



# FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

DECEMBER 1

## **JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Gather as a family and light a candle or shine a torch. Sing a Christmas carol about Jesus, e.g. Away in a Manger or Silent Night.

### **Scriptures**

John 8:12; Isaiah 9:2

### **Read**

Before Jesus was born, the Bible says people were walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). They were longing for someone who would bring light and show them the way to God's plan for them. Jesus was, and is, that person. In John Chapter 8 Verse 12, he announces he is "the light of the world". Jesus is the one we've all been longing for – the light that we follow, our hope for the future.

When we shine a torch on the path in front of us, it is easier to walk that path. When we follow Jesus, the light of the world, we can walk the path of life before us.

As we light candles in this Advent season, let's pause and think of Jesus. He came to Earth as a baby and as our Saviour who lights our way to know God.

### **Share**

What kind of things do we see more clearly when we shine a light on them?

How could your family share the light of Jesus with others this Christmas?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you that you are the light of the world – you light our way to give us hope and purpose. Help us to follow you and your ways of loving and helping others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DECEMBER 2

## **WE BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Give everyone in the family a piece of paper and ask them to draw a member of their family, without lifting the pen from the page. Once everyone is finished – show your pictures to each other and see if you can guess who each person drew!

### **Scriptures**

Galatians 3:26; John 1:12

### **Read**

We are all born into a family. Sometimes family members look similar to each other, but sometimes they don't look alike at all! Sometimes we like doing the same things as other people in our family, but sometimes we might feel like the odd one out. Every person is different, but they are all part of the family.

Some kids live with their mum, their dad, their grandparents or relatives, and some live with other people who care for them. But here's something really special: when we say yes to Jesus, we become part of God's family too!

God's family is full of all kinds of people. We don't all look or sound the same, but we belong together because we believe in Jesus.

At Christmas, we remember how Jesus came to be with us. He came to invite everyone into God's big family – to be loved and belong forever.

### **Share**

What is your favourite thing about being a part of your family?

What is your favourite thing about being a part of God's family?

### **Pray**

Thank you, God, for the gift of family. Thank you that through Jesus, we all belong in your family. May we reach out to others who don't yet know you, and welcome them into your family, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DECEMBER 3

## **WE CAN WORSHIP JESUS**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Sing or listen to a Christmas worship song together.

### **Scripture**

Matthew 2:9-11

### **Read**

When you hear the word ‘worship’, I wonder what comes to mind. Maybe you think of singing songs at church or raising your hands in the air. These are great, but are only part of our worship to God.

When the wise men found the place where baby Jesus was, they were “overjoyed” (Verse 10). This means they were so full of joy it was bubbling over! Their whole lives changed. They bowed down on their hands and knees. This was their way of saying: We know you are God. You’re important. You’re special. They gave him gifts – expensive perfumes that cost them a lot of money. This might seem like a strange gift for a baby, but this was what was given to kings at the time. This was their way of saying: Jesus is worth giving things up for. He’s worth everything.

Just like the wise men, we want to worship Jesus from our hearts. We want to show him that we love him because of who he is and what he means to us in our daily lives.

### **Share**

What are some ways your family could worship Jesus this Christmas?  
How can we show Jesus what he means to us in our daily lives?

### **Pray**

Thank you, Jesus, for being so worthy of our love and worship. Help us to show you how much you mean to us – not only with words and songs, but with our whole lives.

DECEMBER 4

## TRUSTING GOD

### Activity (Optional)

Play a few rounds of Pictionary. Each family member can have a turn choosing and drawing something from the Bible's Christmas story, e.g. An angel, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the stable, the manger, a star.

### Scripture

Luke 1:26-45

### Read

Let's pretend we are Mary. It's just a normal day... until an angel suddenly appears. Ah! The Bible says Mary was really scared – and that makes sense, doesn't it? Seeing an angel appear in front of you would probably make you jump!

Then the angel says she is going to give birth to the Son of God! I wonder how she felt? Shocked? Confused? Full of questions? Probably all of these things.

Let's see what Mary does next. In Luke 1:38, she says, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." Even though Mary was scared, she knew that the angel was from God, and she chose to trust God.

