family is one of the families of the earth. How has God blessed our family through Jesus?

Pray Together

> *Lord God, You keep Your promises even when they take a long time. Thank You for blessing families everywhere through Jesus, and thank You for blessing ours. Help us share that blessing with someone this week. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Look at a map or globe together. Pick three countries far from home and pray for families there to come to know Jesus.

Day 3: The King from Judah

> *The scepter will not depart from Judah, and the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him **will be** the obedience of peoples.* (Genesis 49:10)

Think About It

Near the end of his life, Abraham's grandson Jacob gathered his twelve sons around him and spoke over each one. When he came to Judah, he said something about kings.

A scepter is a king's rod. Jacob said the scepter would not depart from Judah. Kings would come from this family. And the line would point toward someone special, the One to whom the peoples would give their obedience.

The word *Shiloh* has puzzled readers for a long time, and Bible teachers explain it in more than one way. But Jews and Christians alike have long read this verse as a promise about the Messiah. Whatever the exact meaning of the word, the point is clear: a ruler would come from Judah, and the nations would obey Him.

Centuries later David, from the tribe of Judah, became king. A thousand years after David, Jesus was born in Judah's town of Bethlehem, a descendant of Judah and of David. The book of Revelation calls Him the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

God was narrowing the promise. First a child of the woman. Then a son of Abraham. Now a king from Judah. Each promise drew the circle a little tighter around Jesus.

Talk About It

What does it mean to obey a king? What does it look like to obey Jesus as our King?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are the King from Judah, and one day every nation will bow to You. We want to obey You now, gladly, not just someday. Show us one way to follow You today. Amen.*

Try This

Make a paper crown. Write *Jesus is King* on it and set it where the family will see it all month.

Day 4: A Star Out of Jacob

> *I see him, and not now; I observe him, and not near. A star will march forth from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel, and it will shatter the corners of Moab, and break down all the sons of Seth.* (Numbers 24:17)

Think About It

This promise came from a strange place. Balaam was a prophet for hire. The king of Moab paid him to curse Israel. But every time Balaam opened his mouth, God turned the curse into a blessing.

In his last message, Balaam saw something far off: a star coming out of Jacob and a scepter rising from Israel. He said plainly that it was not now and not near. He was seeing a King who would come long after him.

A star in the Bible can stand for a ruler. Balaam was not giving a weather report. He was announcing a King.

Many believers through the centuries have thought of this promise when they read about the Magi, the wise men from the east who followed a star to find the newborn King of the Jews. Whether or not the Magi knew Balaam's words, God used a star to lead them to the One the star stood for.

Here is something to treasure. God can use anyone to speak His truth, even a man who wanted to do the opposite. No one and nothing can stop God's promise from coming true.

Talk About It

Balaam was paid to curse God's people, but God made him bless them instead. What does that tell us about God's power?

Pray Together

> *God, nobody can cancel Your promises. Thank You for the star that pointed to Jesus. Let our lives point people to Him too. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Go outside tonight and find the brightest star or planet you can see. Talk about how a star led the wise men to Jesus.

Day 5: A Prophet Like Moses

> *A prophet from your midst, from your brothers, like me, the LORD your God will raise up for you; to him you shall listen* (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Think About It

Moses was the greatest prophet Israel had known. He spoke with God face to face, led the people out of slavery, and gave them God's law. Near the end of his life he made a promise: God would raise up another prophet like him.

For centuries Israel waited for that prophet. When John the Baptist began to preach, people asked him, Are you the Prophet? He said no.

After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter stood in the temple courts and quoted this very promise from Moses. He said it was fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3:22-26).

Jesus is like Moses, only greater. Moses led people out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus leads us out of slavery to sin. Moses gave the law on tablets of stone. Jesus writes God's ways on our hearts. Moses spoke for God. Jesus is God's own Word in the flesh.

Moses said one more thing: to Him you shall listen. That is still the right response. Christmas is not only about admiring baby Jesus. It is about listening to what He says.

Talk About It

Jesus is the Prophet who speaks for God. What is one thing Jesus said that our family needs to listen to?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are the Prophet Moses promised, and Your words are true. Give us ears that listen and hearts that obey. Amen.*

Try This

Read one short saying of Jesus together, such as Matthew 5:14-16 or John 14:6, and ask each person to say it back from memory before bed.

Day 6: A Throne Forever

> *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, and I will raise up your seed after you, who will come out from your inward parts, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

Think About It

King David wanted to build a house for God, a temple in Jerusalem. God answered through the prophet Nathan with a surprise. David would not build God a house. God would build David a house, a family line of kings.

Then God made a promise that went beyond any ordinary king. One of David's descendants would have a kingdom that God would establish forever. Later in the same chapter God said David's throne would be established forever.

