

THE

ADVERBS

OF ADVENT!



Daily Devotions for Children
and their Families



ONCE

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Genesis 2:8-9*

“Once” is a very popular adverb with which to start a story. It helps to set the scene. It takes us back to when our story begins. Let’s use it to begin our Advent journey this year.

Once, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, “Let there be light,” and at once it happened.

Once, in a garden, God made a man and God made a woman. God created them by hand, and God made them perfectly. Once, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. Once, God’s world was a perfect paradise.

We look forward this Advent to God’s promise of paradise once again.

Heavenly Father, I light one candle today and thank you for your gifts of light and life.

SADLY

The Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:23-24

Adam and Eve had only one rule to follow in their garden paradise. "Do not eat the fruit of this tree," God told them.

Sadly, they chose to disobey God. They selfishly decided to follow the sneaky serpent and ignore God's command. Sin entered God's perfect world, and that sin sadly remains in our lives today.

Adam and Eve were sad to leave the garden. But then God told them his plan. "Someone is coming to crush that serpent," God told them. God promised to flip things around again. Their sadness, and ours, will be turned into great joy. We wait this season for that joy to arrive.

Dear Jesus, I am very sorry for my sin. Come into my life with your gifts of forgiveness and joy.



PATIENTLY

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

The promised Savior was coming. But when would he arrive? God's people waited, just as we wait this season. Through many years, God reminded the people that the promise would come true.

God spoke to the people through the prophets. God told them just what to expect. "Unto us a child is born," the prophet Isaiah wrote. God even showed the people where to look. "The promised ruler will be born in Bethlehem," Micah told them.

Each Advent we wait patiently for the Savior, just as God's people did long ago. Look forward for the Bethlehem baby. He's coming to rule the world.

Dear God, help me to wait patiently for all your promises.



UNEXPECTEDLY

And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."

Luke 1:11-13

Even though the people had been told what to look for, the news still came as a great surprise. An elderly priest named Zechariah was the first to hear it. And it was delivered quite unexpectedly.

An angel appeared to Zechariah while he prayed in the temple. "You and your wife will have a son," the angel told him. "He will prepare the way for God's promised Savior." Zechariah had not expected news like this. Could it be true? Is this really the answer to God's promise? Now? Here?



God, I love to share your surprises with everyone I meet. Keep surprising me every day with your great love.

THE ADVERBS OF ADVENT!

Adverbs are simply amazing words. They show us **HOW** things happen. They lead us **WHERE** we need to go. They tell us **WHEN** to pay attention. This season of Advent, use adverbs to discover **HOW** God planned to save all people. Learn **WHERE** to look for the promised Savior. And be ready **WHEN** he arrives in our lives this season and forever.

The devotions in this booklet lead children and their families to excitedly see **HOW**, **WHERE** and **WHEN** God's great promises of Advent really come true.

HOW SILENTLY, HOW SILENTLY

The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will
receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

—Phillips Brooks—



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