

Do You See What I See?

Seek & Find Devotions for **Advent**



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So many activities crowd into your time this time of year. Sometimes the real reason for the holiday celebration is hard to see. But *seeing* is what this book is all about.

The pictures tell the story of God's Christmas gift for us, but the clues that point to that gift—the gift of the Christ Child—are hard to see among all the other holiday objects.

The story of God's love for us is there, though—in the midst of all the busyness—just as God is always there. Each day in Advent, read the devotion; next, read the poem, and then look for the object. Can you find them all? Do you see the story? Do you see what I see?

Apple

Day 1 • Genesis 3:1-7

These Christmas greens are so pretty ... and the season is so happy. It's almost like the way the Lord God created everything in the beginning, green and lush and happy.

In the middle of that garden the Lord God put a special tree. Soon your house will have a special tree, too, won't it?

God told his children, Adam and Eve, not to eat from that tree. You wouldn't try to eat a pine cone from your Christmas tree, would you?

Sometimes people (especially children) seem to go out of their way to do things they are told not to. Even at Christmas it can happen. It's called SIN.

It's not a good place to begin, but the story actually does begin right there. Do you see it?



Do you see what I see
Through these holly leaves?
There's an **apple** hidden there.
Find it, if you please.



Do you spy what I spy
Through these branches fair?
I can see a slinking **snake**.
What's it doing there?

Snake

Day 2 • Genesis 3:1-7, 22-24

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were tempted ... and they disobeyed. They listened to the snake and ate the forbidden fruit.

They had to leave the garden. (Would that be like having to give back all your Christmas presents?)

We are tempted too. And there are times when we disobey.

But the good news is that God still loves us and wants us to be his children. That's why God sent Jesus to suffer and die for our disobeying, so that we can go on living as children of God.

Maybe you can't see Jesus in the Christmas picture yet, but keep looking, for he will certainly be there. That is what Christmas is really all about.

Tablets

Day 4 • Exodus 20:1-17

On their way to the Promised Land, God's people stopped at a big mountain named Mount Sinai. God had a special gift to give them there—the Ten Commandments.

The commandments were not just written on paper or in a book, but on tablets made of stone. They were important!

They still are important. They tell God's children how to live lives that are good and obedient. They are sort of like "God's instruction book" to show us the right way to behave.

God must love us very much to give us such a useful gift!



Do you spy what I spy
With these tasty things?
Look to see a shiny **crown**,
Perfect for a king.

Crown

Day 5 • 1 Samuel 17:50

One of God's special people in olden times was a shepherd boy named David. God helped David use his sling to defeat a wicked giant named Goliath.

When David grew up, he became the king of God's people. God used David to rule the people and keep them safe from their enemies—sort of like what a shepherd does for sheep.

God promised David that some day God would send a very special King to be the Good Shepherd. Like David, that King would be born in Bethlehem too.

We already know who that is, don't we? Sometimes we even sing about him that way in church: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

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When Christmas lights go up and days grow short and cold, when baking smells fill your kitchen and family members begin hiding surprises in drawers and cupboards, December days brim with excitement. So many activities crowd into your time that sometimes the real reason for the holiday celebration is hard to see. But seeing is what this book is all about.

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