

TWIN OAKS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

...preparing families
for the coming of the
CHRIST CHILD
in the season of Advent

*“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 word ADVENT means “coming.” Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The ornaments for your advent Jesse Tree tell the redemptive plan of God through Jesus as related in both the Old Testament and the New Testament of our Holy Bible.

The first nine ornaments take us from creation, the beginning of sin and the need for a savior, to the establishment of the covenant with a chosen people blessed by God.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, would come from these people.

Ornament 10 shows us that the redemption through Christ reaches beyond the Hebrew people to include people of all nations who trust in Him.

Our attention is then returned to the Jewish nation through King David and King Josiah, represented on Day 11 and Day 12.

Days 13-19 share prophecies concerning our coming King, relating circumstances and events foretelling the arrival of the “new shoot” from the stump of Jesse.

The symbols of the fiery furnace faced by Daniel’s three friends, Day 20, and the rebuilt wall in the days of Nehemiah, Day 21, show God’s care for His people through times of exile, the return, and all times of suffering.

With Ornaments 22-24, events surrounding the birth of our Messiah begin to unfold.

Day 25 is the culmination—THE BIRTH OF JESUS.
PRAISE GOD!

May God bless you and your family as you embark on this journey through scriptures to the birth of the savior.

DAY 1: THE LIGHT IN CREATION



*“In the beginning, God Created
the heavens and the earth”*
—Genesis 1:1

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5b

Questions: What did God create?
Who was with God in the beginning?
Who is the Light of men and our Light?
(Talk about traditions and decorations that
symbolize God’s creations and Jesus, our Light.)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are so great and good. You made the world and everything around us. Thank you for showing Your love to us in creation and for Jesus, our Light! As we see so many beautiful lights this season, may we be reminded of the true and perfect Light which they symbolize. Amen.

DAY 2: THE FIRST SIN



*“All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way”
—Isaiah 53:6a*

Scriptures:

Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 3:1-10, 23

Questions:

Did Adam and Eve obey God?

What is sin?

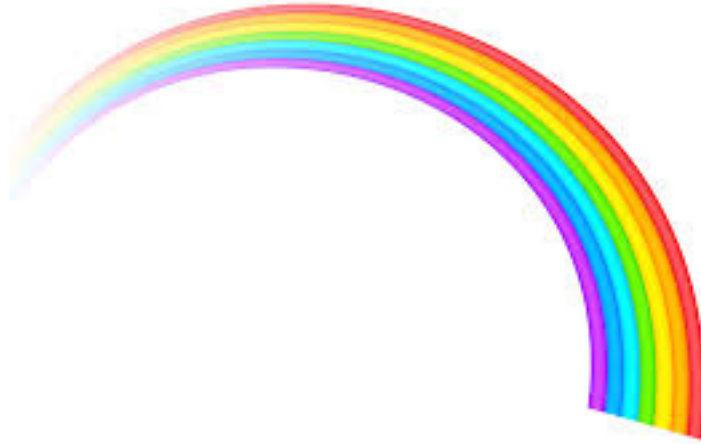
Why is doing what we want to do
all the time sinful?

How did God show His love in
spite of our sinfulness?

Prayer:

Holy God, we sin against You
everyday. Please forgive us. Help us to
obey and follow You. Thank You for
forgiving us through Your Son, Jesus.
Help us to forgive others. Amen.

DAY 3: INSIDE THE ARK



“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
—Romans 6:23

Scriptures:

Romans 6:23;
Genesis 6:5-8, 7; 7-17-23; 9:16

Questions:

Why did God send the flood?
Was anyone saved besides those on the ark?
What does everyone deserve?
What is God’s gift?

Prayer:

Lord, You are faithful to Your promises.
You love us so much that You offer eternal life to us as a free gift through the Greatest Gift, Christ Jesus our Lord. Help us remember Your precious Gift during this Christmas season. Amen.

DAY 4: THE CALL TO ABRAM



“And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
—Genesis 12:3b

Scriptures:

Genesis 12:1-7

Questions:

Why did Abram leave his home?
What were God's promises to Abram?
Did Abram do what God told him to do?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, give us faith like Abram had.
Help us to obey You. Lead us in Your
ways. Thank You for already giving us
the Perfect Blessing in Jesus. Show for
us ways to bless others. Amen.

