

My Advent Book

**A celebration of the birth of Jesus which
is the true reason for Christmas**



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reason for Christmas**

**The word *advent* means the anticipated coming of
someone special. Who was the special someone
that came and Christmas time and why is He
special? You will learn the answers to these
questions as you read the pages of this book. Begin
December 1 and read one page a day every day until
Christmas Day.**

Christmas

TODAY IS DECEMBER 1!



Christmas is a special time of year. There is so much we look forward to doing. What are you excited about doing?

These things are good, but Christmas is about much more than relatives coming to visit and hanging pretty lights, and getting presents by the Christmas tree. Christmas is the time we remember that Jesus left His beautiful home called Heaven and came to earth for us.



Christmas is in the month called December. It is on the 25th day of the month. Today is December 1. Each day we will move one day closer to 25, and each day we will learn something wonderful about the true reason we celebrate the day called Christmas.

Each day we will also learn about a name the Bible gives to Jesus. His names tell us many things about Him. You will find the names each day in the yellow box at the bottom of the page.



Jesus is God the Son

The Bible tells us about a time when Jesus took his disciples Peter, James and John up on a high mountain. While they were there, Jesus' face began to shine brightly and His clothes became as white as snow. The disciples heard a voice say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Who do you think was speaking? Jesus is the only Son of God (Matthew 17:1-8).



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Jesus's Birthday

TODAY IS DECEMBER 2!



Today is December 2! We are one day closer to Christmas Day.

Christmas is the day that we celebrate Jesus's birth. We celebrate your birth on your birthday, so I guess you could call Christmas Jesus's birthday. But we will not talk about how old Jesus is like we talk about how old you are on your birthday.

Instead we will talk about how glad we are that Jesus was willing to be born as a tiny baby. He did not have to be born to be alive. He was alive in Heaven before He was born. He chose to be born on earth for us because He loved us so much. Don't you wonder why He loved us that much?

Jesus is the Savior

Do you know why your parents gave you the name that they did? Do you know the meaning of your name? The name Jesus means "Savior." It was the name Jesus's parents were told to give Him. Would you like to know why?

God said that His name was to be Jesus "for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

God sent Jesus to be a Savior for His people, the people of Israel. He came to save them from being separated from God by their sin. God's chosen people did not accept Jesus as their Savior. (John 1:11) Isn't that sad?



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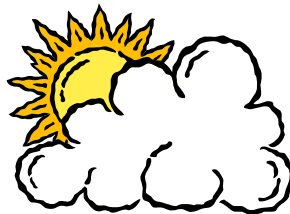
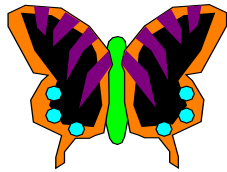
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Jesus Loves Me!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 3!



Jesus is the Creator

Because Jesus is God the Son, He was part of creating everything. The Bible says that "... all things were created by him and for him." (Colossians 1:16) We were not made to live for ourselves or to seek our own pleasure. God made us for Himself. What are some things you can do to please God? Will you do them even if they are not pleasing to you?



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Sin Comes to the World

TODAY IS DECEMBER 4!



You remember that God made everything “very good” and then something terrible happened. Here is what that terrible thing was. The very first man Adam and the very first woman Eve disobeyed God. How sad they were! How sad God was! God had been their very good friend. Now someone perfect would have to die for God to be their friend again.

God promised that someday someone would come to earth to die so that this man and woman could be His friends again. (Genesis 3) But who could that be? Now that the people God made had sinned there was no one perfect, or was there?

Tomorrow you will find out who would have to die, and you will find out what all of this has to do with Christmas.

Jesus is Wonderful

One of the names given to Jesus is Wonderful. What a name! We often use the word *wonderful* to describe something, but this is not just a description of Jesus; this is His name! As you learn about Jesus this Christmas time, hopefully you will realize a little bit about how wonderful Jesus is. Can you think of some reasons that Jesus is called Wonderful? No matter how wonderful we think that Jesus is, there is still more to learn about Him.



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Jesus, My Savior

TODAY IS DECEMBER 5!



Sin is anything I do
that is disobeying
God!

Jesus is the Way

One of the disciples asked Jesus how to get to Heaven. Jesus answered, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14:6) There is only one Way to get to Heaven. We cannot get there on our own by doing good works. We could not have even died for our own sins. Only Jesus is the Way to Heaven because He died on the cross for our sins.



