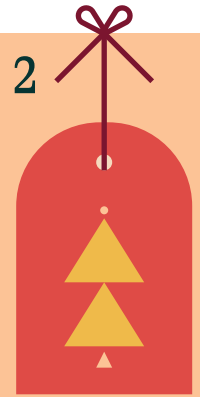


Gather around every day this month to read the story of how God sent joy to the world with the gift of His Son, Jesus. While you're at it, spread some joy of your own as a family!

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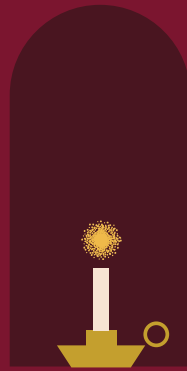
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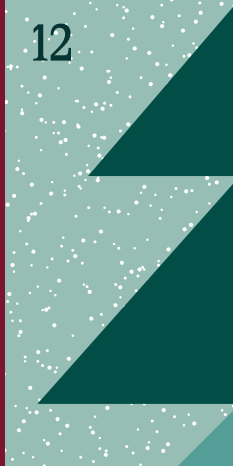
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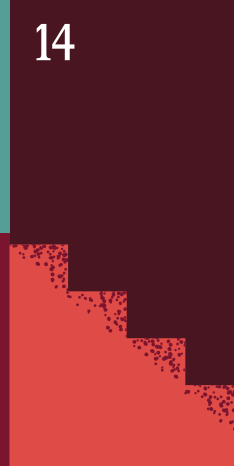
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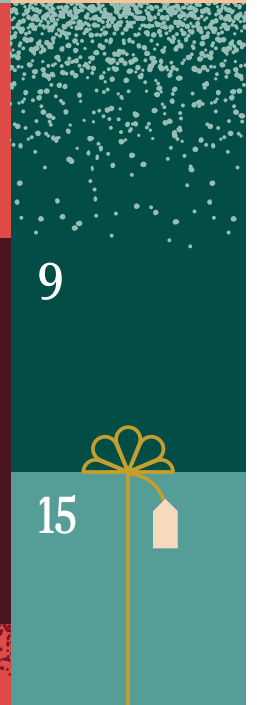
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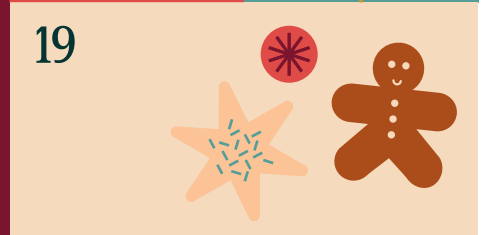
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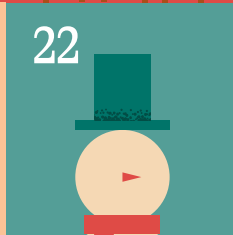
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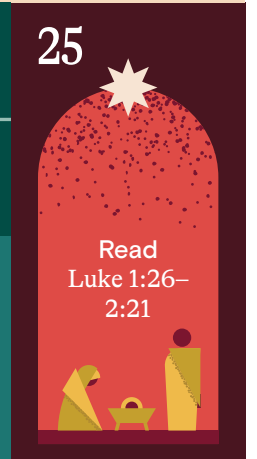
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Read  
Luke 1:26–  
2:21

# Advent Activities

These activities aren't numbered so you can match them to the days that work best for your family. Select a few from this sheet or do all 25 throughout the month. You can even cut them out, put them in a bowl, and select randomly each day or sporadically throughout the month!

Escape the Christmas hustle and take a short hike or walk together. Recall the long journey that Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Make your own festive snow flurry. Cut snowflakes out of paper or foil and hang them in your windows.

Throw a virtual Christmas carol party. Video chat with a family member and sing together one or two of your favorite Christmas songs.

Dish up breakfast for dinner. Turn your pancakes into snowmen with chocolate chip faces and bacon scarves.

Roll out the sleeping bags and hold a family sleepover by the Christmas tree. Ask: "What do you think it would be like to sleep at night in the hay with cows and sheep?"

Press "pause" on your busy schedule and "play" on an impromptu Christmas music dance party. Search for fun remixes of your favorite classic carols.

As you make and share Christmas wish lists, ask: "What are you hoping for this Christmas that can't be wrapped?" (Give some examples.)

Parents or caregivers, share your favorite Christmas memory from when you were a child. You might pull out an old-school photo album or FaceTime grandparents to find photo evidence.

Go in search of the best Christmas light displays.

Wait for a "midnight (8pm) clear" and check out the stars (if you can see them). Download a star app for inspiration, and talk about what it must have been like for the wise men following a star to find Jesus.

Skip the packet hot chocolate and make your own with steamed milk and melted chocolate chips. Enjoy your festive treat while watching a classic Christmas special together.

Turn off the lights and read aloud the Christmas story from Luke 1:26-2:21 by the light of the Christmas tree. You could even use characters from a Nativity scene to act it out.

Clean out a toy bin, closet, or room and have each child choose one (or more!) good-quality items to donate.

Leave bagged Christmas snacks and drinks at your doorstep for the delivery people showing up all season. Make a festive sign to say "thank you!"

Ask: "What are you anxious about today?" Pray that God would give each of you peace this Christmas season.

Set a timer for two minutes and race to collect all the spare change in your house (or car). Make a quick trip to a store with a Salvation Army bell ringer to leave your gift.

Take a globe (or pull up Google maps) and have each family member choose a different country. Then search the internet to see how people celebrate Christmas in those places.

At breakfast, make a plan to look for unexpected moments of joy in your day. At dinner or bedtime, share what you each discovered.

Wear reindeer antlers or elf hats and surf YouTube together for funny Christmas caroling videos.

Have each family member choose a cookie cutter that represents something good God has done for them this year. Then bake and decorate a batch of cut-out Christmas cookies. (There's no shame in ready-made dough!)

Eat a meal together by candlelight. Share the best piece of good news you've received this year.

Grab an ornament from a local giving tree and buy an extra gift for a child or family in need.

At bedtime, retell the story of each of your children's birth or arrival in the family. Pray for families who are welcoming children in the midst of unusual or difficult circumstances right now.

Share the joy! When you're running errands, choose to give up your spot in line to someone else. Or gather all the loose grocery carts and return them to the cart corral!

Hang candy canes, the symbol of a shepherd's crook, on your Christmas tree (and maybe eat a few). Imagine together what it was like to be out in the fields at night when a bright angel (and later, more angels) showed up to deliver the news of Jesus' birth.