

Advent Week 2

The Arrival

WEEK 2

Personal Study

Micah 5:2 (ESV)

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days*

Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Luke 2:1–7 (ESV)

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should
be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of
Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also
went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David,
which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to
be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were
there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there
was no place for them in the inn.*

Focus

Can you think of a time when you had looked forward to an event for a long time? What emotions did you experience while waiting? How did you feel when the wait was finally over?

God Keeps His Promise

God had promised a Deliverer for Adam and Eve thousands, or even hundreds of thousands, of years before. All through the Old Testament God kept reminding His people that they had not been forgotten. The rest of the world had moved on. But God's people knew from history, stories, prophets and visions that the world could not only be better...but be made right again. A King was coming. God had promised. And so they waited. They lived and worked, hoped and prayed...and died for generations.

And then, on one unassuming night God came. A young, poor woman named Mary traveled with her betrothed Joseph, from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted for the census according to Caesar's decree. The town was bristling with visitors who had arrived earlier and so they found a place to stay that would have normally housed animals. Mary, full with pregnancy, gave birth in that humble room, to a little baby Boy in the fullness of time. A virgin. An infant. In Bethlehem. God had kept His promise.

Four hundred and fifty years of silence had passed since the last prophet of God had filled the night with words of hope. At last, the whisper of God had turned into a newborn's cry that pierced the bustle of a noisy town, as God broke through the womb of earth with a promise kept. The Ancient of Days had stepped into a realm held together by time and wrapped Himself in the weakness of human flesh. The star over Bethlehem gave notice to the One who gifted it with light. God had come.

In hindsight, we see that God had come at just the right time to fulfill all of the promises, signs and visions of the Old Testament. He was not late.

May our hearts be encouraged in times of darkness and doubt with the Truth that God kept every promise He made to His people through Jesus Christ. Let this Advent be a time to allow His past faithfulness to speak to our unknown present and murky future.

Reflection

Think about all the circumstances culturally that took place outside of Joseph and Mary's control to bring them into Bethlehem to give birth. How does this speak to you of God's sovereignty and the truth of the scriptures?

Take time to review some of the scriptures below from prophecy to fulfillment. What attributes of God do you see in the birth of His Son?

Promise to Fulfillment

OT Promise

Genesis 3:15
Micah 5:2
Isaiah 9:7
Isaiah 7:14
Genesis 49:10
Genesis 12:3

NT Fulfillment

Matthew 1:20, Galatians 4:4
Matthew 2:1
Luke 1:32,33
Matthew 1:22,23
Luke 3:33
Matthew 1:1

Closing Response

What promises have you failed to keep? God is a promise keeper and he expects His children to keep their promises. How can you “go back” and seek forgiveness this Advent from the people that have been hurt by unkept promises?

Finally, thank God that He has come to do something that we couldn't do. Even if others choose not to forgive us, He made a way for us to be reconciled and whole again. You are weak, but He is strong. As you listen to the songs below, let them remind you that when God came, His Promise kept was to heal all of the promises not kept by everyone who has ever lived. Is it possible to let that come into your heart?



Songs for Advent Week 2

- [O Holy Night](#)
- [Silent Night](#)
- [God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen](#)



All resources with this icon can be found by going to the web page.

WEEK 2

Family Discipleship Time

Set aside 30 minutes one night this week to read scriptures together and reflect upon and discuss the material together. If you have an Advent Candle, please designate someone to light the 1st and 2nd candles before beginning.

Scripture Reading

(Have a family member read out loud and let young children play with a manger scene during the reading and discussion)

Luke 2:3–7 (The Message)

Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

And there, in the stable, amongst the chickens and the donkeys and the cows, in the quiet of the night, God gave the world his wonderful gift. The baby that would change the world was born. His baby Son.

THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

Focus

What do you remember about last week when we talked about God's Promise to send a Hero to rescue His people? How do you think you would feel if you really, really needed a hero to rescue you and that person showed up to save the day?