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The Birth of Jesus

TODAY IS DECEMBER 6!



When you were born, you were born at a hospital. There was a doctor and there were nurses to make sure that you were okay when you were born.

But Jesus was not born in a hospital. How He was born is quite a story! Would you like to hear about it?



Do you have a special song that you like to sing at Christmas time? We can hear the story of the true meaning of Christmas in the song we sing at Christmas time. We call these songs "Christmas carols." A "carol" is "a song of praise or joy." Listen next time you hear Christmas carols to hear the story of Jesus's birth.



Jesus is The Word

One of the names the Bible gives for Jesus is the Word. Words are used to tell us something. Jesus's life tells us about God. He showed us who God is by the way that He lived His life. He was loving, kind and forgiving. Jesus knows about God because He is God and has always existed as God the Son. The Bible says that "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1)



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The Long Journey

TODAY IS DECEMBER 7!



Jesus's mother was named Mary, and the man who would be like a father to him was called Joseph. Mary and Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth. Not long before Jesus was to be born they found out that they would have to go to a city called Bethlehem. They did not have cars like we do. They walked or rode on animals to get where they needed to go.

It would be a long trip to Bethlehem, and they would have to stay for the night. So they packed everything they needed and got ready to go. (Luke 2:1-4)

Jesus is a Man of Sorrows

Do you like to feel sad? When Jesus died on the cross He took on Himself all of our sorrows. All of our pain and suffering, the sorry results of sin, He took on Himself. Jesus took all of these things willingly because of His love for us. One of the prophets in the Bible named Isaiah called Jesus a "Man of Sorrows," because He was willing to suffer so much in our place. (Isaiah 53:3) Does thinking about this make you thankful for what Jesus did for you?



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No Room

TODAY IS DECEMBER 8!



Remember that Joseph and Mary are on their way to Bethlehem. We often see pictures of Mary riding on a donkey to Bethlehem, but the Bible does not tell us exactly how they got there. What the Bible does tell us is that when Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, the inn where they could have spent the night was full. (Luke 2:4-7) Imagine not having a place to sleep at night! Where would they sleep? You will find out tomorrow.



Do you remember what the special Christmas songs are called? One Christmas carol, "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" was written about the town of Bethlehem. It was written in 1867 by a pastor named Philip Brooks. He was remembering his visit to Bethlehem at Christmas three years before. Bethlehem was not a fancy city. God chose a simple town for the place where His son would be born.



Jesus is the Door

When Mary and Joseph knocked on the door, they found that there was no room in the inn. Jesus calls himself the Door. If we enter Heaven through Him, we will be welcomed, and there will be room. He says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. . ." (John 10:9)



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Jesus Is Born!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 9!



What are you singing about when you sing "Away in the Manger?" Sing this song and think about what the words mean.

Mary and Joseph did find a place to sleep, but it was not a fancy place. It may have been a stable or a place in a one room house. There may have even been cows living there with them! While they were there, Jesus was born. Do you think Joseph and Mary were very happy to have this tiny baby? After Jesus was born, he did not sleep in a crib. He slept in a manger. (Luke 2:7) The manger is where the hay for the animals to eat was placed. It would have been like a feed bunk. Nevertheless, it would have been a safe, comfortable place for Him to sleep.



Jesus is the Son of Man

One name that Jesus called himself was the Son of Man. Jesus was very much like us even though He is God. He was born to normal people and would have lived a life normal for boys at that time. He even had brothers and sisters. (Luke 8:19) Jesus probably enjoyed running and playing just like you do. His father was a carpenter which means that he built things from wood. Do you think he may have taught Jesus how to make things too?

The Bible tells us about times that Jesus slept, was hungry and a time that He cried. This tell us that Jesus understands us. (Mark 4:38; Luke 4:2, 19:41)

There is one way that Jesus was very different from you and me. He never did anything wrong. Think about that. He always obeyed His parents right away with a cheerful attitude, and He was always kind to His brothers! (Hebrews 4:15)

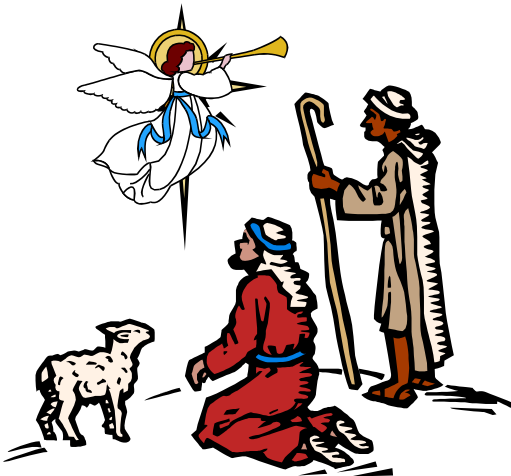
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An Angel Appears

TODAY IS DECEMBER 10!