David's son Solomon did build the temple, but Solomon died, and so did every king after him. Eventually there was no king on David's throne at all. Babylon carried the people away. It looked like the promise had failed.

It had not. A thousand years after David, the angel Gabriel told Mary that God would give her Son the throne of David His father, and of His kingdom there would be no end (Luke 1:32-33). The forever King had come.

Some things in our lives look broken and finished, like David's throne did. God is not finished. He keeps His word, even when it takes longer than we expected.

Talk About It

Is there something you have been waiting on God for? How does God's promise to David help us keep waiting?

Pray Together

> *Faithful God, Your promise to David looked lost for hundreds of years, but You kept it in Jesus. Help us trust You while we wait for the things we pray for. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Build a small tower out of blocks or books. Talk about how the kingdoms of this world fall down, but Jesus' kingdom lasts forever.

Day 7: God with Us

> *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Look, the virgin **is** pregnant and bearing a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.* (Isaiah 7:14)

Think About It

King Ahaz of Judah was scared. Two kings were marching against Jerusalem, and his heart shook like trees in the wind. God sent the prophet Isaiah to tell him to trust God and even to ask for a sign. Ahaz refused. So God gave a sign anyway.

A virgin would bear a son, and His name would be Immanuel.

Matthew tells us that this word reached its full meaning in the birth of Jesus. Mary was a virgin. The child in her womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And Matthew translated the name for us: Immanuel means God with us (Matthew 1:22-23).

Think about that. Not God far away. Not God watching from a distance. God with us. The Son of God took on a real human body, was born as a real baby, cried real tears and grew up in a real town. He knows what it is like to be tired, hungry, sad and tempted.

Ahaz was afraid and would not trust God. Many of us come into December worn out or anxious too. The answer God gave Ahaz is the answer He gives us. He does not just send help. He comes Himself.

Talk About It

What does it mean to you that Jesus is God with us? When do you most need to remember it?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are Immanuel, God with us. Thank You for coming close instead of staying far away. When we are afraid, remind us that You are here. Amen.*

Try This

Write *Immanuel: God with us* on a card and put it somewhere you will see when you are stressed, like the bathroom mirror or the car dashboard.

Day 8: A Child Born, a Son Given

> *For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us; and the dominion is on His shoulder; and* ***one*** *has called His name Wonder, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of the dominion and of peace* ***there will be*** *no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to sustain it with justice and with righteousness from now and until forever. The zeal of the LORD of armies will do this.* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Think About It

A child is born. That is His humanity. Jesus came the way we all come, as a baby. A son is given. That is His deity. The Son of God already existed and was given to us by the Father.

Then come His names. Wonder, Counselor: He is beyond our understanding, yet He gives perfect advice. Mighty God: this baby is God Himself. Father of Eternity: He cares for His people forever. Prince of Peace: He makes peace between us and God, and one day He will bring peace to the whole earth.

Isaiah says His rule and His peace will grow with no end. Today Jesus rules in the hearts of His people. One day He will rule the whole world with justice.

The last line is the best one: the zeal of the LORD of armies will do this. Christmas did not depend on Mary or Joseph or us getting everything right. God was determined to do it, and He did.

Talk About It

Which of these names of Jesus do you need most right now: Wonder, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity or Prince of Peace? Why?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are Wonder, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity and Prince of Peace. Be our Counselor when we do not know what to do and our Peace when we are troubled. Amen.*

Try This

Write the five names on five slips of paper. Each person draws one and prays a one-sentence prayer using that name.

Day 9: A Shoot from a Stump

> *And a shoot will come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,* ***the*** *spirit of wisdom and understanding,* ***the*** *spirit of counsel and might,* ***the*** *spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*
> (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Think About It

Have you ever seen a tree cut down to a stump? It looks dead. But sometimes, in spring, a small green shoot pushes up from the old roots.

Isaiah used that picture for David's family. Jesse was David's father. By Isaiah's time the family tree of kings was being chopped down by sin and by enemy nations. Soon it would look like a dead stump.

But God promised that a shoot would come up from that stump. New life would come from a family that looked finished. And the Spirit of the LORD would rest on Him: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

When Jesus was born, David's royal family was no longer royal. Joseph was a builder in a small town. Mary was a young woman with no title. From that stump God brought the true King. At His baptism the Spirit came down on Him like a dove, just as Isaiah said.

Some families feel like stumps. Divorce, addiction, loss or years of hard choices can leave a family looking cut down. I know something about that. God specializes in bringing new life out of what looks dead. No family tree is too far gone for Him.

Talk About It

Where have you seen God bring something new and good out of something that looked finished?

