

Countdown to Christmas

Children's Sermons for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve/Day



- A Long Wait • 2 Proud Parents
- A Flock of Shepherds
- A Multitude of Angels • One Baby!

Countdown to Christmas!

A Long Wait

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Advent

Needed: a calendar

Christmas is coming! How many of you are excited about Christmas? How long is it until Christmas? *(Let children respond.)* Christmas is exciting, and it is hard to wait for the day to come. Today I brought a calendar to help us mark off the days until Christmas. I will put a big "X" on today's date *(mark the date on the calendar)*. We have to wait four weeks for Christmas to come. Each day I can mark out a day as I wait.

At the first Christmas people were waiting for Jesus to come. God promised long ago that he would send a Savior. The Savior would be a child, a son, born to us. But God's people had to wait a long time—years and years—for God to keep his promise. They would have needed a lot of calendars to mark those days!

Finally, when the time was right, God kept his promise. God sent his angel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of his Son. Mary had to wait too, for her baby to be born. She waited for nine months! *(Show nine months on the calendar.)* That was a long time, too. But at the right time, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He came to be our Savior. He grew up to die on the cross and rise from the dead so that our sins can be forgiven.

God gave his Son to us, just like he promised. After he died and rose from the dead, Jesus promised that he will come back and we will live with him forever. While we are counting the days until Christmas on our calendar, we can look forward to the wonderful day when Jesus will come again! Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for keeping your promise to send the Savior. We are looking forward to the day when Jesus will come again. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Activities for the First Sunday of Advent

A Long Wait

Isaiah was a prophet.
That means he shared God's Word.

He listened closely to the Lord
And wrote down what he heard.

Can you uncover the message that Isaiah wrote?

Isaiah 9:6

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Find these strange
baby names hidden
in this puzzle.

- WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY
GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER
PRINCE
PEACE
IMMANUEL

H E I D G I N G F G T M
N V O A P M B I A V E R
J E S E Z M T N T E R O
N R G Y Y A A N H R R L
I L G T O N Y S E G I E
G A Q H L U T H R T F S
H S E G P E A C E C I N
T T A I S L R D G O D U
O I U M U Z J G V N D O
X N R N D D F W E K F C
O G P R I N C E L D S I
C W O N D E R F U L V X

Coloring Sheet for the First Sunday of Advent

A Long Wait

Isaiah wrote the happy news that
God was sending us a Son!
Color this picture of the child that
Isaiah dreamed God would send us.



Countdown to Christmas!

2 Proud Parents

A Children's Sermon for the Second Week of Advent

Needed: a book or list of baby names

Before you were born, your parents probably decided what your name should be. Maybe they looked in a book or at a list like this—a list of names for babies. Maybe you are named after one of your grandparents or an aunt or uncle. Or maybe your parents just liked your name and thought it would be perfect for you!

In Bible times parents gave their babies special names too. Sometimes parents gave their baby a name to show their hopes for the baby. They might choose a name that meant the child would grow up to be strong or brave or beautiful. Do you know what your name means? *(Let children respond; look up and share the meaning of your own name.)*

When it was time for God's Son to be born, Mary and Joseph didn't have to choose a name for the new baby. God sent his angel to each of them to tell them the name for this special baby. What name did God choose for his Son? *(Let children respond.)* The name of God's Son would be Jesus! The angel told Joseph, "Call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." The name Jesus means "God saves," and that is why God sent his Son. Jesus came to save us by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Jesus is the perfect name for our Savior! Long before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah said the Savior would have another name too. It is a name we often use at Christmas. The Savior would be called Immanuel, a name that means "God with us." That's who Jesus is—he is our Savior and he God with us, now and forever! Let's pray:

Jesus, you are our Savior. Thank you for dying on the cross and rising from death to win forgiveness for our sins. You are Immanuel, God with us. You will stay with us always. Amen.

Activities for the Second Sunday of Advent

2 Proud Parents

Fill in the blanks with the words below.

“Do not be _____, Mary, for you have found _____ with God.

And _____, you will conceive in your womb and bear a _____, and

you shall call his name _____. *Luke 1:30-31*

behold · Jesus · son · favor · afraid

Drawing

Draw a picture of the angel visiting Mary!



Unscramble these words
from Joseph's story.

SEOJHP _____

MAENMILU _____

REDAM _____

NGALE _____

RYAM _____

While he dreamed in bed one night.
Joseph heard the news as well.
“Mary's child is God's own Son.
He will be Immanuel!”

Coloring Sheet for the Second Sunday of Advent

2 Proud Parents

Mary heard the happy news that she would be the mother of Jesus. Color this picture of Mary and her heavenly visitor!



Countdown to Christmas!

