

TIME FOR A SAVIOR



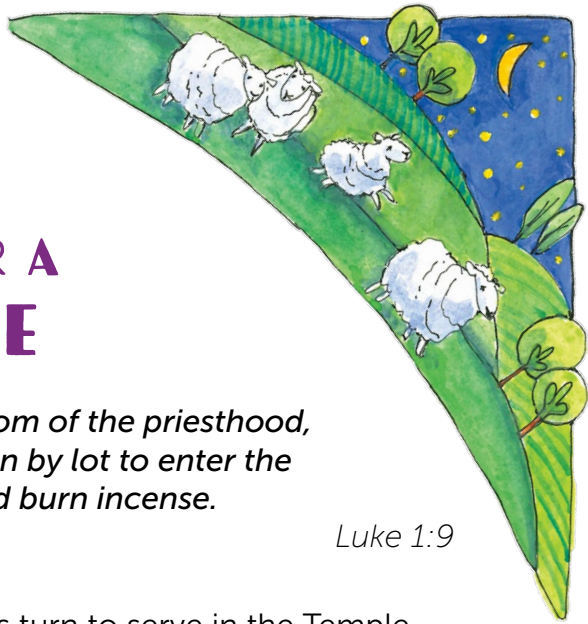
Advent Daily Devotions for Kids

**FIRST MONDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR A PROMISE

*According to the custom of the priesthood,
[Zechariah] was chosen by lot to enter the
temple of the Lord and burn incense.*

Luke 1:9



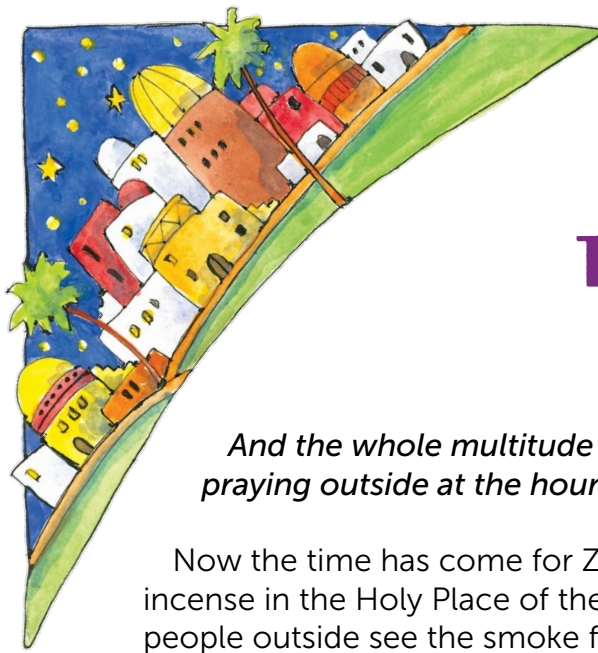
It was old Zechariah's turn to serve in the Temple, to burn sweet-smelling incense at the time of prayer. Picture Zechariah leaving home, saying goodbye to his wife Elizabeth and heading out to a day of work in the Temple. This was a day like any other day.

These two had been married for a long time ... but they don't have any children (or grandchildren). They just had each other.

But that is not true. They had more than each other. God was with them, of course, as God always is.

Zechariah's prayer, like always, was for God to keep the promise. Zechariah had no reason to think that this prayer, this day, was unlike any other.





**FIRST TUESDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR A LIGHT

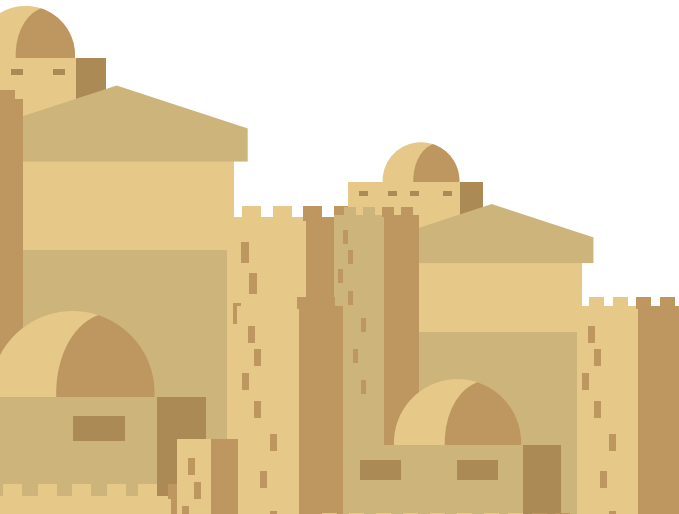
And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

Luke 1:10

Now the time has come for Zechariah to burn incense in the Holy Place of the Temple. When the people outside see the smoke from the incense, they know it's time to pray. Listen to them saying their prayers.

Instead of burning incense in your home when it's time to have your Advent devotions, why don't you light a candle? Maybe one on the Advent wreath.

The flame on your candle, like the smoke in the Temple, is a reminder that it is time to gather around to worship God.



**FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR QUIET

And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.

Luke 1:20

The people are waiting for Zechariah to come out of the Holy Place and say the blessing. Why is he taking so long?