Pray Together

> *Lord, You brought a King out of a stump. Bring new life into the places in our family that feel dry or cut down. Fill us with Your Spirit the way You filled Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

If you have a Jesse tree or a Christmas tree, hang one new ornament today and talk about God bringing new life.

Day 10: Little Bethlehem

> *And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, **too** little to be among the clans of Judah, from you for Me **One** will go out to be ruler over Israel; and His goings out **are** from of old, from **the** days of antiquity.* (Micah 5:2)

Think About It

About seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah named the town where the King would come from. Not Jerusalem, the capital. Not a great city. Bethlehem, a village too small to count among the clans of Judah.

Bethlehem was David's hometown. It means *house of bread*. Fitting, since Jesus would later call Himself the bread of life.

Micah also said something no ordinary king could claim. This ruler's goings out are from of old, from the days of antiquity. He would be born in a small town, but He did not begin in Bethlehem. The Son of God has always existed.

When the Magi came to Jerusalem asking where the King of the Jews was born, King Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes. They answered right away: in Bethlehem of Judea, because that is what the prophet wrote (Matthew 2:4-6). They knew the verse. Sadly, they did not walk the six miles to go see Him.

God likes small places. He chose a small town, a young couple and a feeding trough. If you feel small or overlooked this Christmas, you are exactly the kind of person God loves to visit.

Talk About It

Why do you think God chose a little town like Bethlehem instead of a big city like Jerusalem?

Pray Together

> *Eternal God, You chose little Bethlehem for the birth of Your Son. Thank You that You see small people and small places. Help us not to miss Jesus the way the leaders in Jerusalem did. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Bake or buy a loaf of bread and share it at dinner. Talk about Bethlehem, the house of bread, and Jesus, the bread of life.

Day 11: Why the King Came

> *And He **was** pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the chastening of our peace **was** on Him, and by His wound **there** was healing for us. All of us like the sheep have gone astray; each to his own way we have turned; and the LORD has caused to fall on Him the iniquity of all of us.* (Isaiah 53:5-6)

Think About It

Today's reading may seem odd for Advent. It is not about a manger. It is about a cross. But we cannot understand Christmas without it.

Isaiah described a Servant of the LORD who would be pierced and crushed, not for His own wrongs, but for ours. All of us have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to our own way. And the LORD laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

This is why the King came. Jesus was not born just to be a good teacher or a kind example. He was born to die in our place and rise again. The wood of the manger pointed ahead to the wood of the cross.

Christmas is sweet: lights, music, gifts and family. But underneath it is something strong and serious. We needed a Savior because our sin was real. The baby in the manger grew up to carry that sin and heal us by His wounds.

When you see a gift under the tree this year, remember the greatest gift. It cost the Giver everything, and it is free to us.

Talk About It

Isaiah says we are all like sheep that wandered away. What does it mean that Jesus came to carry our sins?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You came to be wounded for us. Thank You for carrying our sins and healing us. We do not want to wander off again. Keep us close to You, our Shepherd. Amen.*

Try This

Place a small cross near your nativity set or Christmas tree as a reminder of why Jesus came.

Day 12: The Righteous Branch

> *Look, days are coming," declares the LORD, "and I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign **as** king, and He will act prudently, and He will do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in security; and this **is** His name **by** which one will call Him: 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'*
> (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

Think About It

Jeremiah lived in one of the darkest times in Israel's history. Kings were wicked. The people's shepherds were scattering the flock. Babylon was coming. And into that darkness God spoke a promise.

He would raise up a righteous Branch for David. This King would reign wisely and do what is just and right. And His name would be The LORD Our Righteousness.

That name is the heart of the gospel. On our own we do not have the righteousness God requires. We cannot earn it, no matter how hard we try. But Jesus is our righteousness. When we trust Him, God counts His perfect life as ours (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Notice too that this King would act prudently and do justice. Many of us have been let down by leaders, at work, in government, even in church. Jesus is the King who never abuses His power and never gets it wrong.

Jeremiah's people lost their land and their king. But they held on to this promise. You can hold on to it too. The right King is coming, and in Him we are made right with God.

Talk About It

Jesus is called The LORD Our Righteousness. What does it mean that we are made right with God because of Him and not because of how good we are?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are our righteousness. We could never be good enough on our own. Thank You for giving us Your perfect life. Help us live in a way that honors You. Amen.*

Try This

Each person names one leader to pray for this week, such as a pastor, teacher, boss or official, and the family prays for them by name.

Day 13: Clear the Way

> *A voice **is** calling, "In the wilderness clear the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert plain a highway for our God. Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will become low; and the steep ground will become level ground, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see **it** together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."* (Isaiah 40:3-5)

Think About It

Before a king visited a town in the ancient world, workers went ahead to fix the road. They filled in holes, flattened bumps and cleared the rocks so the king could travel well.

