

Youth Christmas booklet



Contents Page

1. Advent Bible Plan

Introduction – Page 1-2

Week 1 – Page 3

Week 2 – Page 4

Week 3 – Page 5

Week 4 – Page 6

2. Christmas Cookie Recipe

Pages: 7-8

3. Christmas Jokes

Page: 9

Advent Bible Reading Plan

What is Advent?

Do you have an Advent calendar? Advent calendars are sometimes filled with chocolates or maybe a picture to open each day leading up to Christmas. But is it the chocolate we should be looking forward to everyday or is there something more?

Advent means '**coming**' or '**arrival**'.

It's the period of time before **Christmas**, where we look forward to and prepare to celebrate **Jesus** coming to Earth in human form - to **save** us from sin. At this time we also look forward to when Jesus will **return** a second time!

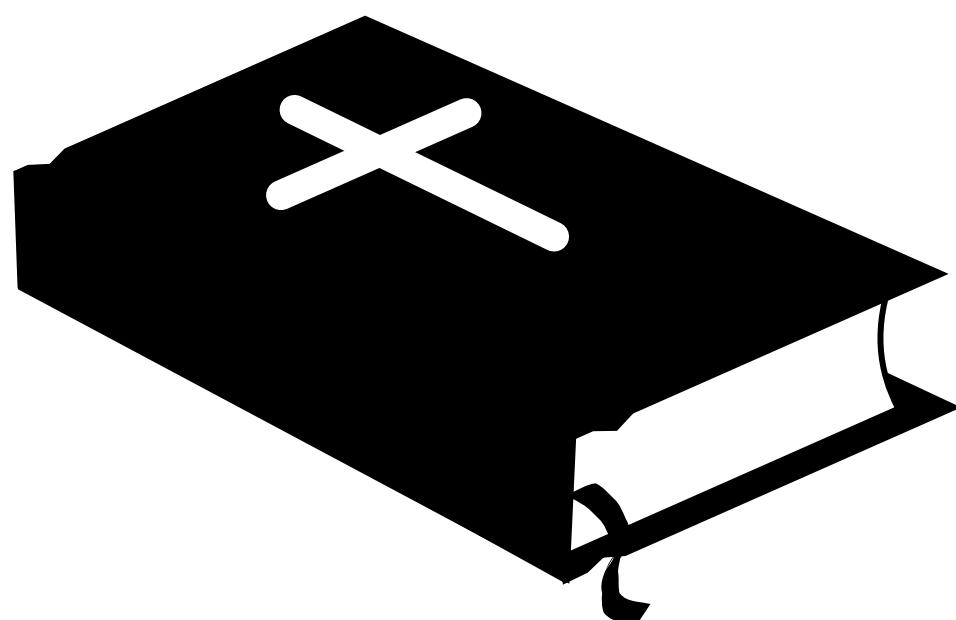


How can we celebrate Advent?

Advent takes place over the four weeks leading up to Christmas and people celebrate and prepare in different ways. Reading Bible passages pointing towards the birth of Jesus is one way to remind yourself of the real reason we celebrate Christmas and is a great way to keep your hearts and minds Christ-focused amidst all the Christmas celebrations.

The following pages contain a plan of Bible readings for each week of Advent as a guide to help you with where to start when exploring God's word this Christmas. You can read the passages on your own, as a family or maybe with friends!

If you have any questions about the passages feel free to ask any of the youth leaders who will be happy to help.





Week 1: Old Testament prophecies

3

These readings for the first week show us why Jesus being born was so amazing! Jesus' birth was promised long ago and these promises were written down from right at the beginning of the Bible in Genesis. God had planned all along that He'd come to Earth and save His people. And these passages help us to see that God keeps His promises and that means He will keep His promise of Jesus' second coming too.



Readings:

- Genesis 3:14-15
- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 11:1-10



Questions to think about

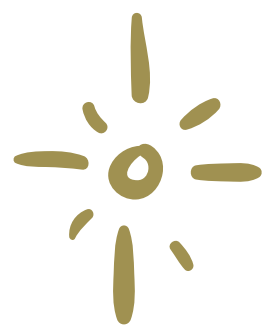
Genesis 3v14-15:

- Who do you think the offspring is who will crush the serpent?
- Who is the serpent?

Isaiah passages:

- Find out what the name 'Immanuel' means from **7v14**.
- Isaiah **9v6-7** shows us what Jesus is like and that He is God!
- Who is the 'shoot' described in **11v1-10**?

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/preparing-for-advent-4-scriptures-to-read-as-family-each-week.html>



Week 2: The story of Jesus' birth



For week 2 of Advent we're looking at Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Giving you a detailed insight into the events that led up to Jesus' birth, you can also see how the Old Testament prophecies we looked at last week have been fulfilled! The passage is quite long but feel free to read a bit each day of the week.



Reading:

- Luke 1: 5-2:52



Notes

Week 3: Jesus saves!