DAY 5: ISAAC AND THE LAMB



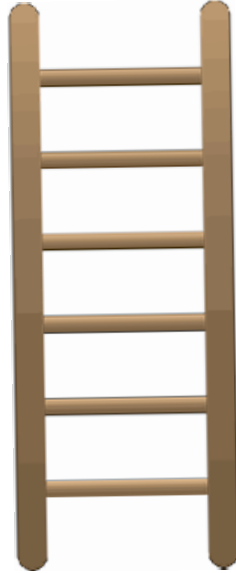
*“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world.”*
—John 1:29b

Scriptures: John 1:29; Genesis 22:1-13

Questions: What very hard thing did God tell Abraham to do?
What does it mean “to make a sacrifice?”
What is a hard thing God has asked you to do?
Did Abraham obey?
Who is the sacrifice for your sins?

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you, Father, for Jesus’ obedience to you and doing this very hard thing for me. Please help me to obey You when you ask me to do a hard thing. We love Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

DAY 6: JACOB'S LADDER



*“I am with you and will watch over you
wherever you go.”*
—Genesis 28:15a

Scriptures: Genesis 28:10-17

Questions: What was Jacob's pillow for the night?
What did Jacob see in his dream?
What did God promise Jacob?
Why did Jacob call the place of his dream an
“awesome” place?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that You never sleep but
always stay awake watching us and protecting
us. Help us to remember that there is nowhere
we can go that You can't see us. Thank you,
God, for being our faithful friend. Amen.

DAY 7: JOSEPH'S COAT OF MANY COLORS



“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.”

—Romans 8:28a

Scriptures: Romans 8:28; Genesis 37:3-36; 50:18-21

Questions: What happened when Jacob loved one son more than the others?
How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? Why?
What did Joseph know about God and His plan that helped him to forgive his brothers?
Who have you forgiven that hurt you?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that you have the whole world and every person in your hands. Please help us to be able to trust You when things don't work out the way we want them to. Take away any jealousy and hate we have in our heart today. Thank You for forgiving us over and over again. Amen.

DAY 8:

MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



*“I have hidden your word in my heart that
I might not sin against you.”*

—Psalm 119:11

Scriptures: Psalm 119:11; Exodus 32:15-18; 20:1-20

Questions: What was written on the stone tablets?
Who gave these laws to Moses?
How many of the ten commandments can you remember?
Why does God and our parents give us rules?
What can we do with God’s word that will help keep us from sinning?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for writing us a very special letter. The Bible is very important to us because it is from You. Please help us to read it and memorize it but most of all help us to obey it. We know that You have given us rules for our own good because You know what’s best for us. Forgive us for ignoring your words. Amen.

DAY 9: CANAAN, THE PROMISED LAND OF BLESSING



“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”
—Psalm 103:2

Scriptures: Psalm 103:2; Numbers 13:1-2, 17-23, 27

Questions: Would Canaan be a good land to live in?
Why or why not?
Did God want to bless the people by giving them this land?
Does God want to bless you?
What are some of his blessings to you?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You so much for the many ways You bless us. Help us to never forget them. Thank You most of all for our Greatest Blessing, Your Son Jesus, who died to save us from all sin. Amen

DAY 10: RUTH AND BOAZ



*“Your people will be my people and your God
my God.”*
—Ruth 1:16b

Scriptures: Ruth 1:16; 2:5-17; 4:14

Questions: What things had Boaz heard about Ruth?
Why do you think Ruth wanted to leave her
homeland and family?
How did God reward Ruth?

Prayer: Lord, help us to love and desire You the way Ruth
did. Help us to not only think of ourselves but to
follow Ruth’s example in serving others. Amen.

DAY 11: KING DAVID



*“The Lord is my shepherd
I shall not be in want.”*
—Psalm 23:1

Scriptures: Psalm 23:1; I Samuel 16:1, 13; 17:1-9, 40, 45-50

Questions: Describe what Goliath looked like and how he acted.
Why did David fight Goliath?
Do you think David felt afraid when he went to fight him?
Why or why not.