A Flock of Shepherds

A Children's Sermon for the Third Week of Advent

Needed: the front page of a newspaper with headlines; a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd

When something important happens in the world, people want to hear about it. They want to watch the events on the news and read about what happened. Newspapers try to get people's attention with big headlines, like the ones on this front page (*show the paper*).

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was big news! But in Bible times people didn't have newspapers or television or computers or smart phones, so how did they find out that Jesus was born? (*Let children answer.*) God sent his angel to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. They were the first to hear the news that the Savior was born that very day! When the shepherds heard the news, they ran to Bethlehem and found the newborn baby Savior lying in a manger, just like the angel had told them.

We don't know why God chose to tell shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. But maybe it was because the baby in Bethlehem was the great-great-great—lots of greats—grandson of David, the shepherd who wrote the words, "The Lord is my shepherd." Maybe it was because the baby in Bethlehem would grow up to say, "I am the Good Shepherd." (*Show the picture the Good Shepherd.*) Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He takes care of us just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. A shepherd fights off wolves and other enemies that might hurt his sheep. Jesus our Shepherd died on the cross to save us from our enemies of sin, death and the devil.

When the shepherds in Bethlehem found baby Jesus on that first Christmas, they told everyone the good news. They didn't even need newspaper headlines! Like those shepherds, we can tell everyone about Jesus our Good Shepherd! We can tell people that Jesus loves them. Let's pray:

Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd. You take care of us and watch over us every day. Help us to tell other people about your love and care. Amen.

Activities for the Third Sunday of Advent

A Flock of Shepherds

The shepherd David wrote a song about our shepherd – God.
Uncover the words to David's song below.



Psalm 23:1



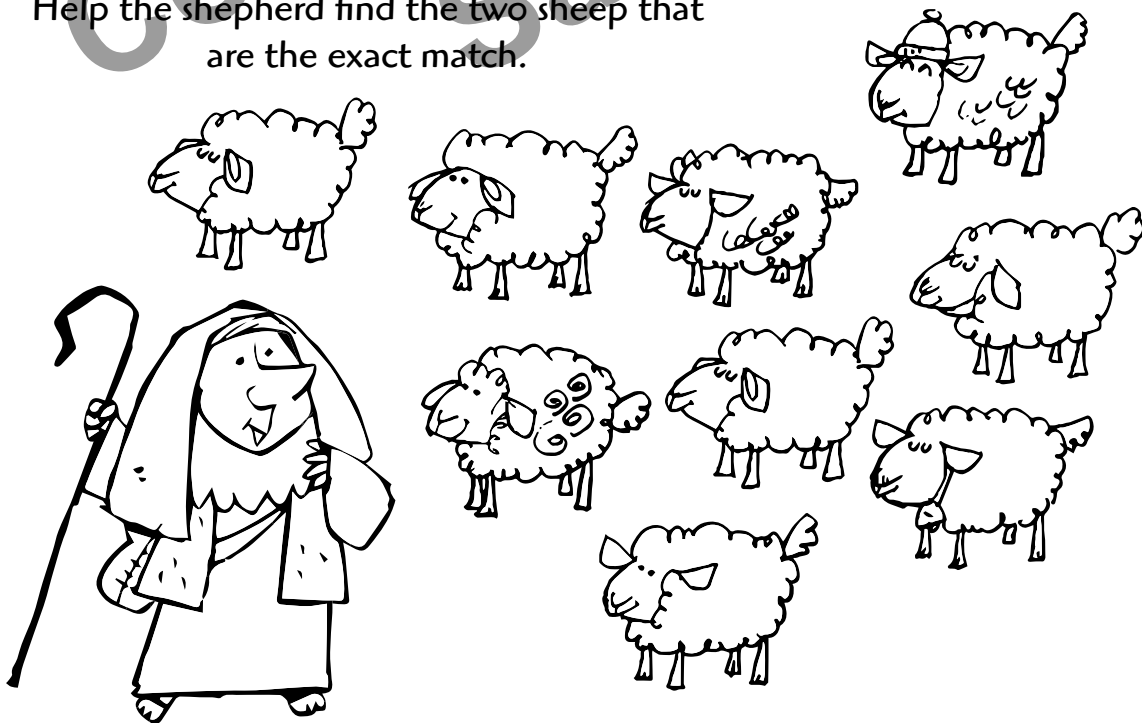
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N



O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Help the shepherd find the two sheep that are the exact match.



Coloring Sheet for the Third Sunday of Advent

A Flock of Shepherds

Color this picture of Jesus,
our Good Shepherd!



Countdown to Christmas!

