

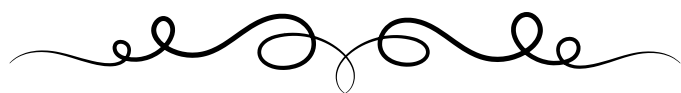
Advent Readings 2025: Selections from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

The season of Advent (Latin for “coming”) is celebrated during the weeks leading up to the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Celebrating Advent today unites us with the people of God throughout history: those who before Christ waited for His arrival, and those after Christ who have waited for His return. This season reminds us that we too, together with all of creation, are waiting for Christ to return to make all things new.

How To Use This Reading Guide

Below are the week’s daily readings from Scripture and from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. It also includes songs to be sung each day (each week has one song, so there are four songs total). This can be done in a community group, with one or multiple families, neighbors, roommates, or friends. We recommend that you read the daily Bible verses and story for that day and then sing the song of the week. Some people also light candles to commemorate the season.

May this Advent celebration be full of eager expectancy and overflowing joy!



Advent Reading Week 1

Monday December 1st

Hebrews 1:1-2

The Bible is an adventure story about a young Hero, named Jesus, who comes from a land far away, to win back His lost treasure. At the center of God’s story is the one we’ve all been waiting for.

“The Story and the Song” (page 12 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*)

Tuesday December 2nd

Genesis 1

God created the world good, to show His goodness and glory to His creation. And “all the stars and the mountains and oceans and galaxies and everything were nothing compared to how much God loved his children. He would move heaven and earth to be near them. Always. Whatever happened, whatever it cost him, he would always love them.”

“The beginning: a perfect home” (page 18 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*)

Wednesday December 3rd

Genesis 3

Though God’s children forget him and run from him, “no matter what, in spite of everything, God would love his children – with a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.” He will come to rescue!

The terrible lie (page 28 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*)

Thursday December 4th

Genesis 9:8-17

When sin overwhelms the world, God chooses to destroy it, but He saves Noah and his family. Even so, “it wasn’t long before everything went wrong again, but God wasn’t surprised, he knew this would happen. That’s why before the beginning of time, he had another plan – a better plan. A plan not to destroy the world, but to rescue it – a plan to one day send his own Son, the Rescuer.”

A new beginning (page 38 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Friday December 5th

Genesis 11:1-9

Foolishly mankind after Noah thought that they would be able to make a building tall enough to reach God. But "God knew, however high they reached, whoever hard they tried, people could never get back to heaven by themselves...People could never reach up to Heaven, so Heaven would have to come down to them. And, one day, it would."

A giant staircase to heaven (page 48 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Saturday, December 6th

Genesis 12:1-3

After God had scattered people all over the world with different languages and nations and tribes, He began His secret rescue plan. "Abraham, you will be my special family, my people, and through you everyone on earth will be blessed!" One of Abraham's great-great-great grandchildren would be the Child, the Promised One, the Rescuer. The world just had to wait.

Son of laughter (page 56 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Sunday, December 7th

Genesis 22

God wanted to show Abraham that He was going to provide the One to rescue. Like Isaac, the Son the whole world was waiting for, the one to take away our sin, would also climb a hill with wood on His back. He was the true Lamb of God.

The present (page 62 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

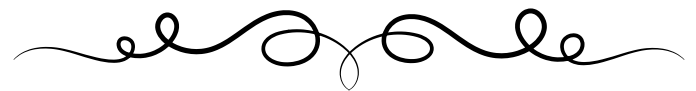
Weekly Advent Song

Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom
captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of
God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, Thou Wisdom from on high and order
all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us
in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our
spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's
dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



Advent Reading Week 2

Monday, December 8th

Genesis 29:15-35

Jacob may have loved Rachel better than her sister Leah, but God loved Leah and gave her a very important job. "One day, God was going to rescue the whole world - through Leah's family. One of Leah's children's children's children would be a prince - the Prince of Heaven - God's Son."

The girl no one wanted (page 70 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Tuesday, December 9th

Genesis 50:15-21

Like Joseph, one day God would send another Prince, who would leave his home, and his brothers would hate him, and He would be punished, even though He did nothing wrong. But God would use all the evil things done against this Prince for good, to save the whole world.

The forgiving prince (page 76 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Wednesday, December 10th

Exodus 12

God's people in Egypt become enslaved by the Egyptians, and God begins a plan to rescue His people from slavery. Because of the blood of the lamb, God passed over their homes, protecting them from judgment. One day, God would send another lamb, and would again pass over the sins of His people, setting them free from their slavery.

God to the rescue! (page 84 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Thursday, December 11th

Exodus 14

Slave owners (Pharaoh or sin) always want to try to get their slaves back. So Pharaoh chased after God's people, until they got stuck against the Red Sea. They didn't know the way to go, until God made a way for them. Just as God had shown them the way to freedom from slavery, He would one day send His Son to be the way to freedom.