Prayers: Lord, we praise You for Your might and power. Help us to remember them when we feel afraid of other people. Help us to be bold in telling others how you sent Your son to die for us. Amen

DAY 12: JOSIAH FINDS THE LAW



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”
—Psalm 119:105

Scriptures: Psalm 119:105; II Kings 23:1-3

Questions: Who was the king of Judah?
What did King Josiah read to all his people?
Why should we read the Bible?

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for Your guide book, the Bible. Help us to follow Your ways in all we do and say. Amen.

DAY 13: PROPHECY OF SHOOT FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE



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

—John 1:14

Scriptures: John 1:14; Isaiah 11:1-5

Questions: Jesse was the stump. Who was the new Branch? Who is full of grace, truth, wisdom, understanding, power, righteousness, and faithfulness?

Prayer: Thank You God for sending Jesus, the perfect role model. Please help us to be more like him every day. Amen.

DAY 14:

PROPHECY OF THE WOLF AND LAMB RESTING TOGETHER



“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.”

—Isaiah 11:10

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:6-10

Questions: Will all the animals on earth be tame to pet someday?
When will this happen?

Prayers: Thank You, that Jesus is coming again and making our world safe from evil and harm. We praise You for this promise of a new world. Help us to obey You, learn Your ways, and trust that we will be part of the new world. Amen.

DAY 15: PROPHECY OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

—John 14:27

Scriptures:

