

# Countdown to Christmas

An Advent Celebration



Written by Marty Elwell  
Illustrations by Rebecca Moseley

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## An Advent Celebration

Setting aside the month before Christmas to reflect on Jesus' coming has been a tradition since the 6th century and is referred to as Advent. The word "advent" comes from the Latin and means "the coming." The custom of lighting a candle or candles on each of the four Sundays before Christmas has been part of many cultures. The Viking Christians were the ones who created the Advent wreath.

This Countdown to Christmas booklet continues in the Advent tradition with a Bible reading and poem for each day from November 30 to December 26. After reading the Scripture, ask and answer the questions: "What does the Scripture mean?" and "Why is that important to know?" A black and white booklet that can be colored in daily by a child is also available.

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## December 26—Revelation 1:5b-8

Jesus as a reigning king,  
one day he will come back;  
The Bible states that clearly.  
It is a known fact.  
Everyone will see him  
when he comes down in a cloud.  
And angels will accompany him  
with trumpets blasting loud.  
That day will be majestic;  
Every knee will bend.  
For the people who love Jesus,  
it's the coming of a friend.  
And so that we are ready  
for that great and glorious day,  
We put our faith in Jesus  
and follow in his way.



# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

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## November 30—2 Peter 1:16-21



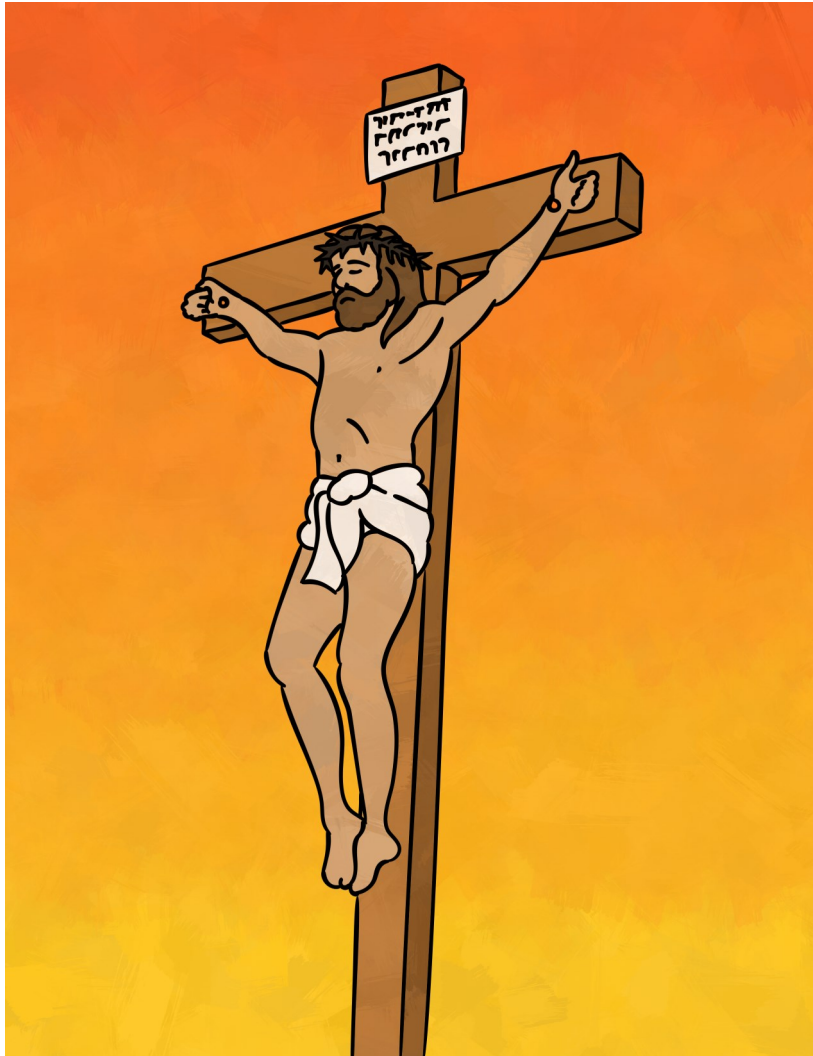
The prophets long ago  
spoke of the coming King.  
God would send his Son to earth,  
salvation he would bring.  
At Christmas we do celebrate  
our precious Savior's birth,  
When Jesus the Messiah  
came to live upon the earth.

