

The
King is
Coming!



25 DAY ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Within this devotion booklet:

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. It helps us prepare for the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas. Advent is the season in which we can be reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth and become more excited about His arrival in the past, in the future, and His presence in our lives now. We must remember the joy of our waiting during this season because we do not wait in vain. Just like we will receive gifts on Christmas Day, and we wait expectantly for them, we know that the day will come and we can enjoy opening and receiving these presents. Similarly, our Saviour has come, and He is coming again!



1st December: The Birth is Predicted

Have you ever made a prediction about something? You sit and watch *X Factor* (or some similar competitive reality TV programme); it's early on in the competition and you pick out a "winner". Have your predictions ever come true?

I guess we all predict that stuff will happen, but it's usually about what is going on tomorrow, next week or later in the year. It's unlikely anyone really ever predicts what will happen beyond their lifetime: way beyond... like 700 years beyond. But that is exactly what the prophets Isaiah and Micah did. They each made a prediction, or a prophecy, about the birth of Jesus - about 700 years before it actually happened. Do you think they knew it wouldn't be fulfilled for all that time? Do you think they would have even bothered if they did know?

Read Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2,4

Immanuel, mentioned in Isaiah, means "God with us". God is near. He is not absent. He does not turn His back on us. His plans span the generations which is reassuring if you wonder whether He has a plan for your life. Today we remember, with anticipation, the planned and predicted birth of Christ.

Pray and thank God for that, and pray about your life - the plans you might have and what God has planned too.



2nd December: Angels Appeared – First to Mary

Read [Luke 1:26-38](#)

Have you ever been greeted by a friend, or someone you know, with a rather exaggerated and over-the-top compliment? Our first thoughts tend to be, "What does this person want?" instead of receiving the compliment with joy. In verse 29 of today's reading, it appears that this was Mary's response when greeted by an angel. However, she was asked to do something far beyond anything we will ever be called upon to do. Mary would become the mother to the Saviour of the world. Ask any parent and you'll discover the pressure they feel raising any child, never mind one so significant. Verse 38 shows that Mary accepts this task with willing obedience. She had an open heart to what God wanted to do through her, despite how those around her (friends, family and her fiancé, Joseph) might react.

Thank God for her faithfulness. Would we be as obedient and willing? How can you show your obedience to God today?

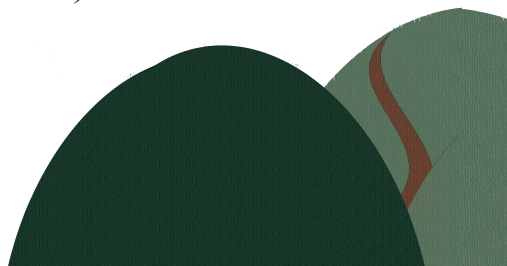
3rd December: Angels Appeared – Then to Joseph

Read [Matt. 1:18-24](#)

Sometimes doing the right thing is the hardest decision you can make and it can bring with it the most pain and personal sacrifice. The rewards, however, are usually the greatest, whether they come in the form we expect or not. Today we see Joseph making a very hard decision that, I'm sure, would have meant sacrificing his plans and dreams for the future, but his honour and character shine out in verse 19. He married Mary and did not want to expose her to public disgrace.

Have you ever been presented with a difficult situation; one choice that gets you exactly what you want and the other that honours God? Have you ever struggled to put other people's needs before your own?

Thank God today for the life of Joseph. Without his obedience, Jesus might well have been born into a desperate situation. What decisions do you need to make today that will help the people you know and love to draw closer to God?





This 25 day Advent Devotion Bible study is designed to help people access scripture every day in the run-up to Christmas. Each day's reading will take just a few minutes but will give you something to think about throughout the rest of your day. It touches on themes about Christmas, the person of Jesus and the greatest gift we have received.