Do you remember the name of the city where Jesus was born? It was called Bethlehem. Not too far away from Bethlehem there were some shepherds watching their sheep. It was nighttime, and the shepherds stayed with the sheep to take care of them. Suddenly something that happened that frightened the shepherds. An angel appeared and God's glory was shining around them! We can not even imagine what it must have looked like. Tomorrow you will find out why the angel came to the shepherds. (Luke 2:8-9)



There are several Christmas carols written about the angel appearing to the shepherds. Two of them are "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" and "The First Noel." Find them in a hymnal and sing them with your parents.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

When Jesus was a grown man He said about himself, "I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) We are like sheep who need a shepherd to care for us. Jesus, our Shepherd, cares for us by protecting us and meeting our needs. But He called himself a Good Shepherd because He knew He would do more for us than a shepherd usually does for the sheep.



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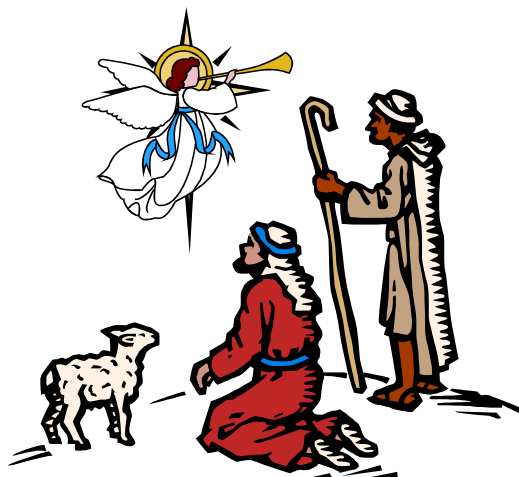
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The Angel's Message

TODAY IS DECEMBER 11!

Why did an angel appear to a group of shepherds in a field near Bethlehem? The angel had a message for them. First, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. Then he said that he was bringing great news of joy that everyone should hear. The angel told the shepherds that a Savior had been born in Bethlehem, and the baby was the Perfect Someone God had promised to send. The angel told the shepherds that they would find the baby in Bethlehem in a manger. (Luke 2:10-12)



Jesus is the Mighty God

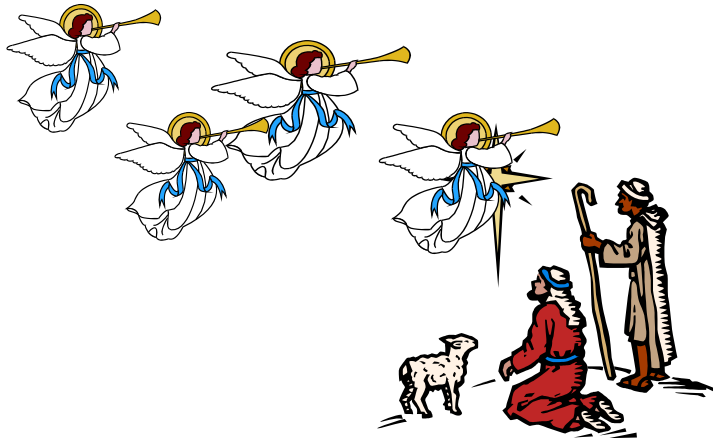
Do angels announce the birth of just anyone? No! They announced Jesus' birth because He was more than just a baby born one day. He was the Mighty God who chose to become a tiny, helpless baby so that He could die for our sins. Aren't you glad that He did?



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Many Angels Come

TODAY IS DECEMBER 12!



The shepherds had been listening to one angel speak. Suddenly, there were lots of angels, and they were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:13-14) You may hear the angels' words in some of the songs we sing at Christmas time. Let's sing a song together about the angels speaking to the shepherds.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace

One of the words in the angel's message was "peace." Jesus will one day come to bring peace to the world. The rulers of our world are always working to bring peace on earth, but they never will accomplish this. Only Jesus will bring peace when He comes to rule as king. Then there will be no wars or fighting. We can look forward to that time.



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The Shepherds Hurry

TODAY IS DECEMBER 13!



