

# Christmas Promises



DEVOTIONS &  
Family ACTIVITIES  
for **ADVENT**

# The Promise to Adam and Eve

Brian's three-year-old cousin shrieked with delight. She pointed a purple marker at the equator and began to twirl Brian's new globe in spinning circles. "Mom!" he yelled, "Mikayla's ruining my world."

God faced the same problem when Satan tempted Adam and Eve to ruin his world. "S-s-s-so, Adam and Eve," hissed Satan the snake. "Did God as-s-s-sk you not to eat the fruit in the middle of the garden? You won't die. You'll be s-s-s-smart like God."

Because Adam and Even disobeyed God and ate the fruit, God had to punish them. Adam and Eve would have to die one day. But God promised to send his own Son into the world. Jesus would beat the devil by dying on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. One day Jesus will come back to take us to heaven with Adam and Eve and all people who believe in him.

*Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to save me. Amen.*

Genesis 3:6  
She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

## Advent IDEAS

Make an interactive Advent countdown! Fill small bags with prayers, treats or toys. Open one each night leading up to Christmas.





Take a picture in the same place or in the same outfits every year to see how your family changes and grows.



## The Promise to Abraham

Kaitlyn looked at the park across the street from her new house. Her family had traveled a long way to get here. Everything was new and different. But the park had a giant playground, just like her parents had promised.

Many years ago, God told Abraham and his family to walk far away to a new land that would be strange and different. But he gave Abraham a beautiful promise. God promised that Abraham would have many children in his family. Almost two thousand years later, one of those children would be baby Jesus.

Now, four thousand years later, we walk as children of that promise. We are a part of God's family as we get ready to celebrate the birthday of his Son.

*Jesus, thank you for walking with me and making me a part of your family. Amen.*

## Genesis 12:2

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Draw each of your family members all dressed up for Christmas! Don't have time to take a family picture? Send out your artwork as your Christmas card!



## The Promise of Immanuel

Lucas ran to his mom as she put down her cell. “Mom, what did Aunt Sara and Uncle Brian name their baby?” Mom smiled and hugged him. “They named your new cousin Francesca. That is Grandmother’s name. It’s a nice way of showing our family’s love for her.”

In the Bible, God’s prophet Isaiah tells us that one day the virgin Mary would have a baby boy and call him “Immanuel.” Immanuel means “God with us.” What a good name for Jesus! He is not far away. He is right here, living in our hearts each day. He will never leave us.

*Jesus, I am so glad you are with me every day. Amen.*

- Using markers or colored pencils have each family member draw a festive self-portrait.
- Cut each hand-drawn portrait and adhere onto one card. Scan or photocopy the card.
- Send out to friends and family for a unique Christmas card.

**Isaiah 7:14**  
The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## Micah 5:2

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.

## The Promise of Bethlehem

Skylar couldn't believe he was ice-skating at Rockefeller Center. The most giant Christmas tree he had ever seen rose above him. Everything about New York was big and exciting.

Bethlehem is famous today, but it was a tiny, unimportant town when God picked it to be the birthplace of his Son. From this little town came the Savior of the world. No matter where you live, God helps you in big and small ways. He chose you to be his child and live with him forever.

*Jesus, thank you for choosing me to be your child. Amen.*



Take before-and-after pictures of your tree! Focus on how God is working on us all the time; in him we slowly become sparkly and beautiful!

Family  
**ACTIVITY**





**Christmas Promises** is a collection of 28 Advent devotions and activities to help families prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The word *Advent* means "to come." The devotions are based on the three ways we proclaim Jesus' coming in Advent: his coming as a baby on Christmas morning, his coming to live in our hearts and give us new life, and his final coming on the Last Day to take us home with him. Each daily message includes a simple craft or family activity that you can enjoy together to celebrate the central message of each devotion.

**Ruth Geisler** has authored dozens of devotional activity books for children and families over the last 30 years, including most recently *Countdown to Easter* from Creative Communications for the Parish.

**Katherine Marie** is a professional fun-maker and mess-maker. She and her husband live on a small farm with a handful of kids and animals. You can see more of her crafts and celebrations at [KatherineMaries.com](http://KatherineMaries.com).