Sometimes we feel shocked, confused and full of questions too, don't we? In those times, let's remember that God is with us. Let's talk to him and trust in him.

### Share

When have you felt like Mary – uncertain and afraid?  
What things can we do to hold on to God in these times?

### Pray

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us so much and always wanting what is best for us. When we feel uncertain or afraid, help us to trust in you. Amen.



DECEMBER 5

## **JESUS CAME TO SERVE**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Go around the circle and say ways that you can serve (or help) someone. Each person has to remember and say the things that have previously been said, adding one more to the end.

### **Scriptures**

Matthew 20:28; Isaiah 42:1

### **Read**

Jesus is the Son of God and the King of all kings. There has never been a person more important than him! But guess what? When Jesus came to Earth, he didn't act like a bossy king. He didn't sit on a fancy throne or make people bring him things. The Bible says he came to serve.

That means Jesus helped people. He washed his friends' feet. He healed the sick. He spent time with people no one else wanted to be near. He listened, cared, and even died for us.

Jesus showed us that being great doesn't mean acting like you're the most powerful. It means loving and helping others.

### **Share**

Why do you think Jesus chose to serve instead of being treated like an earthly king?

How can you serve someone in your family or school this week?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to Earth to serve us. Help us see ways we can be more like you and serve others. Amen.

DECEMBER 6

## **JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Challenge each other in a few thumb wars.

### **Scripture**

John 14:27; Isaiah 9:6

### **Read**

There is a lot of fighting in our world. When we watch or hear about the news, it's easy to see that people really need peace. There are wars in some places, arguments between people, and sometimes even trouble in our own families or friendships. We can feel worried, scared, or lonely.

The Bible calls Jesus the Prince of Peace because one day he will bring perfect peace to the world – and there will be no more fighting or pain!

But Jesus is also the Prince of Peace because he has made a way for us to have peace in our hearts right now – a special kind of peace that comes from God and fills our hearts. God's peace helps us feel calm and safe, even if things around us are difficult or mixed up.

### **Share**

Where do you need peace in your life? OR: Who are some people in your world who need peace at the moment?

This Christmas, how could your family share with others the peace Jesus offers?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you that you give us peace even when things are scary. We pray for peace in our family and in the world around us. Help us to notice the people and places that need peace so we can care for and pray for them. Amen.

DECEMBER 7

## **JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Hide candy canes around the house and race to find as many as you can OR make a candy cane decoration for the Christmas tree, using red cardboard and white tape.

### **Scripture**

John 10:11

### **Read**

Did you know that candy canes have a special meaning? The candy cane shape looks like a shepherd's crook – a stick they use to guide their sheep. This reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He looks after us and shows us which way to go.

The colours on candy canes have special meaning too. The white represents how pure Jesus was – he never sinned and was perfect. The red reminds us of how Jesus died on the cross for us.

Candy canes and other Christmassy treats and traditions are only available around Christmas time, but the joy, love and peace that Jesus brings is available to us all year round!

### **Share**

What is something you really enjoy that is only available around Christmas time?

What is something you'd like to be reminded of all year round? What could be a sign of that?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd, who loves and leads us. When we see candy canes, help us remember who you are and what you have done for us. Amen.



DECEMBER 8

## THE ANGELS PROCLAIMED PEACE

### Activity (Optional)

Make some angel-shaped ornaments out of paper, cardboard or felt, and write a message of peace on them. You can choose to give these to a loved one or hang them on your Christmas tree.

Alternatively, you could make angel halos.

### Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

### Read

On the night Jesus was born, something amazing happened. Out in the fields, some shepherds were watching their sheep, just like they did every night. But this night was different – suddenly, the sky lit up with a bright light, and an angel appeared! The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I have good news that will bring great joy to everyone. Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!” (Verses 8-11).

Then, even more angels filled the sky and sang:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Verse 14).

The angels were celebrating because Jesus had been born. When they said, “Peace on earth,” they were telling us that Jesus came to bring peace – peace between us and God, peace in our hearts, and peace with others.

### Share

Where have you seen God’s peace this week?

Where would you like to see more of God’s peace?

### Pray

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing peace to Earth. When we feel alone and afraid, please remind us that you are with us. Help us to share your peace with others. Amen.