Isaiah heard a voice calling for that kind of road work: clear the way of the LORD in the wilderness. Every valley lifted up, every mountain made low.

All four Gospels tell us who that voice was: John the Baptist (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4-6, John 1:23). John prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repent, to turn away from sin and get ready for the King.

That is Advent work for us too. What is in the way? Maybe a grudge that needs to be dropped, a habit that needs to go, a valley of discouragement that needs lifting, or a mountain of pride that needs to come down.

Repentance is not gloomy. It is getting the road ready for someone you love to come home. The King is coming. Let's clear the way.

Talk About It

What is one thing in my heart or our home that might be in the way of making room for Jesus this Christmas?

Pray Together

> *Lord, show us what is in the way. Fill in the low places, bring down our pride and clear the road for Jesus to come into every part of our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Clear one cluttered space together, such as a counter, a closet shelf or the car. Talk about clearing space in our hearts for Jesus.

Day 14: My Messenger

> *Look, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me; and suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to His temple, and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight; look, He is coming, says the LORD of armies.* (Malachi 3:1)

Think About It

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. Its message closes with a promise: God would send His messenger to clear the way, and then the Lord Himself would suddenly come to His temple.

After Malachi, heaven went quiet. For about four hundred years no new prophet stood up in Israel. Empires came and went: Persia, Greece, then Rome. God's people kept reading the old scrolls and kept wondering when the messenger would come.

Have you ever waited a long time for an answer from God? Four hundred years is longer than the United States has been a country. Generations were born, lived and died waiting.

But God was not idle. He was setting the stage: a common language across the world, Roman roads and a people longing for rescue. Paul later wrote that God sent His Son when the fullness of the time came (Galatians 4:4).

Silence is not the same as absence. When God seems quiet, He is still at work. And when the time is right, He moves suddenly, just as Malachi said.

Talk About It

Why do you think God waited so long between Malachi and the coming of Jesus? What do we do while we wait?

Pray Together

> *Lord, when You seem quiet, help us trust that You are still working. Thank You that You came at exactly the right time, and You will come again at exactly the right time. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Sit together in complete silence for one full minute. Afterward talk about what it would feel like to wait four hundred years for God to speak.

Day 15: A Prayer Answered in the Temple

> *But the angel said to him, "Do not fear, Zechariah, because your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear a son to you, and you will call his name John. And he will be joy to you and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great before the Lord, and he shall certainly not drink wine and strong drink, and he will be filled with* ***the*** *Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to* ***the*** *Lord their God. And he himself will go before Him in* ***the*** *spirit and power of Elijah, to turn* ***the*** *hearts of fathers to children, and* ***the*** *disobedient to* ***the*** *understanding of* ***the*** *righteous, to make ready for* ***the*** *Lord a people prepared."* (Luke 1:13-17)

Think About It

After four hundred years of silence, God spoke again. Zechariah, an old priest, and his wife Elizabeth loved God, but they had no children, and they were both old. One day Zechariah was chosen to burn incense in the temple. While he was inside, the angel Gabriel appeared and said his prayer had been heard. Elizabeth would have a son, and they would name him John.

This son would be the messenger Malachi promised, going ahead of the Lord to make a people ready.

Zechariah had trouble believing it, and because of his doubt he could not speak until the baby was born. But God kept His word anyway. God's promises do not depend on our faith being perfect.

Notice something tender here. Zechariah and Elizabeth had probably stopped praying for a child years before. God had not forgotten the prayer. Some of your old prayers are still on God's desk.

Talk About It

Is there a prayer you stopped praying because it took so long? What would it look like to bring it back to God?

Pray Together

> *Father, You heard Zechariah's prayer even when he had given up. Thank You that You do not forget the prayers of Your people. Make our family ready for Jesus, the way John made people ready. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Each person writes down one long-time prayer on a slip of paper. Put the slips in an envelope and open it next Christmas to see how God answered.

Day 16: Nothing Is Impossible

> *And the angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And look, you will conceive in **the** womb and will bear a son, and you will call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of **the** Most High; and **the** Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He will reign over the house of Jacob to the ages, and of His kingdom there will be no end."* (Luke 1:30-33)

Think About It

Six months after Gabriel visited Zechariah, God sent him again, this time to a small town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph, a man from David's family.

Gabriel told her not to be afraid. She would conceive and bear a son, and she would name Him Jesus. He would be called Son of the Most High. God would give Him the throne of David, and His kingdom would never end.

Mary asked a fair question: how could this happen, since she was a virgin? Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and the child would be called the Son of God. Then he said that nothing will be impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

Every promise we have read so far comes together in this visit. The Son of the woman. The blessing of Abraham. The King from Judah. The forever throne of David. The virgin's son. All of it, in one baby, in one young woman's womb.