A Multitude of Angels

A Children's Sermon for the Fourth Week of Advent

Needed: picture of a stadium filled with people; picture of a field of stars

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God sent his angel to tell the good news to shepherds in the fields nearby. The angel said, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Then the Bible tells us that a multitude of angels appeared in the sky to praise God.

How many angels is a multitude? *(Let children guess.)* Turn around and look at the people in church today. How many people make a multitude? *(Let children guess how many people are in church.)* Look at these pictures *(show the stadium and the stars)*. Can you even guess how many people or stars are in these pictures? *(Let children guess.)* A multitude means that there are so many stars or so many people or so many angels that you can't even count them all. On the first Christmas night, the sky was filled with angels, too many angels to count. They all praised God!

When that multitude of angels went back to heaven, the shepherds ran to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. When they found him, they told everyone about the Savior. They probably told them about the multitude of angels too. We can do that too. We know Jesus is our Savior. We can tell our family and friends and neighbors that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. We can tell them that Jesus came to die on the cross to save us. We want other people to believe in Jesus and love him just like we do. Someday in heaven we will be with a multitude of people who believe in Jesus. We will join them and join the multitude of angels in praising Jesus our Savior! Let's pray:

Jesus, thank you for coming to be our Savior. We look forward to the day when we will join a multitude of people and angels in heaven to praise you forever. Amen.

Activities for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Multitude of Angels

Find the words from
the angel's good news
hidden in the puzzle.

ANGEL
SHEPHERD
BETHLEHEM
BABY
SWADDLING
MANGER
SIGN
HOST
PEACE

S E I N G A N G F G T M
W V O A P N B I A V E D
A E S E P G T N T E F R
D R G Y Y E A N H R R E
D B G T O L Y S H G I H
L A Q H L U T H O T F P
I B E G N G I S S C I E
N Y A I S L R D T O D H
G I U M U Z J G V N D S
X N R N D D F W E K F C
O G M A N G E R L D S I
C B E T H L E H E M V X



At once an angel choir appeared
And sang a lovely song
Of peace on earth to all the world.
Now we can sing along.

My favorite Christmas song is: _____

Here's a picture of me singing it.

Coloring Sheet for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Multitude of Angels

Color this angel choir.
Draw a pair of wings on
the angel in the middle!



Countdown to Christmas!

One Baby!

A Children's Sermon for Christmas Eve or Day

Needed: a nativity set with a stable and a variety of figures

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem everyone came together to celebrate the birth of the Savior. God sent a multitude of angels to sing praise. I don't have a multitude of angels, but I have one angel to praise God (*set out the angel figure and the stable*). A flock of shepherds came to see Jesus, and maybe they brought some sheep too (*set out shepherds and sheep*). Two proud parents were there of course! (*Set out the Mary and Joseph figures*.) The wise men weren't there that first Christmas night, but they came later, so we will put them in the scene too (*set up the wise men; add any other nativity figures that you have*).

Our little town of Bethlehem is getting crowded! It's not really a multitude, but there are a lot of people here and angels, too. But someone very important is missing! Who is missing? (*Let children answer*.) One baby is missing, one very special baby! (*Add the manger and baby Jesus*.) Everyone came to Bethlehem to worship God's own Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Mary and Joseph cared for their new baby. Shepherds and angels worshiped him. Wise men brought him gifts. Everyone gathered around that one special baby, the Son of God and our Savior.

Today we are in church to join the shepherds and angels and wise men to worship that one very special baby, Jesus, the Son of God, who grew up to die on the cross and take away our sins. Like the angels we can praise God for sending our Savior. Like the shepherds we can tell other people about Jesus and his love. Today we are celebrating the birth of one very special baby—Jesus our Lord! Let's pray:

Jesus, you were the one special baby born in Bethlehem. You grew up to be our Savior. Thank you for dying on the cross to take away our sins. We love you and we want to tell everyone about you. Amen.

Activities for Christmas Eve or Day

One Baby!

Scramble

Unscramble these words from the story of Jesus' birth.