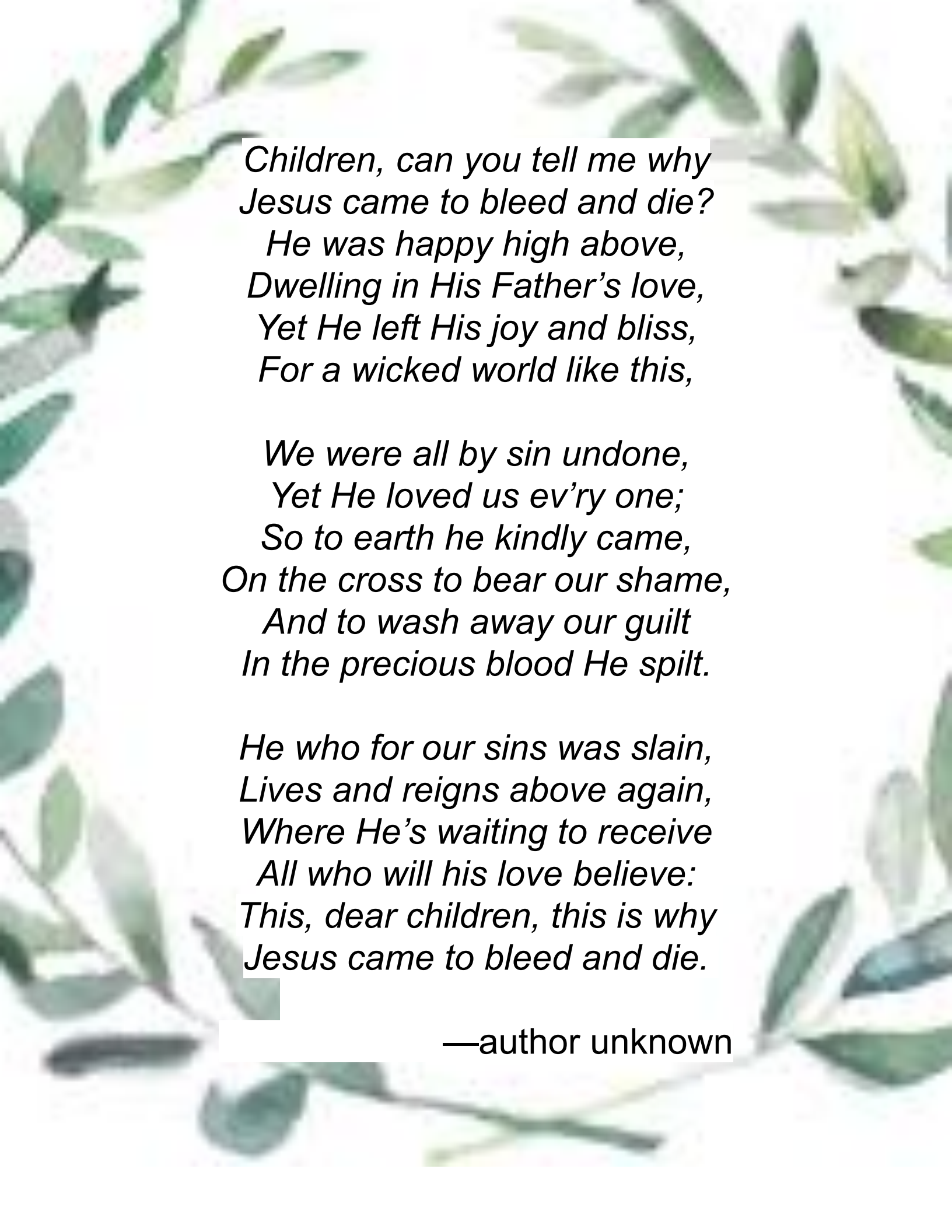
John 14:27; Isaiah 9:6-7

Questions:

What are other names Jesus is called?
When we are afraid what can we remember that Jesus told us?

Prayer:

Thank you, God, for always being there for us. Your love and peace are better than anything the world has to offer. Thank You also for your son, Jesus, and for Your Book of promises. Amen.



*Children, can you tell me why
Jesus came to bleed and die?*

*He was happy high above,
Dwelling in His Father's love,
Yet He left His joy and bliss,
For a wicked world like this,*

*We were all by sin undone,
Yet He loved us ev'ry one;
So to earth he kindly came,
On the cross to bear our shame,
And to wash away our guilt
In the precious blood He spilt.*

*He who for our sins was slain,
Lives and reigns above again,
Where He's waiting to receive
All who will his love believe:
This, dear children, this is why
Jesus came to bleed and die.*

—author unknown

DAY 16: PROPHECY OF A GENTLE SHEPHERD



“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
—John 10:27

Scriptures: John 10:27; Psalm 23:1-12; Isaiah 40:11

Questions: Who takes care of sheep?
Do we need someone to take care of us?
In our lives, who is the sheep and who is the shepherd?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, our Gentle Shepherd. Thank You for always taking care of us and guiding us back into your loving arms. Help us to listen to Your Voice and follow Your Call. Amen.

DAY 17: PROPHECY OF THE SUFFERING SAVIOR



“And I lay down my life for the sheep.”
—John 10:15b

Scriptures: John 10:15; Isaiah 53; Luke 2:8-18; John 19:11-18

Questions: What was God's plan for Jesus?
Why were people mean to Jesus?
Have you given your life to Jesus?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die in our place as payment for our sins. What a perfect Gift for us, Your Son and eternal life with You forever. Help us share this gift to all we meet through our actions, love, deeds, and words. Amen.

DAY 18: PROPHECY OF THE NEW COVENANT



“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.”

—Jeremiah 31:33b

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Acts 16:31

Questions: A covenant is a _____?
a. law b. promise c. teaching
How was the Old Covenant honored and celebrated?
Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Dear Lord, we praise You for Jesus taking away all our sins. We ask You to put Your law in our minds and write it on our hearts. Thank You for loving us so much that You forgive our wrongdoings and remember them no more. Amen.

DAY 19: PROPHECY OF BETHLEHEM



*“I can do all things through him who
strengthens me.”*
—Philippians 4:13

Scriptures: Philippians 4:13; Luke 2:4-7

Questions: What town did Joseph and Mary come from?
To what town did Joseph and Mary travel?
Were Bethlehem and Nazareth small towns or big cities?
At what age does God want you to love and serve Him?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for loving us no matter how old we are or how small we are. Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem as a tiny baby. We rejoice in knowing He came to save us. Help us to trust Him to come into our lives. And work through us to do great things. Amen.

DAY 20

THE EXILE



“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.”

—Daniel 3:17

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:8; Daniel 3:17-29

Questions: What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do?
What punishment did Nebuchanezzar order because of their refusal?
How many men did the king see walking in the fire?
How did God provide for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Prayer: Dear Lord, give us strength to say no when we are tempted to do things against You. Help us not to be afraid to do what is right and to understand that You are with us, and we can count on You in every situation. Amen.