God often does His biggest work in the most ordinary places, with the most ordinary people. Mary was not famous, rich or powerful. She was available.

Talk About It

Gabriel said nothing is impossible with God. What is something that feels impossible to us right now?

Pray Together

> *Mighty God, nothing is impossible for You. Thank You for sending Your Son through an ordinary young woman in an ordinary town. We bring You the things that feel impossible to us today. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Read the rest of the story in Luke 1:34-38 together and talk about how Mary might have felt that night.

Day 17: Here I Am, Lord

> *Then Mary said, "Look, the slave of **the** Lord; may it happen to me according to your declaration." And the angel departed from her.* (Luke 1:38)

Think About It

Mary's answer to Gabriel is one of the most beautiful sentences in the Bible. She called herself the slave of the Lord and said, may it happen to me according to your declaration.

Think about what Mary was agreeing to. An unmarried young woman who turned up pregnant in a small town would face gossip, shame and maybe worse. Joseph might leave her. Her family might not believe her. Under the law her life could even be in danger.

Mary did not have answers to those questions. She had God's word, and she said yes to it.

The word *slave* or *bondservant* sounds harsh to us, but Mary used it with joy. She was saying, I belong to God. He can do what He wants with my life. That kind of surrender is not weakness. It is the deepest kind of trust.

God may not ask you to do anything as dramatic as what He asked of Mary. But He asks each of us every day to say yes to Him in the small things: forgiving someone, telling the truth, giving, serving or waiting. Mary shows us how to answer.

Talk About It

What is one way God might be asking you to say yes to Him this week?

Pray Together

> *Lord, like Mary, we want to say yes to You. We belong to You. Do what You want with our lives, and give us courage to trust You when we do not have all the answers. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Do one quiet act of service for someone in the family today without being asked and without telling anyone.

Day 18: Joseph's Dream

> *And while he was pondering these things, look, an angel of **the** Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary **as** your wife, for that which has been conceived in her is from **the** Holy Spirit. And she will bear a son, and you will call His name Jesus, for He Himself will save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:20-21)

Think About It

We do not hear Joseph say a single word in the whole Bible. But his actions speak loudly.

When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he knew the child was not his. Matthew says he was a righteous man and did not want to shame her in public, so he planned to end the engagement quietly. Even when he thought he had been wronged, he chose kindness.

Then an angel came to him in a dream. Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, the angel said. The child is from the Holy Spirit. And you will call His name Jesus, for He Himself will save His people from their sins.

The name *Jesus* is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means *the LORD saves*. His very name is His mission.

When Joseph woke up, he did exactly what the angel told him. No arguing. No delay. He took Mary home as his wife, protected her and raised Jesus as his own son. Quiet obedience is a powerful thing. Every family needs a Joseph: someone steady who listens to God and does the next right thing.

Talk About It

Joseph obeyed God right away, even though it was hard. What makes it hard for us to obey God quickly?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, Your name means the LORD saves, and You came to save us from our sins. Give us the quiet, steady obedience Joseph had. Help us do the next right thing today. Amen.*

Try This

Dads, grandfathers or another adult: share one time you had to choose to do the right thing when it was hard.

Day 19: Mary's Song

> *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because He has looked upon the lowliness of His slave; for look, from now on all the generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy* ***is*** *His name. And His mercy* ***is*** *to generations of generations, to those who fear Him."*
> (Luke 1:46-50)

Think About It

After Gabriel's visit, Mary hurried to the hill country to see her relative Elizabeth, who was now six months pregnant with John. When Mary walked in, the baby jumped in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and blessed Mary and her child.

Mary answered with a song. It is often called the Magnificat, from the first word of the song in Latin.

My soul magnifies the Lord. To magnify something is to make it look bigger, the way a magnifying glass does. God is already as big as He can be. But when we praise Him, we help others see how great He is.

Notice that Mary called God her Savior. Mary needed a Savior just like the rest of us, and she knew it. She was amazed that God would look on someone as lowly as her.

Her song goes on to say that God lifts up the humble, fills the hungry and keeps His promise to Abraham. Mary knew her Bible. Her song is full of words from the Psalms and from Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2. When joy came, the Scriptures she had learned gave her the words to praise.

Talk About It

Mary's song makes God look big. What are three things God has done for our family this year that we can praise Him for?

Pray Together

> *Our souls magnify You, Lord. You have done great things for us, and holy is Your name. Thank You for looking on us with mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Sing a favorite Christmas song of praise together, or play one and listen to the words.