## December 25—John 20:29-31



As you open presents,  
you find underneath the tree,  
Remember that the greatest gift  
is the one you cannot see.  
The gift God gives through Jesus  
is the greatest gift of all,  
Coming as our Savior,  
born in an animal stall.

## December 24—1 Peter 2:21-25



So at Christmas honor Jesus  
and worship him with glee.  
Remember those who came to him  
and bowed on bended knee.  
Jesus is the Son of God,  
the one and only King.  
By dying on the cross for us ,  
salvation he did bring.

## December 1—Luke 1:26-33



Jesus' mother was a virgin  
who lived in Nazareth town.  
To speak to her the Father  
sent the angel Gabriel down.  
Gabriel said that Mary  
would have a special baby boy.  
She would bear the Son of God  
to bring all people joy.

## December 2—Luke 1:34-38



Mary was quite frightened,  
her heart was full of dread,  
But she listened to the angel  
and trusted what he said.  
She knew that she would suffer  
for bearing God's own Son,  
But she humbly gave herself to God,  
that his will, not hers, be done.

## December 23—John 3:16-19



The prophecies have been fulfilled  
but many still reject God's Son.  
They don't want to bow to Jesus;  
they don't believe he is the one.  
At Christmas we should think about  
how Jesus is our light,  
He came to cleanse us from our sin  
and make our dark hearts right.

## December 22—Luke 1:76-80



God said he'd send a prophet,  
just before the Savior came,  
To prepare the hearts of men  
by speaking of their shame.  
Jesus said that John  
was the one the Father sent,  
And in order to be baptized  
it was to John that Jesus went.

## December 3—Matthew 1:18-25



Mary was engaged to Joseph,  
pledged to be his loving bride.  
Even though the baby wasn't his,  
he stayed right by her side.  
An angel had told Joseph  
to take Mary as his wife,  
Because by the Holy Spirit  
the child was given life.

## December 4—Luke 2:1-5



God had chosen Bethlehem  
as the birthplace of his Son,  
So people of all nations  
would know he was the One.  
To get there Mary and Joseph  
came from Nazareth far away.  
But Bethlehem was crowded,  
and there was no place to stay.

## December 21—Micah 5:2



The Savior would be born  
in King David's own hometown.  
So Bethlehem would be the place  
where the baby would be found.  
Jesus' earthly parents  
lived in Nazareth far away,  
But by the king's decree  
they were in Bethlehem that day.



## December 20—Jeremiah 23:5-6



The Savior'd be of David,  
a good and faithful king.  
Salvation to all people  
is the gift that he would bring.  
Jesus' royal lineage  
fulfilled the prophet's sign,  
As both Mary and good Joseph  
were from King David's line,