After the angels went back to heaven, what do you think the shepherds did? They said to each other, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see the baby God told us about." The Bible says that they hurried to Bethlehem. (Luke 2:15) Don't you wish you could have run with them? Do you think any of their sheep went along?

Jesus is the Truth

When the shepherds heard the news about Jesus they believed it, didn't they? The news about Jesus was true. But that is not all. Jesus called Himself, "the Truth." Every other way people make up to try to get to God is not true. Jesus is the only true way.

Jesus is the Truth in another way too. Before Jesus came, God had told His people to bring sacrifices to Him as a payment for their sin. This was a picture of the Savior who would come and pay for their sins once and for all. Jesus was true because He was not a picture of what would come; He was the sacrifice for sin.

Because Jesus is true, He will never change, and we can depend on Him.



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The Shepherds Find the Baby

TODAY IS DECEMBER 14!



Yesterday we read that the shepherds wanted to quickly go find the baby Jesus. That is exactly what they did. They hurried to Bethlehem where they found Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus who was lying in the manger. (Luke 2:16) Do you remember what a manger is? What do you suppose the shepherds thought about when they saw the Savior they had been waiting for lying there in the manger?



The shepherds
probably did not realize
that this tiny baby would

Jesus is the Redeemer

Think of a time when you lost something that was important to you. Would you have paid money if needed to get it back? A Redeemer is someone who pays a price to reclaim what was once his. We belonged to Jesus because He created us, but we were lost to Him because of our sin. He was willing to pay the price of His blood for us in order to redeem us—buy us back—from sin. (Colossians 1:14) That is quite a price to pay!



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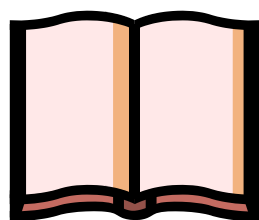
The Prophets

TODAY IS DECEMBER 15!



We can read
some of the words
that the prophets
said in the Bible in
the Old Testament.

Are you waiting anxiously for something to come right now? Are you waiting for Christmas Day to come? Many years before the shepherds lived, God had used special messengers called prophets to tell people that a Savior was coming. Some people did not listen to the prophets, but others were anxiously waiting for the Savior to come. The prophets' messages were written down and told by parents to their children and grandchildren. Eventually someone told the shepherds about the Savior who would come. The shepherds must have been so excited to get to see Him at last.



In Micah 5:2, God used one of the prophets to tell the people that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. The prophet Micah wrote this hundreds of years before Jesus was born because God told him about it.

Jesus is Emmanuel

When Jesus was born He was called Emmanuel which means "God with us." (Matthew 1:23) He was God, but he came to live with men. What an exciting time it must have been for those people that understood who Jesus really was!



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The Shepherds Rejoice!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 16!



Remember how excited the shepherds were to find baby Jesus? The Bible tells us that they “returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen. . . .” They were very happy about Jesus’s birth, and they knew that they should praise God for it. The shepherds told many people about the baby Jesus. (Luke 2:17, 20) We also should tell people about the baby Jesus and why He came.



The shepherds probably did not realize that this tiny baby would one day have to die for their sin.

Jesus is the Lamb of God

Jesus was called “The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) by John the Baptist. He wanted people to understand that Jesus had come to die for their sin. Until Jesus died, the people had to kill a lamb to make a payment for their sin. When Jesus died, He paid for sin once and for all. The people no longer needed a sacrifice to pay for their sin.



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The People Wonder.

TODAY IS DECEMBER 17!



Yesterday we read that the shepherds told many people about Jesus. The Bible says that when the people heard the words of the shepherds, they wondered at what they heard. Maybe some people believed what the Shepherds said. Probably some of them went to see Jesus for themselves. Sadly, though many people who heard about Jesus did not believe in him at all. However, this was all a part of God's wonderful plan. (Luke 2:18)

There are still many of God's chosen people, the Jews, living in the nation of Israel and around the world. Many of these people know about Jesus but they do not believe that God sent Jesus to save them from their sin. They are still waiting for God to send a Savior. God wants us to pray for His people. What do you think that should we pray about?

Jesus is the Messiah

Messiah is a name that means "Anointed One." Someone who was anointed was chosen by God for a special job like being king. What special job did God anoint Jesus to do? Jesus was the one who would die for the sins of every person. In a message to a man named Cornelius and his friends, Peter said about Jesus, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth . . . whom they slew (killed). . ." (Acts 10:38)



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The Wise Men Come

TODAY IS DECEMBER 18!