Day 20: The Sunrise from on High

> *And you, child, will be called a prophet of **the** Most High; for you will go before **the** face of **the** Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in **the** forgiveness of their sins, because of **the** tender mercy of our God, in which **the** Sunrise from on high has visited us, to shine upon those sitting in darkness and **the** shadow of death, to direct our feet into **the** way of peace.* (Luke 1:76-79)

Think About It

When Elizabeth's baby was born, the neighbors expected him to be named after his father. Elizabeth said, No, his name is John. They turned to Zechariah, who still could not speak. He wrote on a tablet, His name is John. At that moment his mouth was opened, and the first thing he did was praise God.

Nine months of silence had given Zechariah a lot of time to think. His song is full of faith. He sang about God visiting His people, raising up a horn of salvation from David's house and remembering His promise to Abraham.

Then he turned to his baby son. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High. You will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.

Zechariah closed with a beautiful picture. Because of God's tender mercy, the Sunrise from on high has visited us, to shine on those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Jesus is that Sunrise. If you have ever watched the sun come up over the mountains after a long, cold night, you know the feeling. The darkness does not argue. It just gives way.

Talk About It

Zechariah learned a lot during his nine months of silence. What could we learn if we were quieter and listened to God more?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are the Sunrise from on high. Shine on anyone we know who is sitting in darkness tonight, and guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.*

Try This

Get up early one morning this week and watch the sunrise together, or look up what time the sun will rise tomorrow and talk about Jesus as the Sunrise.

Day 21: No Place for Them

> *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of **the** city of Nazareth, to Judea, to **the** city of David which is called Bethlehem, because of his being of **the** house and family of David, to register with Mary, who was betrothed to him, **his** wife, being pregnant. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her son, the firstborn, and she wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in the manger, because there was no place for them in the lodging place.* (Luke 2:4-7)

Think About It

Caesar Augustus, the most powerful man in the world, ordered a census. He had no idea he was helping God keep a seven-hundred-year-old promise. Because of his order, Joseph took Mary, very pregnant, from Nazareth down to Bethlehem, the town of David, a hard trip of several days.

While they were there, the baby came. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, because there was no place for them in the lodging place.

The King of kings did not get a palace, a royal nursery or even a guest room. His first bed was where the animals ate.

It is easy to blame the people of Bethlehem, but we should ask ourselves an honest question. Is there room for Jesus in our lives? In December our calendars fill up and our homes fill up with stuff and noise. It is possible to celebrate Christmas and have no room for Christ.

Jesus does not demand a palace. He comes to humble places: messy kitchens, worn-out hearts, broken homes and people who have hit bottom. All He asks is that we make room.

Talk About It

If Jesus came to our home tonight, what would we need to move or change to make room for Him?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, there was no room for You in Bethlehem. We want to make room for You in our home and in our hearts. Come in and stay. Amen.*

Try This

Set up a nativity scene, or if it is already up, let the youngest child place baby Jesus in the manger tonight.

Day 22: Shepherds in the Night

> *And **there** were shepherds in the same region living out in the fields and keeping watches of the night over their flock. And look, an angel of **the** Lord stood by them, and **the** glory of **the** Lord shone around them, and they feared a great fear.* (Luke 2:8-9)

Think About It

Who would God tell first about the birth of His Son? Not the emperor in Rome. Not the high priest in Jerusalem. Not King Herod. He told shepherds.

Shepherds worked hard, smelled like sheep and spent their nights outdoors. They were not the people anyone would invite to an important event.

These shepherds were doing their ordinary job on an ordinary night when an angel of the Lord stood in front of them and the glory of the Lord lit up the hillside. They were terrified, and who could blame them.

There is something fitting here. David, the great king, was a shepherd boy from Bethlehem. Jesus would later call Himself the good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11). God announced the birth of the great Shepherd to ordinary shepherds.

You do not have to be important for God to speak to you. He met these men in the middle of a night shift. He can meet you at your kitchen sink, in your truck or at your desk.

Talk About It

Why do you think God told shepherds first instead of kings or priests?

Pray Together

> *Lord, thank You that You came first to ordinary people doing ordinary work. Meet us in our everyday lives, and help us notice when You are speaking. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Thank someone who works a night shift or a hard, unseen job, such as a nurse, a trucker, a first responder or a cleaner. Write them a note or bring them a treat.

Day 23: Good News of Great Joy

> *And the angel said to them, "Do not fear; for look, I announce to you great joy as good news, which will be to all the people. For there has been born to you today a Savior, who is Christ* ***the*** *Lord, in* ***the*** *city of David. And this* ***is*** *the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in the manger." And suddenly* ***there*** *was with the angel a multitude of* ***the*** *heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory in* ***the*** *highest to God, and on earth peace, among men good will!"* (Luke 2:10-14)

Think About It

The angel's first words to the shepherds were do not fear. It is one of the most common commands in the Bible, and it fits Christmas perfectly.