## December 5—Luke 2:6-7



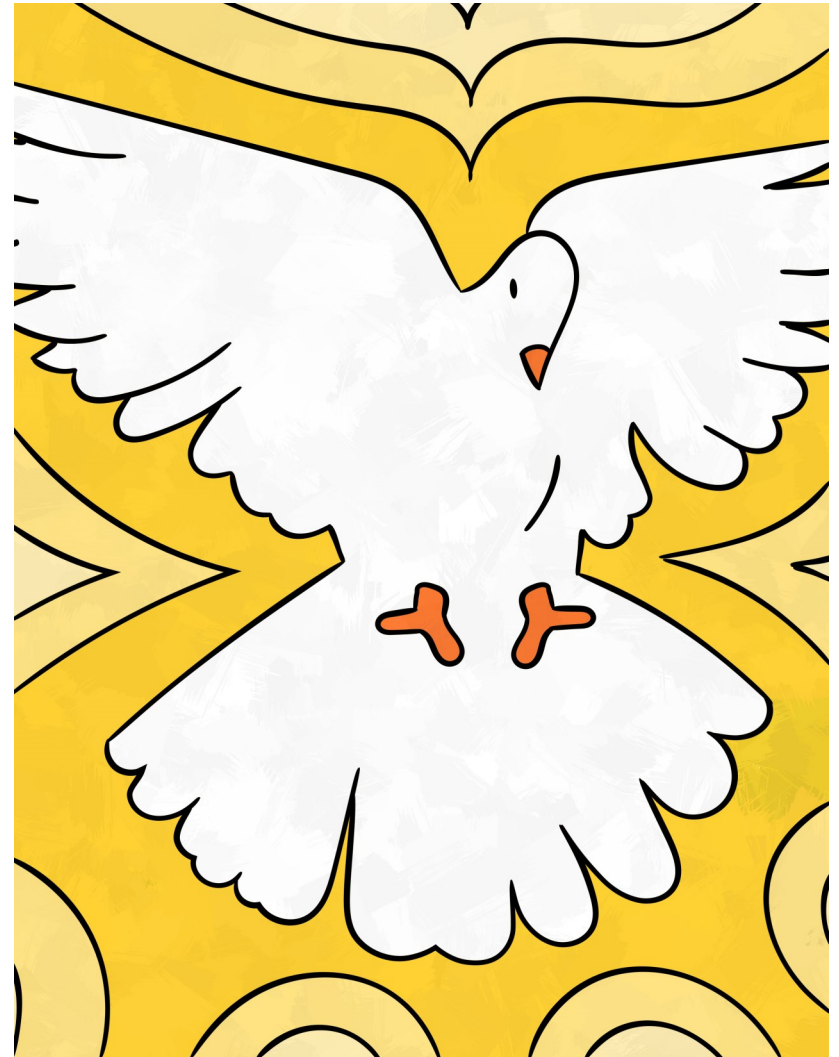
They found a little stable  
where animals live and eat.  
There Mary bore a baby boy  
and wrapped him in a sheet.  
And so God's Son came to earth,  
born in an animal stall.  
The baby in the manger  
is the gift God sent to all.

## December 6—Luke 2:8-9



Shepherds were out in the fields  
taking care of all their sheep.  
Through the entire night,  
good watch they had to keep.  
That night as they were shepherding  
a light lit up the sky,  
And angels started singing,  
“Glory to the Lord on high.”

## December 19—Isaiah 7:13-14



Isaiah said a virgin  
would have a baby boy.  
He would save God's people  
and fill their hearts with joy.  
Jesus' mother was a virgin;  
Mary hadn't been a wife.  
And so the Holy Spirit  
was the one who gave Christ life.

## December 18—Isaiah 9:6-7



Remember that God's prophets  
long foretold of Jesus' birth,  
That the Father up above  
would send a Savior to the earth.  
The prophets promised many signs  
the Savior's birth would show,  
So when God's Son came to earth  
the people'd surely know.

## December 7—Luke 2:10-14



The shepherds were quite frightened  
at the awesome sight.  
An angel told them what occurred  
in Bethlehem that night.  
In an animal stable  
was born a baby boy.  
The Son of God had come to earth  
to bring all people joy.

## December 8—Luke 2:15-16



The shepherds were excited  
and knew that they should go,  
To find the baby Jesus  
and see if it was so.  
They hurried to the stable  
and found the baby there,  
Jesus in the manger  
under Mary's loving care.

## December 17—Matthew 2:12



God warned the men in a dream,  
to go home a different way,  
So King Herod wouldn't know  
where the baby king did lay.  
Herod was quite evil,  
he would have killed the child.  
The Savior Herod needed  
was that baby meek and mild.

## December 16—Matthew 2:11



The wise men bowed before him,  
down upon the ground,  
Grateful that the one they sought  
they had finally found.  
Frankincense, gold and myrrh  
were the gifts that they did bring,  
Following a star  
on their quest to find the king.

## December 9—Luke 2:17-20



The shepherds spread the good news  
of what they'd seen and heard,  
That Jesus was the Savior  
God had promised in his Word.  
The gospel is the good news  
that God sent to earth his Son,  
To give his life as a sacrifice,  
so sin is overcome.

## December 10—1 Peter 1:18-21



The shepherds praised their God  
for the Savior he did send,  
To bring his peace to all the earth  
and sinful hearts to mend.  
God's Son would live a perfect life  
and never, ever sin.  
The perfect lamb of God would die  
to save the souls of men.

