

Countdown to Christmas

An Advent Celebration Coloring Booklet



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.



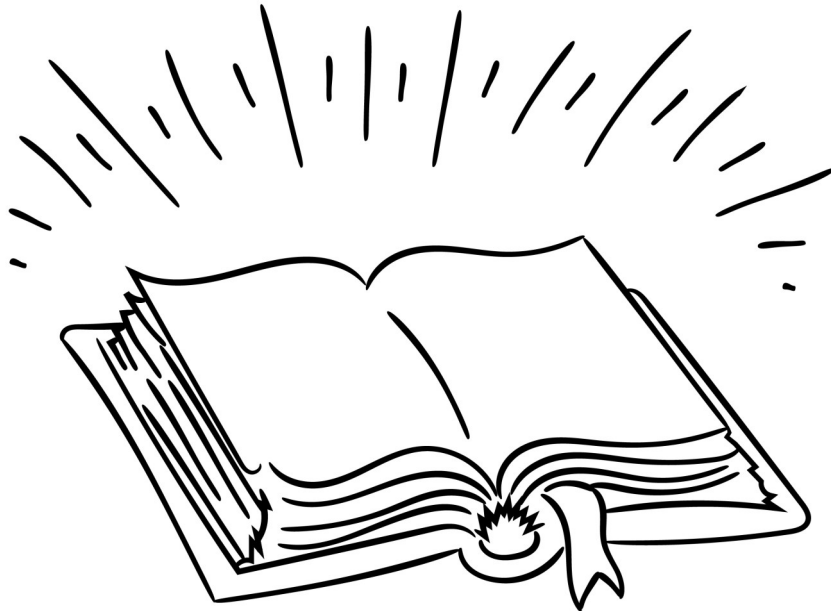
COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

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November 30—2 Peter 1:16-21



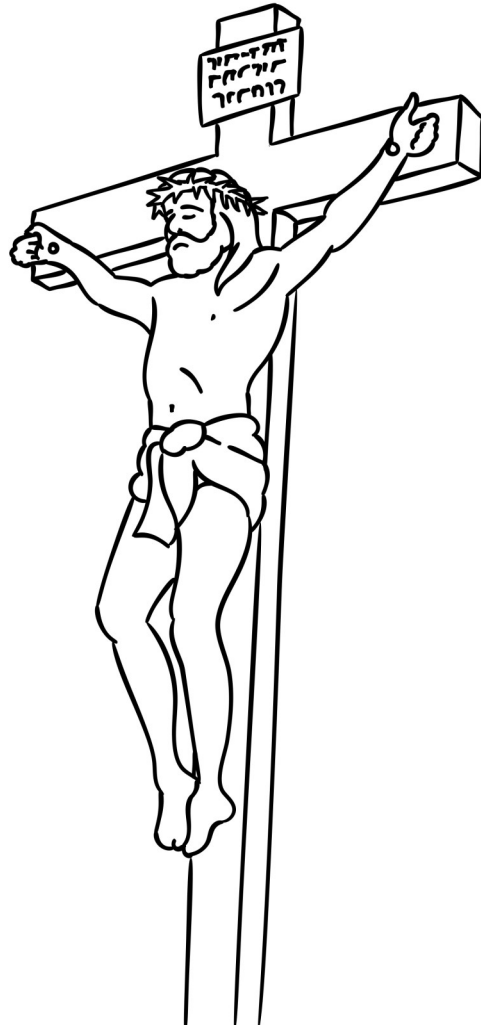
The prophets long ago
spoke of the coming King.
God would send his Son to earth,
salvation he would bring.
At Christmas we do celebrate
our precious Savior's birth,
When Jesus the Messiah
came to live upon the earth.