DECEMBER 9

## SERVE WITH LOVE

### Activity (Optional)

Make iced chocolates [or ice-cream sundaes] for each other – with all the fun extras, like whipped cream, marshmallows and sprinkles.

### Scripture

John 13:15-17

### Read

When we take time to make something special for another person, we're showing love the way Jesus did. Jesus was always serving others; washing feet, sharing food, healing people, and showing kindness. So, while you're decorating someone's iced chocolate, it can actually be very special. You're learning to serve with joy. And when we serve with love, even the smallest things (like adding extra marshmallows!) can make someone feel really special.

### Share

How did it feel to make something fun for someone else?

What's one small way you can show Jesus' love to someone this week?

### Pray

Dear God, thank you for showing us love and making us feel special in so many ways. Help us show your love to others this week by doing something special for them. Amen.

DECEMBER 10

## THE GIFT OF WORSHIP

### Activity (Optional)

Take turns to say something that is wonderful about Jesus.

Take as many turns as you like.

### Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

### Read

The Magi were wise men who travelled a long way to find Jesus so they could worship him. They stopped what they had been doing, spent their time and effort to find Jesus, so they could give him gifts and bow before him.

Jesus is amazing and worthy of our worship, attention and praise, but sometimes we get so busy that we forget to spend time worshipping him. Let's go out of our way to worship him, just like the wise men did.

### Share

Why do you think the Magi wanted to meet Jesus?

As a family, how can you spend time getting to know Jesus more?

### Pray

Thank you, God, for Jesus and the life you have given us through him. Help us to take time and create space to worship him and tell him how much he means to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DECEMBER 11

## **FOLLOW THE STAR**

### **Activity (Optional)**

See who can stand in a star shape for the longest. If you are able to, stand on one leg, with your arms out to your sides. The last person still standing wins!

### **Scriptures**

Matthew 2:2; John 8:12

### **Read**

A long time ago, the wise men saw a bright star in the sky. This wasn't just any star. It was a special sign from God! The star guided them on a long journey to find Jesus, the newborn King. Even though they didn't know exactly where he was at first, they followed the star's light and it led them right to Jesus.

How amazing is that? God used a star to show them the way to Jesus. You might look up at the night sky tonight and not see any bright stars pointing the way. So how do we find Jesus? The good news is that we don't need a star because we have Jesus himself. He is with us every day. He speaks to our hearts through his Word (the Bible), through prayer, and sometimes even through other people who help us grow in faith. Jesus helps us to know the right choices to make. He gives us peace when we feel unsure, and he shows us how to live with love, kindness and courage.

### **Share**

In what ways do you think Jesus guides us?

Can you share about a time when Jesus guided you?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, even though we don't have a bright star in the sky that guides us to you, we know you are guiding us in different ways. Help us hear what you are saying to our hearts as we listen to you. Amen.

DECEMBER 12

## **FAMILY TREE**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Together, draw a family portrait (picture) or family tree, and discuss the different people in your family.

### **Scripture**

Matthew 1:1-17

### **Read**

This Bible passage is a tricky one – a big list of names. Did you know this is basically Jesus' family tree? It shows us who Jesus' father was, then his grandfather and great grandfather and great-great grandfather and so on! Kind of cool, right?

You might recognise some of the names in Jesus' family tree, like Jacob or David. This family tree starts with Abraham. Abraham lived about 2000 years before Jesus was born. But in Genesis Chapter 17, God tells Abraham that he will have a son, Isaac. God says, "...I will make an everlasting promise to him and his descendants." God promised that he would send someone special, someone who belonged in this family.

God had planned for over 2000 years for the birth of Jesus. His birth was a part of God's big plan – a plan to save all people, including you and me!

### **Share**

Say one thing that is special about each person in your family.

If you could chat with your great-great-great grandparent, what would you ask them?

### **Pray**

Dear Lord, thank you for creating families. Thank you that we are part of your plan for this world. Please help us each to understand more about your plan for us each day. Amen.

DECEMBER 13

## JESUS AS OUR CORNERSTONE

### Activity (Optional)

Play a game of Jenga or build a small tower using blocks.