Story Telling (Read the commentary below)

After thousands of years waiting, on a night just like any other night, Jesus arrived on earth. God had been giving clues and hints to His people for a very long time. He said that the Rescuer would come from Bethlehem, rule over His people and bring peace. Some expected a King. Some expected a politician. Some thought He would be a soldier. But no one expected a baby.

Ask: If God had told you that a Rescuer would come to save you what would you expect that person to be like?

Joseph and Mary didn't want to go to Bethlehem, but they had to go. Their king told them that everyone had to go back to their hometown to be counted in a census. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, so they had to travel a grueling trip of 90 miles to get there. It may have taken them 10 days to travel that far on horseback, and when they got there, Mary was ready to give birth. The town was already full of visitors and they could find no nice place to stay, so they stayed in a section of a home made for animals. That is where the Son of God was born.

Ask: How do you think Joseph and Mary must have felt on the journey, and arriving into town late at night with no place to stay? Do you think God knew it would be like that? If so, why might He have done this?

Jesus came from heaven where He was King over the world with His Father. He created all the world with his Father. But now He arrived on earth as a little, helpless baby, in a stinky room with dirty, smelly animals. He wasn't placed in a royal bed. Jesus was put into a container from which the animals ate their food.

Ask: How would you expect a King to be born? Where or how would you have wanted Jesus to be born? Why do you think God wanted it this way?

The truth is that none of this was an accident. Everything happened just as God had planned it for His Son to arrive on earth. God must have been showing us something about Himself in the way He delivered the Rescuer to all of us who needed to be rescued. His Son would not come as a king, or a politician, or a soldier. He would come like the weakest and poorest person on earth would come. He would come even as an animal would come.

Poem before Family Prayer:

Mary and Joseph were tired and sore;
They had travelled all day and could travel no more!
They finally arrived in Bethlehem town
Only to find there was nowhere to lie down.

The hotels were all full, there were no more beds
For Joseph or Mary to lay down their heads.
Exhausted from walking, and ready for sleep,
They would even be willing to sleep with the sheep.

They asked a kind man if they could sleep in his hay
In the barn with the animals, where the cows lay.
The man showed them a spot and moved the cows over,
For a pillow he gave them a pile of clover.

And Mary and Joseph sat down with a sigh.
It wasn't the best, but it was warm and dry.
And they slept, for a while, under stars and the moon
Perhaps unaware, that Christ's birth would be soon.

While the whole town was sleeping, with stars shining bright,
Mary's baby was born on that first Christmas night.
Born in a barn! With the horses and hay!

If you were a king, would you come that way?
The King of Creation had come to the earth
And a Bethlehem barn was the place of his birth?!
I think I'd choose a palace, but God's ways are stranger.
And God's Son was born and laid down in a manger.
(Author Unknown)

Song

Sing this song together as a family:



[Away in a Manger](#)

Prayer

Discuss what you should pray about, and which family member should pray.

Family Activities

Discuss: Talk about the family activity that you promised to do as a family this week. Did it happen? What was the best part of it? Ask your children about the experience of waiting for something fun - what were their thoughts and feelings? Give them more hints and clues about the fun adventure you have prepared for the future. Remind them that parents sometimes fail even when we try to keep our promises, but God never fails. He will always keep His promises.



Make: Create ornaments that have the Old Testament prophecies, and the New Testament fulfillments on each side. You can find these in the Week 2 "Personal Study" section. Get creative! ([Idea: wooden ornaments](#)) You may also choose to [print and decorate premade ornaments](#). Hang these ornaments on your Christmas tree or collect some branches from the yard and place them in a vase and hang the ornaments on the branches. Place in a prominent place to encourage further discussion!



**All resources with this icon can be found by going to the web page*

Friendly Contest: Have a contest or collaborate to make the most creative manger scene.

- Legos
- Magna Tiles
- Blocks
- Empty Boxes
- Edible items (think gingerbread, graham crackers, etc)

If you can't build a nativity in some way, then have a coloring "contest."