Then came the announcement: great joy as good news for all the people. Born today, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Every word counts. *Savior*: He came to rescue us. *Christ*: the Greek word for Messiah, the Anointed King all the promises pointed to. *Lord*: He is God, the One who rules over all.

The sign was surprising. Not a baby in royal robes, but a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. God's glory came wrapped in humility.

Then the sky filled with the heavenly army praising God: glory in the highest to God, and on earth peace. Peace here means more than a quiet night. It is peace with God, the end of the war between sinners and their Maker, and it comes through this Child.

Talk About It

The angel said this good news was for all the people. Who is someone we can share the good news of Jesus with this Christmas?

Pray Together

> *Glory to You, God, in the highest! Thank You for the good news of great joy, the Savior who is Christ the Lord. Take away our fear and fill us with Your peace. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Try This

Invite someone to church with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, or include a short note about why Jesus matters to you in a Christmas card.

Day 24: The Word Became Flesh

> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of an only begotten from **the** Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:14)

Think About It

It is Christmas Eve. John's Gospel does not tell us about shepherds, angels or a manger. Instead, John takes us all the way back before the beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, John says, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). Everything was made through Him. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Then comes the most astonishing sentence ever written: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The One who made the stars was held in Mary's arms. The One who spoke the oceans into being needed to be fed and burped. The One who holds the universe together learned to walk by holding Joseph's fingers. He did not stop being God. He added humanity to His deity, and He will be both forever.

The word *dwelt* means He pitched His tent among us. In the wilderness God's glory lived in the tabernacle tent in the middle of Israel's camp. Now God's glory lived in a human body in the middle of His people. And John says, we saw His glory, full of grace and truth. Tonight, before the presents and the busyness of tomorrow, stop and worship Him.

Talk About It

What is one thing that amazes you about God becoming a little baby?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, You are the eternal Word, and You became flesh for us. We worship You tonight. Thank You for coming so close that we could see Your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.*

Try This

Read Luke 2:1-20 out loud as a family tonight, all the way through, before anyone goes to bed.

Day 25: The King Is Coming Again

> *For the grace of God has appeared, which brings salvation to all men, training us that, having denied ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live sensibly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* (Titus 2:11-13)

Think About It

Merry Christmas! The waiting for the first coming is over. Jesus has come.

Paul's letter to Titus puts Christmas and the future side by side. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. That happened at Bethlehem and at the cross. And now we are awaiting the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Advent has two sides. We look back and celebrate that the King came. We look forward because the King is coming again. The first time He came as a baby in a manger. The next time He will come in glory.

I believe the next event on God's calendar is that Jesus will come for His church. He will call His people up to meet Him in the air, and we will always be with Him (John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). After a time of trouble on the earth, He will return with His people to reign as King, and every promise we have read this month will be fulfilled to the last word.

Paul says this hope should shape how we live right now: saying no to ungodliness and living sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age. The gifts will be opened today and the wrapping thrown out. But the hope of Christmas does not get thrown out. The King came. The King is coming. Let's live ready.

Talk About It

If Jesus came back today, how would we want Him to find our family?

Pray Together

> *Lord Jesus, thank You for coming the first time to save us. We are waiting for You to come again. Until then, help us live ready, with joy, for You. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

Try This

Before opening presents, read Luke 2:10-11 aloud and sing one carol together. Then pray for someone who is alone today.

After Christmas: Keep Watching

> *The One who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus!*
>
> Revelation 22:20 (SLB)

For twenty-five days you have followed the promises of the coming King from the garden of Eden to the manger in Bethlehem. You have seen God keep His word to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, to Judah, to David and to the prophets, sometimes after waiting hundreds or thousands of years.

That is good news for the promises that are still waiting. The same God who sent Jesus the first time has promised to send Him again. The Bible ends with Jesus saying He is coming quickly, and His people answering, Yes, come, Lord Jesus.

Here are a few ways to keep the season going after the decorations come down.

- Read the Gospel of Luke together in January, a chapter a day. It takes less than a month.
- Keep the envelope of long-time prayers from Day 15 and open it next Advent.
- Pick one promise from this book that meant the most to you and memorize it as a family.
- Keep praying for the people you invited or wrote to this Christmas.

If You Have Never Trusted Jesus

Maybe you picked up this book because it is Christmas, and you are not sure where you stand with God. Here is the good news in plain words. God made you and loves you. All of us have sinned and gone our own way. Jesus, the Son of God, was born in Bethlehem, lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose from the dead. Anyone who turns from sin and trusts Him is forgiven and given eternal life as a free gift (Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9).