RGMANE _____

SEJUS _____

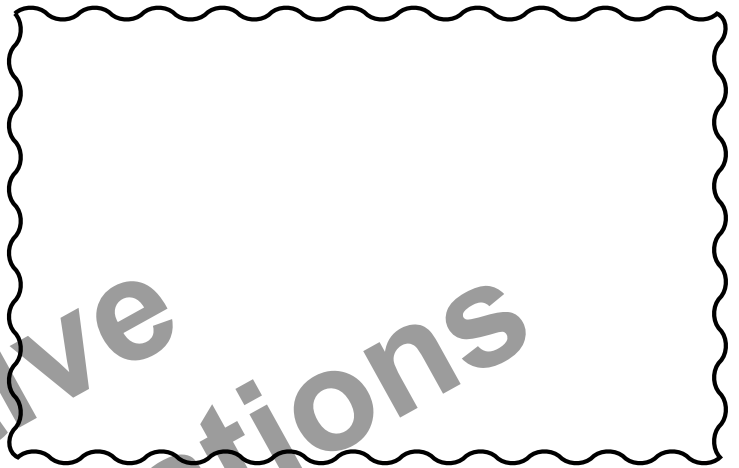
DGO _____

CSTHRI _____

RDOL _____

Drawing

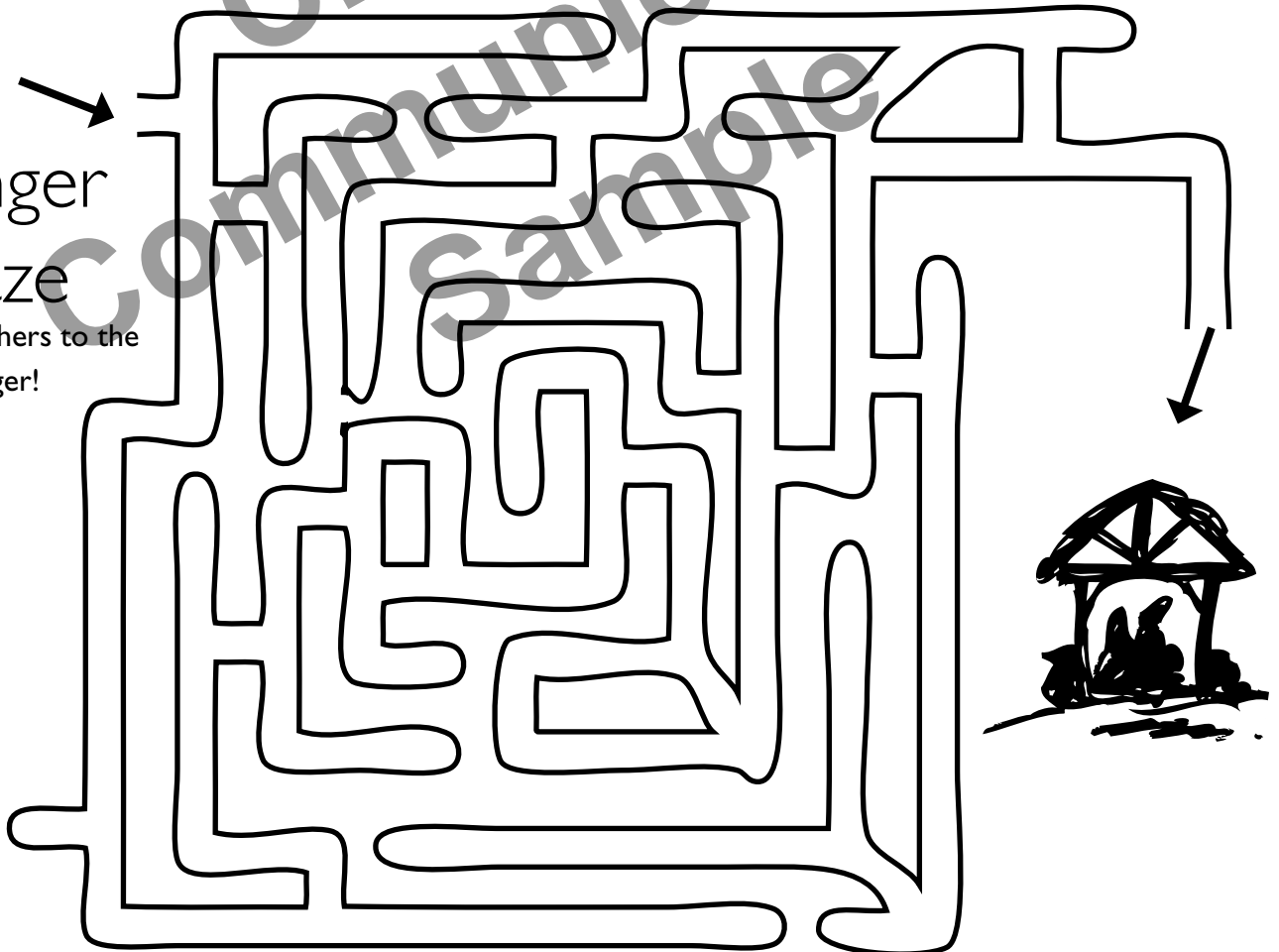
It is Jesus' birthday! Draw a picture of baby Jesus.



Manger

Maze

Help lead others to the manger!



Coloring Sheet for Christmas

One Baby!

Complete the manger scene by adding in those who celebrated that first Christmas morning!



Creative
Communications
Sample

Draw 2 parents, 3 shepherds and
4 angels in this manger scene.