## December 15—Matthew 2:9-10



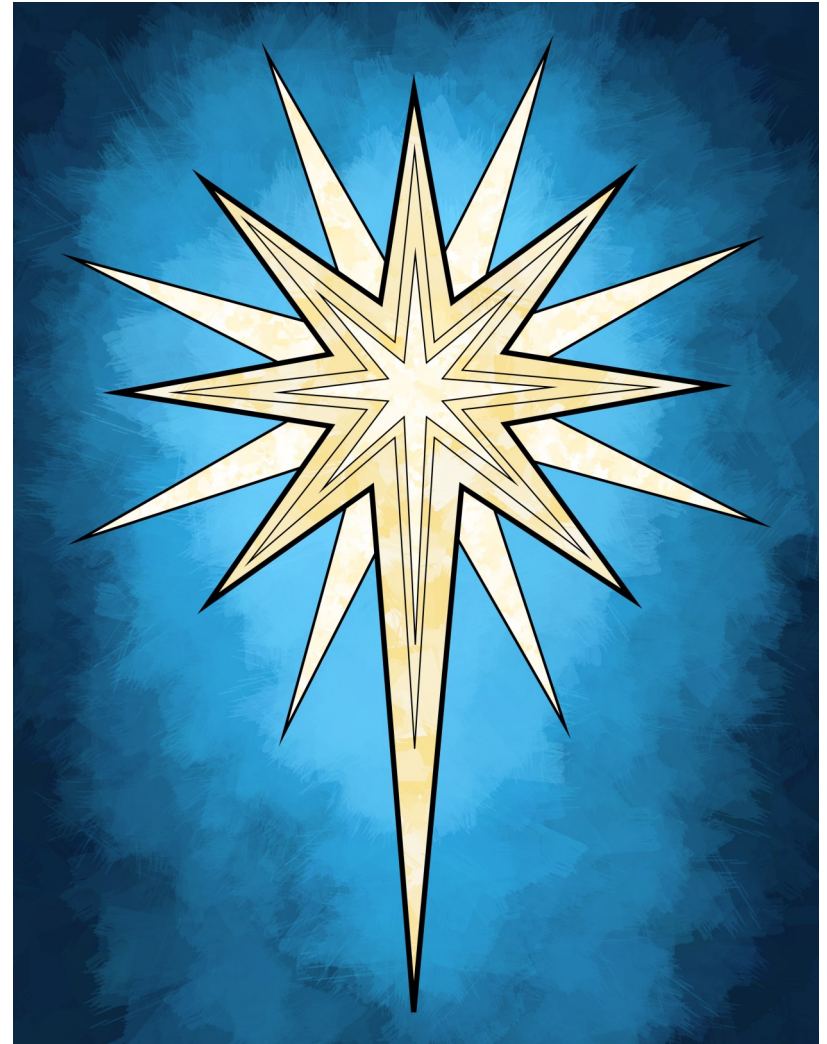
So once again the wise men  
looked up to the sky,  
And followed that unusual star  
shining down from high.  
Till over a small dwelling  
that star did come to rest,  
And Mary they did find there,  
with Jesus at her chest.

## December 14—Matthew 2:3-8



King Herod was quite puzzled,  
there was no baby there,  
So into the wise men's faces,  
he could only stare.  
He said to come back to him  
when they found the baby king.  
The place the baby lived  
was news that they should bring.

## December 11—Numbers 24:17a



Far away from Bethlehem,  
the town of Jesus' birth,  
Some wise men looked up in the sky  
far above the earth.  
A bright, unusual star in the sky  
was what was seen.  
They questioned and they wondered  
what that different star could mean.

## December 12—Isaiah 9:1-2



They studied ancient documents,  
they tried to understand,  
What special thing did happen  
in some far off, foreign land?  
They thought the star was showing  
there was born a special king.  
They determined they should find him  
and royal gifts should bring.

## December 13—Matthew 2:1-2



The wise men started on their quest,  
riding camels far,  
Following the leading  
of that very special star.  
The star hung over Judah,  
so the king they stopped to see,  
Asking where the baby was,  
where they would find him be.