December 25—John 20:29-31



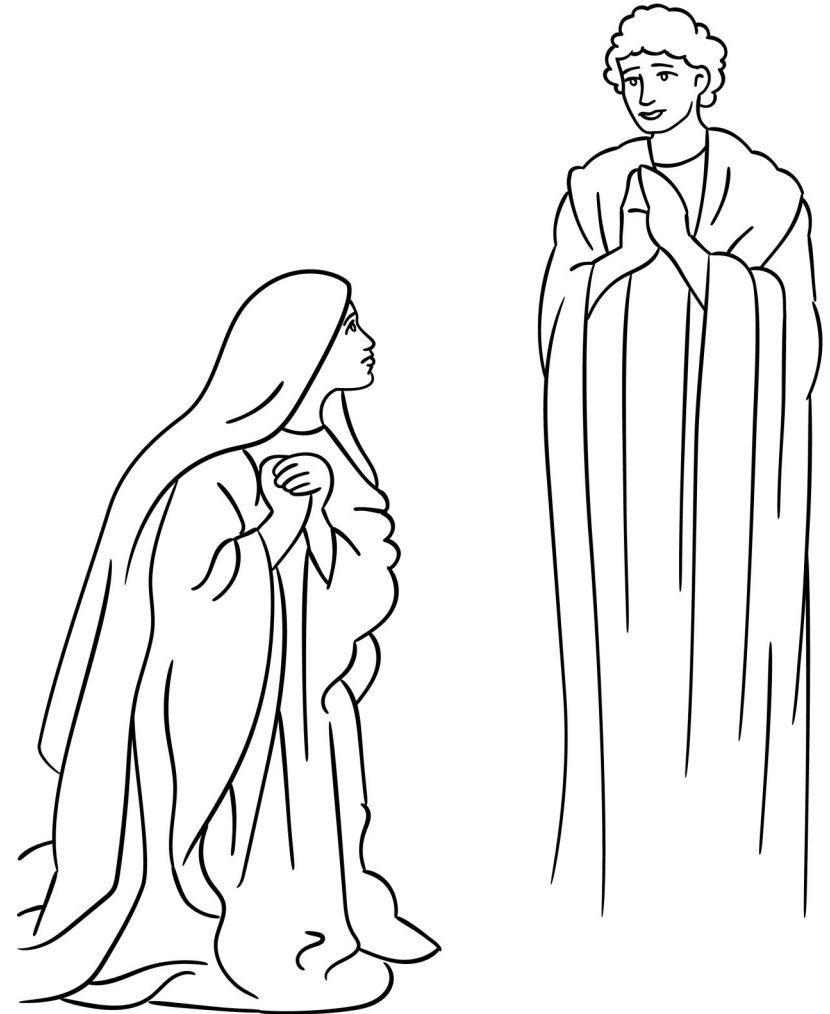
As you open presents,
you find underneath the tree,
Remember that the greatest gift
is the one you cannot see.
The gift God gives through Jesus
is the greatest gift of all,
Coming as our Savior,
born in an animal stall.

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 for us on the cross,
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



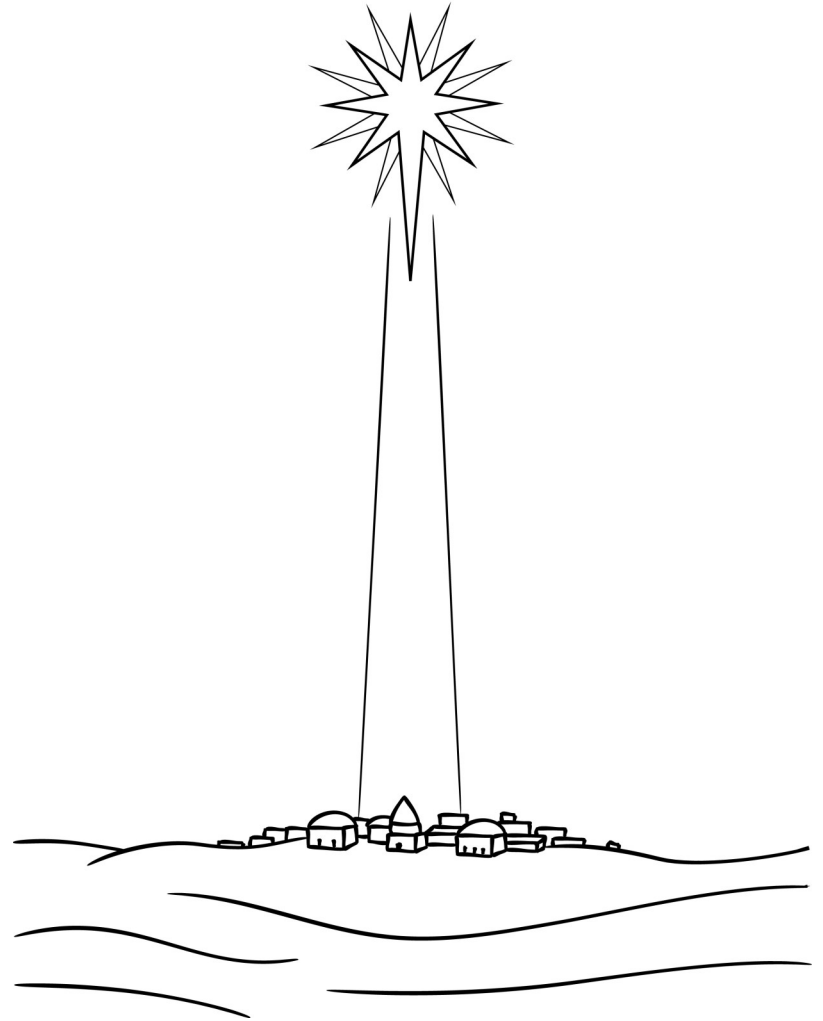
Mary was engaged to Joseph,
pledged to be his loving bride.
Even though the baby wasn't his,
he stayed right by her side.
An angel had told Joseph
to take Mary as his wife,
Because by the Holy Spirit
the child was given life.