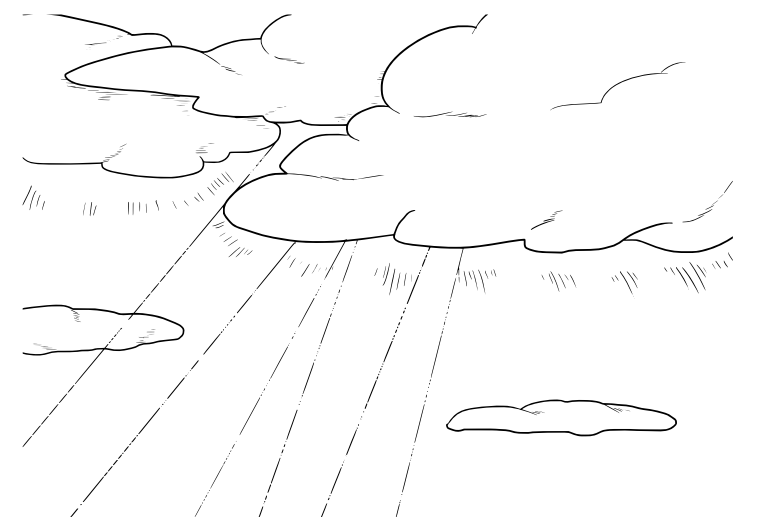
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This week's passages remind us of why Jesus came to Earth. Which is why it's good to not only remind ourselves of His birth, but also Jesus' life and how He saved us from sin through His death and resurrection. God's grace, love and majesty shown through Jesus, is so important to remember as well as share with family and friends.



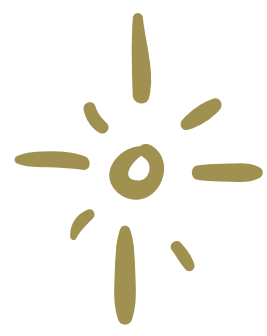
Readings:

- John 1:1-18
- Colossians 1:19-20
- John 3:16-17
- Romans 5:8



Questions to think about

- **John 1v14** sums up the Christmas story in one sentence - who do you think the 'Word' refers to?
- In **Colossians 1v20** what does the word reconcile mean?
- **John 3v16-17** is a good reminder of the message of the Gospel, and is a useful passage to remember!



Week 4: Giving

6

This final week of Advent we're looking at passages that teach us about giving and what the Bible says about it. As Christmas draws near we may often focus on the material side of things like the gifts we might receive. But these verses help remind us that the treasures stored up in heaven are eternal, therefore we should give freely and not store up what we have on Earth because these are only temporary. The true gift at Christmas is the good news of Jesus so let's share this with family and friends!

Readings:

- Luke 12:33-34
- Matthew 6:19-21
- James 1:17
- 2 Corinthians 9:7



Question to think about

- What do you think 'the treasures in heaven' refers to in some of these passages?

Christmas Cookie

7

Recipe

Ingredients

100g unsalted butter, softened at room temperature

100g caster sugar

1 free-range egg, lightly beaten

275g plain flour

1 tsp vanilla extract

To decorate 400g icing sugar

3-4 tbsp water

2-3 drops food colourings

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale, light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time, until well combined.

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<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/user/332751/recipe/christmas-cookies>

Christmas Cookie

Recipe



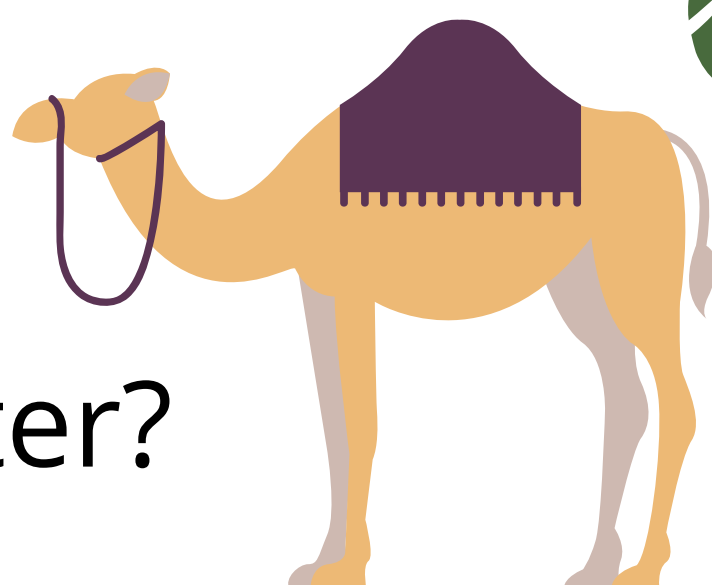
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4. Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.
5. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 1cm/½in.
6. Using biscuit cutters or a glass, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray. To make into Christmas tree decorations, carefully make a hole in the top of the biscuit using a straw.
7. Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, then cool on a wire rack.
8. For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.
9. Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife. Set aside until the icing hardens.

Christmas Jokes

9

If you're missing the cheesy jokes from Christmas crackers then here I am to supply you with some cringe-worthy Christmas jokes to tell your friends and family this year.

1. What is the best Christmas present in the world? *A broken drum, you just can't beat it.* 
2. What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!* 
3. How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when He was born? *They had a weigh in a manger!*
4. What carol is heard in the desert? *O Camel ye Faithful!* 
5. What athlete is warmest in winter? *A long jumper!*



<https://inews.co.uk/light-relief/jokes/christmas-jokes-funny-best-one-liners-list-219750>

Merry
Christmas!