Sometime after the shepherds came, the little Jesus had some visitors from very far away. Some men we call "Wise men" saw a star in the sky that they knew was special. In fact, they thought that the star meant that a king had been born. They followed the star until they came to a city called Jerusalem. An important ruler named Herod lived in Jerusalem. The wise men asked him where the new king had been born. Herod did not know about Jesus and was very worried. He did not want anyone to be more important than he was. (Matthew 2:1-3)



One of our Christmas carols is about the wise men coming. It is called "We Three Kings." We don't actually know how many wise men there were, but many people think that there were three because they brought three gifts to baby Jesus. The Bible also does not say anything about them riding on camels, but that is how we imagine that they may have come.

Jesus is the King of Kings

Jesus did not come to earth to be a king. He came to earth to die for our sins. One day, though, He will come back to earth again. This time, the Bible tells us that He will be called the King of Kings (Revelation 19:16).



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The Wise Men Worship Jesus.

TODAY IS DECEMBER 19!



You remember from yesterday that there were some wise men looking for the baby Jesus. They found him in Bethlehem. The wise men worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Those were very precious gifts that would have cost a lot of money. They were gifts that would be appropriate to give to a king! But, remember, even though Jesus did not grow up and become a king, He will be the King of Kings someday.

God warned the wise men in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was because Herod wanted to kill Jesus. After the wise men left, God told Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus to the country of Egypt where they were safe from Herod. No one could change the plan God had for Jesus. (Matthew 2:8, 11-12)



Jesus is Faithful and True

In the last book of the Bible called Revelation, it tells about the glorious day when Jesus will come back to earth to reign as King. There Jesus is given the name Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11). Jesus is not like other kings and rulers who always fail in some way. He is faithful and true. You can find many other names of Jesus that we have talked about given in Revelation 19.



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Christmas *'s* Coming!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 20!

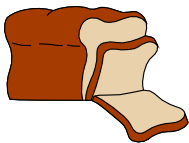
We are certainly getting close to Christmas Day, aren't we? Look at how many days we have done already. We have used those days to hear the story that we remember at Christmas time about how Jesus came to earth as a tiny baby. The story about Jesus does not end there. Jesus grew up to be a man and then He died for us on the cross, but we will read more about that later.

The story of Jesus's birth explains what the Nativity scene that we have is all about, but maybe you have wondered about some of the other things we decorate with at Christmas—things like the tree, the lights and the stars. And why do we give presents at Christmas time? We will read about those things in the days left until Christmas.



Jesus is the Bread of Life

Jesus told the people one day, "I am the Bread of Life. . ." (John 6:35) Why would He say that? The bread and other food that you eat gives you physical life. Jesus came to give us spiritual life. The bread you eat only fills you for a while and then you are hungry and have to eat again. The spiritual life Jesus gives to us will last forever. Once people trust Jesus for eternal life, they never again have to search for the true way to Heaven. Their longing for a relationship with the true God is satisfied forever.



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Jesus Is the Light of the World!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 21!



The lights and candles that we use to decorate the tree at Christmas remind us of Jesus. He came to be a light in the dark world of sin and to show people the way to God. Once we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we are also to be lights showing the way to God. The candles and lights can remind us that Christmas time is a good time to tell other people about who Jesus is and tell them the real reason for Christmas. Remember how the shepherds told people about the baby Jesus?



Something you may see during Christmas time is the Jewish Menorah like the one in the picture. This is for the celebration called Hanukkah which usually occurs in the month of December. Hanukkah is sometimes called the "Festival of Lights" and lasts for 8 days. It does not have anything to do with Christmas or the birth of Christ even though some of the traditions are similar to those we have for Christmas. When you see the Menorah it can remind you to pray for the many Jews are living in darkness because they do not know Jesus.



Jesus is the Light of the World

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) When we are in the dark we can not see things, can we? So we turn on a light to help us see. Jesus is the Light of the World because He helps us to see God. Without Jesus we live in the darkness of sin.



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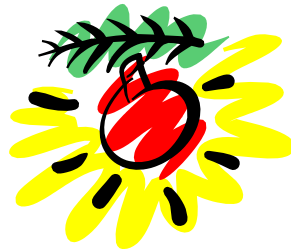
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Pretty Gold Balls!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 22!