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



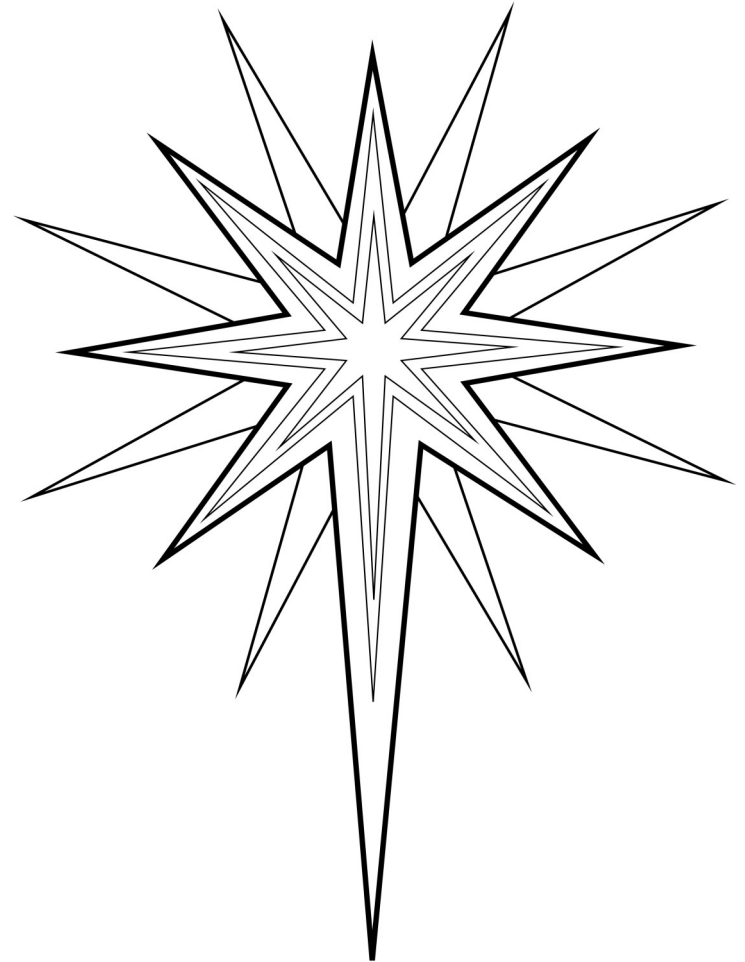
So once again the wise men
looked up to the sky,
And followed that unusual star
shining down from high.
Till over a small dwelling
that star did come to rest,
And Mary they did find there,
with Jesus at her chest.

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



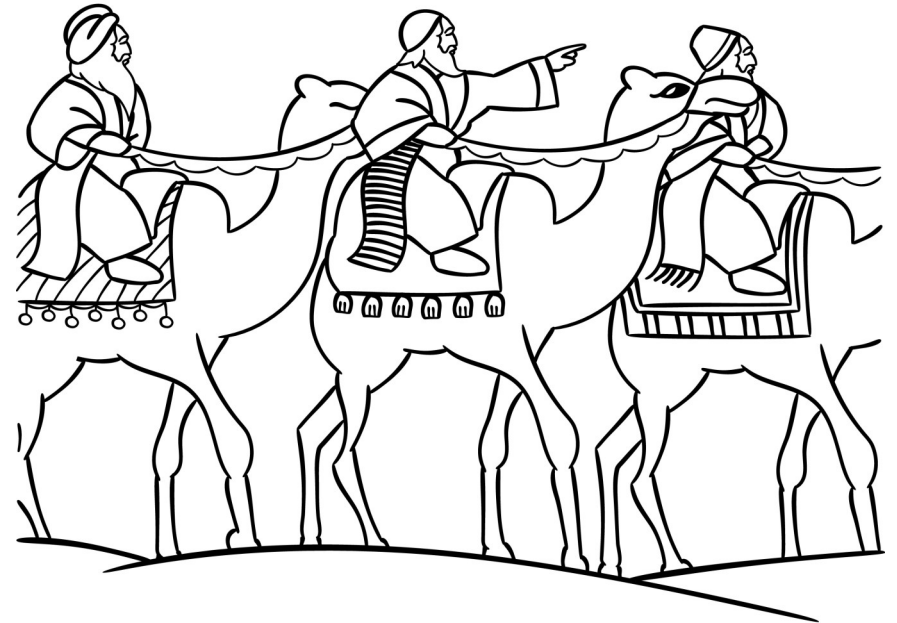
Far away from Bethlehem,
the town of Jesus' birth,
Some wise men looked up in the sky
far above the earth.
A bright, unusual star in the sky
was what was seen.
They questioned and they wondered
what that different star could mean.

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.