You can talk to Him right now in your own words. You might pray something like this:

> *Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I cannot save myself. I believe You are the Son of God, that You died for my sins and rose again. I turn from my sin and trust You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me and making me Yours. Amen.*

If you prayed that and meant it, tell someone who follows Jesus, find a Bible-teaching church and start reading the Gospel of John. You would be welcome to write to me at andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Many families and churches use an Advent wreath: a circle of evergreen with four candles around it and often a fifth white candle in the center. The circle reminds us that God's love has no end. The evergreen reminds us of life that lasts. On each Sunday of Advent you light one more candle, so the light grows as Christmas gets closer.

Churches name the candles in different ways. One common pattern is Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, with the center candle for Christ on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Use these short readings on each Sunday, or any evening you light the wreath.

First Sunday: The Candle of Hope

> *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you abound in the hope in **the** power of **the** Holy Spirit.* (Romans 15:13)

We light the first candle for hope. God's people hoped for the Messiah for centuries, and He came. Our hope is not wishful thinking. It rests on a God who keeps His promises. *Talk about it:* What are we hoping God will do this year?

Second Sunday: The Candle of Peace

> *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let your heart not be troubled, nor let it be afraid.* (John 14:27)

We light the second candle for peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He makes peace between us and God, and He gives a peace the world cannot give. *Talk about it:* Where do we need Jesus' peace in our home right now?

Third Sunday: The Candle of Joy

> *And the angel said to them, "Do not fear; for look, I announce to you great joy as good news, which will be to all the people. For there has been born to you today a Savior, who is Christ **the** Lord, in **the** city of David."* (Luke 2:10-11)

We light the third candle for joy. The angel brought good news of great joy for all people. Joy is deeper than happiness. It is gladness in who God is and what He has done, even on hard days. *Talk about it:* What gives you joy about Jesus?

Fourth Sunday: The Candle of Love

> *By this the love of God was revealed among us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son **as** a propitiation for our sins.* (1 John 4:9-10)

We light the fourth candle for love. God did not wait for us to love Him first. He loved us and sent His Son. *Talk about it:* How can we show God's love to someone this week?

Christmas: The Christ Candle

> *Therefore again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. The* ***one*** *following Me will certainly not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."*
> (John 8:12)

We light the center candle for Jesus Himself, the Light of the world. All the promises, all the waiting and all the candles point to Him. *Talk about it:* How can our family shine His light this coming year?

Advent Sundays

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Here are the dates for the next several years.

Year	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Christmas Day
2026	November 29	December 6	December 13	December 20	Friday
2027	November 28	December 5	December 12	December 19	Saturday
2028	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	Monday
2029	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	Tuesday
2030	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	Wednesday
2031	November 30	December 7	December 14	December 21	Thursday

The Promises and the King

Day	The promise	Read more
1	A child of the woman will crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15)	Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14
2	All families blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3)	Galatians 3:8, 16
3	A ruler from Judah (Genesis 49:10)	Revelation 5:5
4	A star out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17)	Matthew 2:2
5	A prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15)	Acts 3:22-26
6	David's throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13)	Luke 1:32-33
7	The virgin's son, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)	Matthew 1:22-23
8	A child born, a son given (Isaiah 9:6-7)	Luke 2:11
9	A shoot from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-2)	Matthew 3:16; Romans 15:12
10	Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Matthew 2:4-6
11	Pierced for our sins (Isaiah 53:5-6)	1 Peter 2:24-25
12	The righteous Branch (Jeremiah 23:5-6)	1 Corinthians 1:30
13	A voice in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3-5)	Luke 3:3-6
14	My messenger (Malachi 3:1)	Matthew 11:10
15	John, the forerunner (Luke 1:13-17)	Luke 1:57-66
16	The Son of the Most High (Luke 1:30-33)	Luke 2:6-7
17	Mary's yes (Luke 1:38)	Luke 1:45
18	He will save His people (Matthew 1:20-21)	Matthew 1:24-25
19	Mary's song (Luke 1:46-50)	Luke 1:54-55
20	The Sunrise from on high (Luke 1:76-79)	John 8:12
21	Born in the city of David (Luke 2:4-7)	Micah 5:2
22	Shepherds in the night (Luke 2:8-9)	John 10:11
23	Good news of great joy (Luke 2:10-14)	Luke 2:15-20
24	The Word became flesh (John 1:14)	John 1:1-5
25	The blessed hope (Titus 2:11-13)	John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

About This Book

Waiting for the King is a 25-day Advent devotional for families. It walks through the promises of the coming King, from the first promise in the garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and ends by looking ahead to His return. Each day has one Scripture reading, a short reflection, a family question, a prayer and one simple thing to do together. Sunday readings for an Advent wreath and a table of the promises and their fulfillment are included.

It is one of a set of free Christian books from Trinfinity Enterprises. All Scripture quotations come from the Steadfast Literal Bible. Questions or corrections are welcome at andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.