### Scripture

Matthew 21:42

### Read

A long time ago, when people built big buildings, they started with something called a cornerstone. It was a big, strong rock that was placed in the corner first, to show the builders where all the other stones should go. It had to be just right because the whole building depended on it!

The Bible says that Jesus is like a cornerstone. He's the most important part of God's church – the family of people who follow him. Just like the cornerstone guided the building, Jesus shows us how to live and love. He helps us stay strong and follow the right path. Everything we do as his followers is built around him.

### Share

What is something that helps you know you're following the right path?  
What things could we do to show Jesus' love to others this Christmas?

### Pray

Dear Jesus, we thank you that you are our cornerstone. You are strong, you guide us and we can depend on you.



DECEMBER 14

## ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

### Activity (Optional)

Go around the family and say one thing you appreciate about each person.

### Scripture

Luke 1:39-45

### Read

Have you ever felt confused, sad, or unsure about what to do? Maybe you had a problem you didn't know how to solve. That's when it really helps to talk to someone who listens and cares – someone like a parent, teacher or friend. They can encourage you and give you hope, courage and confidence to try again.

Elizabeth encourages Mary when she visits her saying, “God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby you will have” (Verse 42, ERV). Elizabeth was Mary's cousin and was able to recognise what Mary was going through, encourage her and bless her.

When we encourage others, we listen to what they're going through and say something that would bless them. Jesus is the best at that! He listens when we pray, he understands our feelings, and he helps us know what is right and good. He encourages us to be brave and keep on doing our best, with his help. We can be like Jesus and Elizabeth too, and encourage the people around us.

### Share

What is something someone does for you or says that makes you feel encouraged?

How can we encourage each other every day?

### Pray

Dear Jesus, thank You for listening to me, helping me, and always being there for me. Please help me to encourage others the way Elizabeth encouraged Mary, and how you encourage me. Amen.

DECEMBER 15

## **BORN IN A STABLE**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Prepare a simple picnic and eat together on a rug – inside or outside.

### **Scripture**

Luke 2:1-7

### **Read**

Jesus was a very special baby, but he wasn't born in a palace, a hospital or even a fancy house. Joseph and Mary were travelling and there were no lovely motel rooms or guest houses available. So, Jesus was born in a stable. Instead of a cot or cradle, Jesus slept in a manger (the food box for the animals). Can you imagine how dirty and smelly it must have been in that stable, with all of the animals around? God could have arranged for Jesus, his Son, the King, to be born anywhere, but he wanted us to understand that he cares about all people, not just the rich or powerful. God chooses to be close to ordinary people in an ordinary way. He shows that he loves everyone, no matter who we are or what we have (or don't have). God chooses to be close to you.

### **Share**

Why do you think God chose for Jesus to be born in a stable rather than in an expensive hotel?

Everyone – whether rich or poor – matters to God. What can we do to show people they matter to God and to us?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you for choosing to come to Earth and live as a human. Thank you for giving up Heaven to be close to us and to understand us. Help us to be willing to go to the places where people need love and help – even if it is uncomfortable for us. Amen.

DECEMBER 16

## GRATEFUL FOR JESUS

### Activity (Optional)

Write a list of things you are grateful for.

### Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### Read

Christmas can be an exciting time of hope and happiness. We often create wish lists and dream about the gifts we might get on Christmas Day. We might even compare our gifts with our friends' or siblings' gifts. Sometimes we get so focused on thinking about what we want that we forget about all the things we already have. It's not wrong to be excited about getting something new, but being thankful for what we have helps us not to become greedy or selfish. We can practise being grateful for what we have, taking notice of the blessings around us – like family, friends, our house or pets, and even the small things we often overlook – like shoes to protect our feet or clean water to drink. Gratefulness reminds us that God always provides for us. And the greatest gift he has given us is Jesus.

### Share

What is something you're thankful for right now?

How can we show gratefulness to God and others this Christmas?

### Pray

Dear Lord, you have given us so many wonderful things. Please help us to remember, every day, to be grateful for what we have and to be generous in sharing with others. Amen.

DECEMBER 17

## THE CHARACTERS OF CHRISTMAS

### Activity (Optional)

Write a character from the Christmas story on a sticky note and place it on someone's head, without letting them see. As a family, answer their questions to help them guess their character.