God makes a way (page 92 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Friday, December 12th

Exodus 20:1-21

God gives His people rules, rules that show how best to live, how to honor God. People thought, "I can obey these rules!" but they were wrong. No matter how hard they tried they would never be

able to keep the rules, no one would. One man would come one day, the one they had all been waiting for, the one who would be perfect for His imperfect people.

Ten ways to be perfect (page 100 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Saturday, December 13th

Joshua 6

God told His people that He was going to bring them into a new home. And God used a leader named Joshua to bring them to this home. He wanted His people to see that He was preparing a place, and a way to get there. One day He would give His people another leader, and another home, a forever home.

The warrior leader (page 108 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Sunday, December 14th

1 Samuel 16

God's people didn't want God to rule over them, they wanted their own king. God chose a king who was going to prepare His people for an even greater King who was to come. King David was part of God's rescue plan, and one day, one of David's children's children's children would also come from Bethlehem, and would be the true King the whole world had waited for.

The teeny weeny... true king (page 116 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Weekly Advent Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Advent Reading Week 3

Monday, December 15th

1 Samuel 17

In their new home, God's people encountered scary enemies. The scariest were the Philistines, who hated God and hated God's people. God uses David, a young hero, to rescue his people. One day, another young hero would come to rescue God's people by defeating evil.

The young hero and the horrible giant (page 122 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Tuesday, December 16th

Psalm 23

God is a Shepherd, and we are His sheep. He guides us, loves us, and cares for us. A perfect Shepherd was coming. He would be called the Good Shepherd and lead God's lambs back to His heart.

The Good Shepherd (page 130 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Wednesday, December 17th

2 Kings 5

Naaman, a very important man, had leprosy, a disease without a cure. But a slave girl knew who could help him, Elisha, a man of God. Once Elisha healed him, Naaman tried to pay. "No," said Elisha, "when God heals, he heals for free." And one day God was going to send a servant who would heal His people. It would be free for them but cost Him everything.

A little servant girl and the proud general (page 136 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)



Thursday, December 18th

Isaiah 53

The world continued waiting, and God continued promising. He sent promises to His people about the Savior to come. God gave the prophet Isaiah some incredibly important promises about the One they were all waiting for. "The Rescuer is going to come, He won't look special, but He will be perfect, and will take the punishment for His people upon Himself. This is how you will be healed. This is my Secret Rescue Plan."

Operation "No More Tears!" (page 144 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Friday, December 19th

Daniel 6:3-23

Daniel's enemies tried to destroy him, but God protected him, even in the lion's den. "And the time was coming when God would send another brave Hero, like Daniel, who would love God and do what God said - whatever it cost him, even if it meant he would die."

Daniel and the scary sleepover (page 152 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Saturday, December 20th

Jonah 1-4

God chose Jonah as a messenger to Nineveh, to reveal to them their sin and to share with them the message of God's forgiveness. "Many years later, God was going to send another Messenger with the same wonderful message. Like Jonah, he would spend three days in utter darkness."

God's messenger (page 160 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Sunday, December 21st

Malachi 3:1-4

God was preparing His people. He is coming. He is almost here. He will rescue, He will save. Get ready!

Get ready! (page 170 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

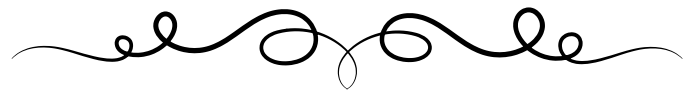
Weekly Advent Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.



Advent Reading Week 4

Monday, December 22nd

Luke 1:1-2:7

God and the whole world had waited for this moment. God was coming to His people, He was coming to rescue, and finally He was here. "The God who flung planets into space and kept them whirling around and around, the God who made the universe with just a word, the one who could

do anything at all—was making himself small. And coming down...as a baby.”

He's here! (page 175 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Tuesday, December 23rd

Luke 2

God had been waiting for this moment—He wanted to tell everyone. Angels came to tell shepherds about the King, Jesus, who was here to be the Rescuer. They ran to Him, and they saw “a baby sleeping in his mother’s arms. This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness...And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine.”

The Light of the whole world (page 184 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Matthew 2

Kings from the east came to see the new King. They travelled a long journey, through deserts, over mountains, into deep valleys, until they found the King. “The King God had promised David all those years before. But this child was a new kind of king. Though he was the Prince of Heaven, he had become poor. Though he was the Mighty God, he had become a helpless baby. This King hadn’t come to be the boss. He had come to be a servant.”

The King of all kings (page 192 of The Jesus Storybook Bible)

Weekly Advent Song

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns.
Let saints their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.