What can you think of when you see the pretty gold balls on the tree? They can remind you that even though Jesus came to earth as a baby, He existed forever before that in Heaven. (John 1:1,3) You could move your finger round and round the gold ball and never find a beginning or ending to the ball. That is kind of like Jesus's life having no beginning or ending. Do you know what else? Jesus's love for you has no beginning or ending either. (Jeremiah 31:3)



Jesus is "I Am"

Do you remember the stories of Abraham who lived on earth a long time before Jesus? One day when Jesus was talking to some people, He said to them, "Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58) How could he say that? I Am means that in all of eternity past and for all of eternity future, Jesus exists. No other person has ever existed before God created him or her. Jesus was not created by God or born to God; He has always been one with God. It is all a little bit hard to understand, because Jesus is so much greater than we are. It is what the Bible teaches, so we must believe that it is true. Aren't you glad that God is greater than we can even understand? That way we know He is great enough to take care of us and do the amazing things He says He will do.



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Jesus Gives Life!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 23!



It is such fun to get out the Christmas tree and decorate it every year. I know you enjoy looking at the ornaments on the tree. Do you ever wonder why we have a tree at Christmas time? The tree can remind us that Jesus gives life. Trees are living things. Jesus gives life to everything that lives—plants, animals, and people. Jesus gives another kind of life too. He offers us eternal life. And he offers eternal life as a free gift, but that is what tomorrow's page is all about.



You will see things in the stores and in people's homes that we only see at Christmas time, but they have nothing to do with Jesus's birth. These things are not necessarily bad, but they can distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus's coming as a baby to die for us is not something that we should forget! What do you have in your home right now that reminds you of Jesus's birth?

Jesus is Life

The Bible tells us about some times when Jesus was on earth that He brought a person back to life. At one of those times, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. . ." (John 11:25) Jesus was not talking about bringing life back to a person's body. He could do that, but He was talking about offering us His life which has no end—eternal life.



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The Best Present Ever!

TODAY IS DECEMBER 24!



Remember yesterday we talked about how Jesus can give us eternal life? The Bible says that eternal life is a gift from God. You and I do not deserve to live forever with God because of our sin. Instead we deserve to die and be separated from God forever. In fact, when we are born, we are born separated from God and with no hope of ever going to Heaven. But when Jesus grew up, He died in your place and mine on the cross. With the precious blood that he gave on the cross He will wash away your sin. He wants to give you new life—eternal life. Eternal life begins the moment you take Jesus's free gift and lasts forever. That means that when you die on earth you go immediately to Heaven to be with Jesus. This is the greatest gift of all. It cost Jesus his life. (Romans 6:23; 5:12, Colossians 1:17; John 3:16) This is the best present ever!



Today you will begin to get presents. When someone offers you a Christmas present, will you take it? Of course you will and you will be so glad to have it. Jesus is offering you a gift too. Will you take His gift of eternal life?

Jesus is Lord

We often say three names for Jesus together when we say His name. We call Him the "Lord Jesus Christ." What does it mean when we call Jesus "Lord"? The name *Lord* means "master" or "ruler." Jesus should be the Lord over our lives. We should be obedient to Him in everything He tells us to do. If we do not intend to obey Him, then we should not call Him "Lord."



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The Legend of the Candy Cane

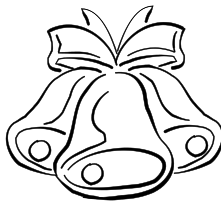
TODAY IS DECEMBER 25!

It is
Christmas
Day!



Candy canes remind us of Jesus too! If you turn a candy cane upside down, what letter does it make? It makes a **J** which is the first letter of Jesus's name. One day a candy maker decided to make a candy that would remind people of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. So he made a J-shaped candy. He made it red and white for a reason. The red on the candy cane reminds us of the blood that Jesus gave for us on the cross. The white reminds us that Jesus was perfect. Only a perfect person could die on the cross for us. The white also reminds us that Jesus can take our sin away and make our hearts whiter than snow. This is the story of Christmas.

We often see bells at Christmas time because people used to ring big bells in town when there was news. Jesus birth is good news that we should want to share with everyone.



This is the last page of your advent book. We will read it again next year. Christmas only comes once a year, but we should remember the stories about Jesus birth and death all of the year.

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega

Jesus says that He is "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. . ." (Revelation 1:8) Jesus claims that He has always existed and is the beginning of all things. He will forever exist. He deserves the same honor and glory as God the Father. We who have trusted Him as our Savior will worship Him for all of eternity in Heaven.



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