### Scripture

Luke 2:1-21

### Read

In the Christmas story, every person had a special part to play. Mary gave birth to Jesus, Joseph protected his family, the shepherds spread the good news, and the angels announced Jesus' birth. All of these people had a part to play in God's big story, with Jesus as the main character. The story is about God's love for all people. An amazing thing about God's story is that it started before the world was created and it will go on forever. Every person has a part to play in this story. Whether we are singing songs of praise like the angels, bringing gifts to worship like the wise men, or telling everyone about Jesus like the shepherds, we all matter in God's big story.

### Share

Which Christmas story character do you think you're most like, and why? How can you help someone else feel like they're part of God's story this Christmas?

### Pray

Dear Lord, as we learn more about your big story, we remember how loving and creative you are. Please help us to understand more of the part we have to play in this story. Amen.

DECEMBER 18

## JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Activity (Optional)

Make a meal together, giving every family member a job.

### Scripture

John 6:35

### Read

Food brings people together. It fills our stomachs and makes us feel at home. There's something so nice about sharing meals at Christmas time: Christmas food, traditions and family around the table. But food is about more than traditions and taste; it sustains us.

I wonder what is the longest you've gone without eating? When our stomachs are empty for too long, we start to feel hungry, and we can even start to feel weak and dizzy. It's hard for us to do the things we need to do.

In the same way, when we don't have Jesus in our lives, we can feel like something important is missing. In the Bible, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." He is saying that he is the one who can meet our needs. Food fills our tummies, but Jesus fills our hearts and lives with love, joy, peace and friendship with God!

### Share

When you are very hungry, what do you like to eat?

What is something you could do to remind yourself that Jesus is the one you need most?

### Pray

Dear Jesus, thank you for reminding us that you are our daily bread. Help us remember that it is not just food we need to live, but that we also need you to sustain us. Amen.

DECEMBER 19

## CROWN OF PEACE

### Activity (Optional)

Make some paper crowns that fit your head. Decorate with stickers, jewels, hearts and stars.

### Scripture

Isaiah 9:6

### Read

Have you ever seen a king in a movie or a book? They usually wear fancy clothes and a shiny crown, and they live in a big castle. They make rules and lead their people. The Bible tells us that Jesus is our King but he's a different kind of king. He wasn't born in a palace, but in a stable. He didn't wear a golden crown at first, he wore love and kindness wherever he went. He didn't come to be served, but to serve others.

Some people in Jesus' day found it difficult to believe he was their promised King. He didn't charge in and act like he owned the place (even though he does!). Even though he came in a humble way, Jesus is still the greatest king of all. He is the King of Heaven and Earth. He rules with love, peace and truth.

### Share

Why do you think some people in Jesus' day struggled to realise he was the promised King?

What do you think makes Jesus the best king?

### Pray

Dear Jesus,

You are the King of the whole world and deserve our worship and praise. Thank You for being my King. Help me to follow and obey you.

Amen.



DECEMBER 20

## THE GIFT OF JOY

### Activity (Optional)

Play a game of musical statues, using happy Christmas carols music.

### Scripture

Luke 2:9-11

### Read

Christmas is a time when people often feel happy. Tasty food, parties, fun games, singing, decorations and presents can help us to feel happy for a while. But what happens when Christmas is over for the year and all the celebrations finish? Or what happens if we have a Christmas without any of those lovely things? When the angels sang about the birth of Jesus, they said that he would bring great joy for all people. 'Joy' is like happiness in some ways. Joy can make us smile, laugh and sing. But joy is also different to happiness. Happiness is caused by things that are happening around us. Joy comes from the inside. It stays with us even when we are having a terrible day. Joy comes from knowing that God loves us and will always be with us, no matter what happens.

### Share

How could you help tell others about the joy Jesus brings?

If you were an angel, what would you say about Jesus?

### Pray

Dear Lord, it's amazing to think that one tiny baby can bring joy to the whole world! Help us to share that joy with others by telling them about Jesus. Amen.

DECEMBER 21

## **PASS IT ON**

### **Activity (Optional)**

Play a game of Pass the Parcel. Place several small gifts inside the layers. When someone unwraps a gift, they can choose someone else in the circle to give it to.

