

# ADVENT



# CALENDAR 2017

Gather around and READ God's story of compassion one day at a time. Then go and DO the suggested activities and write your own story of compassion as a family.



26

**FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN . . . AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. – ISAIAH 9:6**

Look for a blessing from God today and thank Him for it.

27

**“BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH, THOUGH YOU ARE SMALL AMONG THE CLANS OF JUDAH, OUT OF YOU WILL COME FOR ME ONE WHO WILL BE RULER OVER ISRAEL. – MICAH 5:2**

Return a shopping cart for a stranger at a store or do a random act of kindness

28

**THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL. – ISAIAH 7:14**

Write a thank you note for your mail carrier and leave it in your mailbox.

29

**A YOUNG COUPLE, MARY AND JOSEPH, GET ENGAGED.**

Give up your spot in line. (They'll be so thankful!)

30

**ONE DAY, GOD SENDS THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY. HE HAS SOME VERY SPECIAL NEWS!**

Let someone go ahead of you in a line at school or a store.

1

**MARY IS GREATLY TROUBLED WHEN SHE HEARS THE ANGEL'S GREETING.**

Take today to not complain about anything!

2

**GABRIEL RESPONDS TO MARY: “DON'T BE AFRAID; GOD IS VERY HAPPY WITH YOU!”**

Hold the door open for someone today!

3

**GABRIEL TELLS MARY THE SPECIAL NEWS: SHE WILL HAVE A BABY BOY, AND HE WILL BE NAMED JESUS.**

Write an e-mail or make a phone call to a grandparent, aunt or uncle.

4

**GABRIEL SHARES MORE DETAILS OF GOD'S PLAN WITH MARY: “JESUS WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED GOD'S VERY OWN SON!”**

Give compliments to three different people today.

5

**MARY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE CAN HAVE A BABY WITHOUT BEING MARRIED, BUT THE ANGEL GABRIEL ASSURES HER: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.**

Share a candy cane with a friend.

6

**“I SERVE GOD WITH MY LIFE AND WANT ALL THAT YOU HAE SAID TO HAPPEN,” MARY TELLS THE ANGEL, AND HE LEAVES.**

Help someone do a chore or other job. (And sing Christmas carols while you work!)

7

**MARY VISITS HER COUSIN ELIZABETH AND IS SO OVERWHELMED WITH GOD'S GOODNESS THAT SHE SINGS A SONG OF PRAISE.**

Do yard work or shovel snow for a neighbor. (And sing more carols!)

8

**AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM AND SAID, “JOSEPH SON OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY HOME AS YOUR WIFE, BECAUSE WHAT IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.” – MATTHEW 1:20**

Put seeds outside for the birds.

9

**CAESAR AUGUSTUS WANTS TO KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HIS EMPIRE, SO HE TELLS ALL THE PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN TO BE REGISTERED AND COUNTED.**

Donate books you no longer need.

10

**SO JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM THE TOWN OF NAZARETH IN GALILEE TO JUDEA, TO BETHLEHEM THE TOWN OF DAVID, BECAUSE HE BELONGED TO THE HOUSE AND LINE OF DAVID. HE WENT THERE TO REGISTER WITH MARY, WHO WAS PLEDGED TO BE MARRIED TO HIM AND WAS EXPECTING A CHILD. – LUKE 2:4-5**

Pray for your Pastors.

11

**WHILE JOSEPH AND MARY ARE IN BETHLEHEM, THE TIME COMES FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN.**

Call a faraway friend or relative.

12

**MARY GIVES BIRTH TO JESUS, WRAPS HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAYS HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THEM ANYWHERE ELSE.**

Leave a happy note for someone to find.

13

**THE SKY LIGHTS UP - GOD HAS SENT AN ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS TO TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS.**

Pray for someone today who is lonely.

14

**WHEN THE SHEPHERDS SEE THE ANGEL, THEY'RE AFRAID!**

Bring coffee to your teachers or coworkers.

15

**THE ANGEL TRIES TO CALM THE SHEPHERDS: “DON'T BE AFRAID - I BRING WONDERFUL NEWS THAT WILL BRING JOY TO ALL OF THE WORLD!”**

Ask your family members their favorite Christmas song. Sing it together!

16

**“A SAVIOR - THE RESCUER YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR IS BORN TODAY!” THE ANGEL PROCLAIMS TO THE SHEPHERDS.**

Put money in the Salvation Army bucket.

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17

**THE ANGEL EXPLAINS THAT THE SHEPHERDS WILL FIND THE BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.**

Put your phone away while spending time with someone.

18

**MORE ANGELS COME TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS - THEY ARRIVE AT THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD AND BEGIN PRAISING GOD!**

Text someone an encouraging message to start their day.

19

**"TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. THIS WILL BE A SIGN TO YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER." – LUKE 2:11-12**

Spread encouragement on social media.

20

**AFTER THEY SEE THE BABY, THE SHEPHERDS EXCITEDLY GO AND TELL EVERYONE THEY RUN INTO THE GOOD NEWS!**

Take a treat to the police or fire station.

21

**BUT MARY TREASURED UP ALL THESE THINGS AND PONDERED THEM IN HER HEART. – LUKE 2:19**

Tell someone that Jesus loves them today!

22

**THE SHEPHERDS RETURN TO THEIR FLOCKS, PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD.**

Leave a large tip and write a nice note for your waiter or waitress.

23

**MARY NAMES THE BABY JESUS JUST AS THE ANGEL HAD TOLD HER TO DO.**

Candy cane bomb the cars in the parking lot.

24

**GOD HAS SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE US BECAUSE HE LOVES US!**

Take the time to really listen to someone today!

25

**THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US. WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY SON, WHO CAME FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. – JOHN 1:14**

Read God's story of compassion from Luke 2. Merry Christmas! God loves you!

**Luke 2:1-21** 1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. 21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.