



GOD'S BIG PROMISES

Advent Calendar

**Bible Times
for Young
Families**



God's Big Promises Advent Calendar

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Family Bible Times

This devotional booklet is designed to be used alongside **God's Big Promises Bible Storybook**, to help children and adults explore the Bible together during Advent. Each day provides a short family Bible time suitable for ages 3 to 7. It will take about five minutes, maybe at breakfast or after an evening meal. Choose whatever time and place suits you best as a family. On each page you'll find everything you need—the Bible text is included and the devotions are written in such a way that you can simply read them aloud. On days where the passage contains a more complex word that is necessary to understand in order to answer the questions, a simple definition has been included.

You do not need to have a copy of **God's Big Promises Bible Storybook** to use these family devotions, but if you do, you can enjoy reading the relevant stories in it as you work through Advent:

December 1-3: Story 46 (page 217)

December 4-5: Story 47 (page 220)

December 6-11: Story 48 (page 224)

December 12-18: Story 49 (page 227)

December 19-20: Story 50 (page 233)

December 21-24: Story 51 (page 236)

December 25: Recap (stories 46-51)



Unless otherwise indicated, the Bible passages included in this booklet are from the International Children's Bible translation.



December 1st: Mary and the Angel

Pray

Dear God, thank you that the Bible tells us all about Jesus. Please help us listen now. Amen.

Think

Which visitors come to our house?

Who is your favourite visitor?

Listen out for how Mary felt when a visitor arrived in our true story from the Bible.

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)

Virgin: in those days this meant a woman who was not yet married.

Engaged: if you are engaged, you have agreed to marry someone.

Who visited Mary?

Let's read the next bit of this true story from the Bible. The angel told Mary...

You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. (v 31)

Mary was going to have a baby son, called Jesus!

Here's the next part of the Bible story. Listen out for what God was going to give Jesus.

The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. (v 32)

Ancestor: this word means your grandparents and great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents and so on.

*What was God going to give him?
What kind of person sits on a throne?*

Mary's baby was a special baby. Jesus is the King, sent by God, to rule his people for ever and ever.

Pray

Dear Jesus, you are God's special forever King. You will rule forever. Wow! Amen.

Let's Remember...

Jesus is God's forever King.



December 2nd: Who Is Jesus?

Pray

Dear God, thank you that the Bible tells us all about Jesus. Please show us something special about Jesus today. Amen.

Think

Can you remember... who visited Mary? What did they tell Mary was going to happen?

Listen out for what Jesus was going to be called.

The angel said to Mary ... "The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

Holy: this means totally different, completely perfect.

What would Jesus be called?

Wow! This baby was going to be God himself—the Son of God!

God is big enough to make all the stars and all the seas. Stretch your arms as wide as they will go—God is much, much, much bigger than that!

But now, he was growing as a baby inside Mary. Put two of your fingers together. God's Son had become as small as that. God's Son had become a person!

Pray

Dear Jesus, you are God's Son. You made everything. And you became a baby and lived in this world, just like us. Wow! Amen.

Let's Remember...

Jesus is God's Son.



December 3rd: And Mary Said...

Pray

Dear God, thank you that the Bible tells us all about Jesus. Please show us today how to follow you. Amen.

Think

Show me by nodding your head or shaking your head whether you would say "yes" or "no" to...

- having extra of your favourite dessert.
- having to spend all day sweeping floors.
- Christmas not happening this year.
- your best friend coming to play on Christmas Eve.

The angel had told Mary that it was God's plan for her to be pregnant. He had told Mary that she was going to give birth to the forever King, God's Son, Jesus. But... Mary had wanted to marry Joseph. She hadn't expected to be pregnant. She had lots of exciting plans.

Maybe she would say "no thank you" to God's plan. Let's see...

Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!"
(Luke 1:38)

Did Mary say she would serve God or did she say "no" to God's plan for her?

She said yes! Can you nod your head for me?

Mary trusted God. Mary knew God loved her. So even though God had told her some very strange news, Mary still wanted to say "yes" to his plans. Following God means saying "yes" to God when he asks us to do something, just like Mary.

Pray

Dear God, we know you love us. We want to serve you. Please make us able to say "yes" to you when you ask us to do something. Amen.

Let's Remember...

Mary said "yes" to God's plans.