DAY 21

THE RETURN TO THE LAND



“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

—Revelation 22:20

Scriptures: Revelation 22:20; Nehemiah 1:3; 2:18; 6:15-16;
Malachi 3:1

Questions: What happened to the wall around Jerusalem during the time of the Jewish exile in Babylon?
Was the wall rebuilt before Jesus was born in Bethlehem?
How does the Bible describe the way Jesus appeared the first time at the temple which is the same way that he will appear again in the future?
What can we do while waiting for the celebration of Jesus' advent?

Prayer: In Nehemiah's day, the people returning to Jerusalem rebuilt the wall and waited for the appearance of the Messiah. Help us prepare our hearts by building up our friends and family in Your love as we wait for the coming of Jesus. Amen.

DAY 22

THE STAR



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”
—Matthew 2:10

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12; Revelation 22:16

Questions: Who saw Jesus' star in the east?
Did King Herod want to worship Jesus?
Where did the star come to rest?
How is Jesus described in Revelation 22:16?
Does Jesus, like the star, show you the way to live?

Prayer: Father, as we remember the wise men's joy in finding The King for their long search under the star, fill us also with the joy of your presence. Thank you for being our star who guides us through life and leads us to heaven. Amen.

DAY 23

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



“ Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

—John 8:12

Scriptures: John 8:12; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:32

Questions: What good news did the angel Gabriel deliver to Mary?
Was Mary willing for this to happen to her?
How is Jesus described?
How can you be a light for Jesus in the world?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for appointing Mary and for Mary's willingness to be Jesus' human mother. We praise you for sending Jesus as the light of our life, the one who illuminates our wrongs and shows us the way to forgiveness. As Your light shines through us, may we help people out of the darkness and show them the way to your light. Amen.

DAY 24

ANGELS PROCLAIMING THE COMING OF CHRIST



“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

—Luke 2:10

Scriptures: Luke 2:8-14; Hebrews 1:14; Romans 6:23

Questions: Who appeared to the shepherds in the fields?
What was the message to the shepherds?
For whose sake are angels sent?
How can you be a happy servant for Jesus?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your ministering servants, the angels. Help us to joyfully proclaim your arrival this season. Amen.

DAY 25

THE BIRTH OF JESUS



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
—John 3:16

Scriptures: John 3:16-17; Luke 2:1-10

Questions: Where did Joseph and Mary go in order to be registered?
What happened while they were there?
Who sent Jesus into the world?
Where did Jesus live before he came to earth?
Why did Jesus come to earth?
Do you believe in Him?

Prayer: Dear God, at long last, the celebration of the birth of Jesus is here! Thank you for sending Jesus to earth to save us from perishing. Help each person to make room in their hearts for you this day. Amen.

WORDS TO PONDER

*Little baby in a manger,
You came to earth a tiny stranger,
But soon the world would know
You'd give the greatest gift of love.*

*You came to earth to die on
Calvary
Bear the pain and shame to die for
me.
I can't believe it—but it's so.*

*For you gave up your throne in
glory.
All the pow'r of the world was in your hands.
You gave up your right to be ruler,
You gave it up—to Just Be A Man.*

*Your kingdom was not to be worldly,
Even tho' you could reign throughout the land.
Your glory grew dim as a baby,
and it was all a part of God's PLAN.*

*Little baby in a manger,
You came to earth a tiny stranger,
I found a home for you today,
Come in my heart and always stay.*

— Dean Lambert



LIST OF SYMBOLS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
1	Earth
2	Apple and Snake
3	Rainbow
4	Tent
5	Lamb
6	Ladder
7	Colorful Coat
8	Ten Commandments
9	Cluster of Grapes
10	Wheat
11	Slingshot
12	Scroll
13	Stump with Leaf
14	Lion and the Lamb
15	Dove and Crown
16	Lamb and Staff
17	Cross
18	Heart
19	Bethlehem
20	Fiery Furnace
21	Brick Wall
22	Star
23	Candle
24	Angel
25	Creche