### **Scripture**

Matthew 28:18-20

### **Read**

The angels sang the message that Jesus, the Son of God had come into the world. As Jesus grew up, he taught his friends about himself and about God. Then Jesus asked them to pass on the message. So, they told other people and also wrote down his messages in books and letters. The letters were sent to other towns and countries and, before long, people all over the world were learning about Jesus. We learn about Jesus today – through reading the same messages, that have been put together to become the Bible.

Jesus was a gift, not just to Mary and Joseph but to all people forever. When we tell other people about Jesus, we are sharing this gift with them.

### **Share**

Can you think of a time when you shared a gift?

Who would you like to share the news about Jesus with?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, thanks for letting us share in the news about you! Help us to understand more about you every day and to pass it on to others. Amen.

DECEMBER 22

## **CHRISTMAS IS JESUS' BIRTHDAY!**

### **Activity (Optional)**

As a family, bake a cake or some cupcakes and decorate them with stars or hearts. Alternatively, you could draw a cake on some paper and decorate it with stars or hearts.

### **Scripture**

Luke 2:1-7

### **Read**

I wonder if you enjoy going to birthday parties? There's usually lots of joy and happiness, special food and presents! People who love the birthday boy or girl come together to celebrate them.

Did you know that Christmas Day is Jesus' birthday? And the whole world can join the birthday party, because he came to save all of us. Everybody on the planet can celebrate Jesus and the joy, peace and love that he brought with him. As we sing Christmas carols, eat special food, laugh and give gifts, let's remember that Jesus is the reason for it all. Jesus came to Earth for us, and that's the greatest gift of all!

### **Share**

What kind of gift do you think Jesus might like to receive from us?  
As a family, what can you do to celebrate Jesus on Christmas Day?

### **Pray**

Dear Jesus, we are so glad that we get to celebrate your birthday at Christmas time. Thank you for bringing hope to Earth. Help us to tell others about you this Christmas so that they can find out how great you are and join the celebration. Amen.

DECEMBER 23

## THE HELPFUL DONKEY

### Activity (Optional)

Donkey race – race from one side of the room to the other on your hands and feet. The first donkey to return wins!

### Scripture

Luke 2:4-6

### Read

Have you ever heard people say that Mary rode on a donkey to Bethlehem? It's a nice picture, and it may have happened, but the Bible doesn't tell us how Mary got there. Back then, donkeys were a common way to travel. They were strong, steady and very helpful. Riding on a donkey would have made a long, hard journey a little bit easier. Especially for someone like Mary, who was about to have a baby! Whether she walked or rode, one thing is clear: she trusted God the whole way. She knew God had a special plan, even when the journey was hard or uncomfortable. Just like Mary, we can trust that God is with us every step of our journey – even when we don't know what's coming next.

### Share

What's the longest journey you've been on?

What helps you trust in God when you're facing something tough?

### Pray

Dear God, thank you that care for us and have good things planned for us. When we go through tough times, help us to remember that you are always close to us. Help us to pray, read the Bible and talk to other Christians who can help and encourage us. Amen.

DECEMBER 24

## THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME!

### Activity (Optional)

Read the Christmas Story together.

### Scripture

Luke 2:1-21

### Read

There is a sense of excitement in the air – can you feel it? Over the past weeks we have been getting ready for Christmas. We've been reading the Christmas story, singing Christmas carols, and preparing for the special day. Maybe you've even been counting down with an Advent calendar!

Did you know that people were waiting with excitement on the first Christmas too? Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, God promised that he would send someone to save his people. He would be the Messiah, which means the 'chosen one' or the 'Saviour'. They didn't know the Messiah's name, but they knew he was going to bring peace, hope and love to the world. So, they waited with excitement. Then, about 2000 years ago, it finally happened! Jesus, the one that God had promised long ago, was born in a stable.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who saved the world. We celebrate with family, friends, giving gifts and eating good food, but the most important thing we are given on Christmas is the hope we have in Jesus our Messiah!

### Share

What is the best part and hardest part about waiting for Christmas?

Which part of Christmas Day are you most excited about?

### Pray

Dear God, thank you for keeping your promise and sending Jesus, the Messiah. Help us to feel the joy and hope that Jesus brings and to remember that you are always faithful. Amen.