They don't know that Zechariah had a surprise in there. An angel was waiting to tell him that he and Elizabeth are going to have a baby. That baby will be named John, and he will be a special messenger for the Lord, the one to tell people that Jesus is on the way.

Zechariah finds it hard to believe the angel, so he is given a sign: he will not be able to speak until after John is born. What you hear when Zechariah comes out of the Holy Place is ... *silence*.

Think of joyful Elizabeth!
Imagine her surprise!





**FIRST THURSDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT

*And [Gabriel] came to [Mary] and said,
"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"*

Luke 1:28

A few months later, the angel is sent to the village of Nazareth to visit a young woman named Mary, who is engaged to a man named Joseph. We know who they are, don't we? So we can probably guess what the angel has to say to her. Listen! He's telling her that she is going to have a baby, too, named Jesus. He will be the Son of God, Gabriel tells Mary.

Now listen to Mary's response: "I am the Lord's servant," she says. "Whatever you have told me is God's will for me; let it happen." What a wonderful answer! What a wonderful example for us!

Can you make Mary's answer *your* prayer today?
And mean it?



**FIRST FRIDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR A SONG

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."*

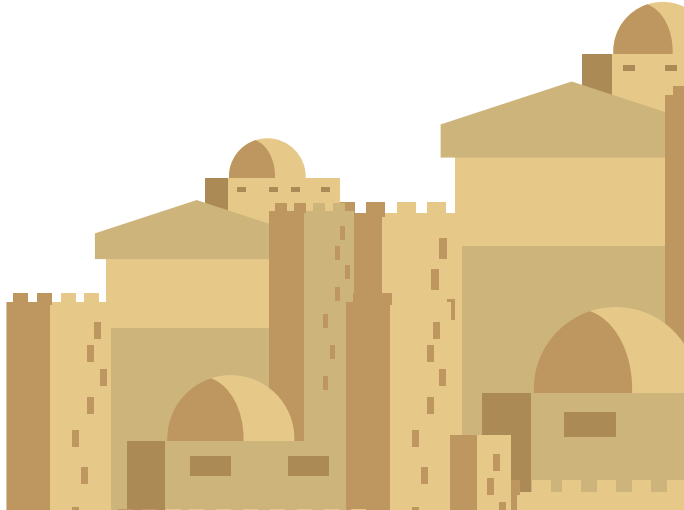
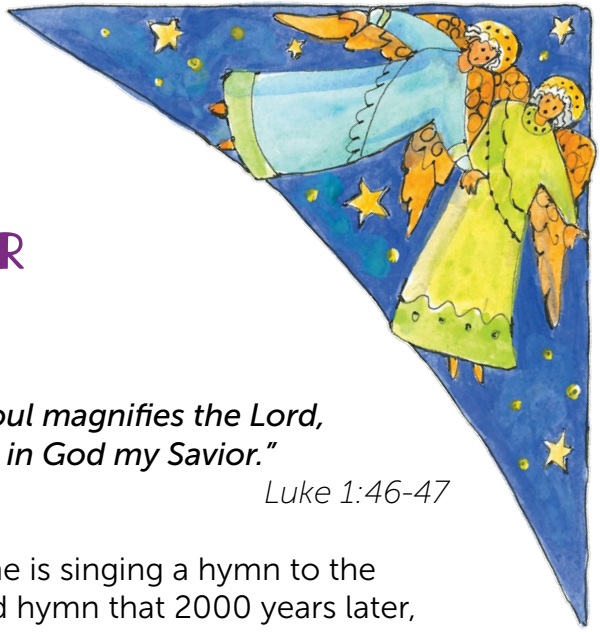
Luke 1:46-47

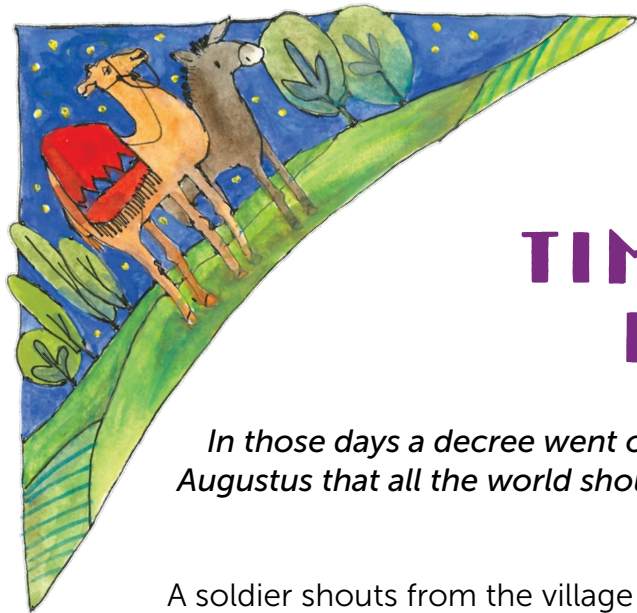
Mary is so happy; she is singing a hymn to the Lord. It is such a good hymn that 2000 years later, God's people still sing it.

"With all my heart I praise the Lord," Mary sings. "I am happy that God is my Savior. From now on everyone is going to know how much God has blessed me, what great things he has done for me."

Mary went on to sing about how God keeps his promises to those who trust in God. "His mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation."

Can you sing a Christmas carol that tells how happy you are?





**FIRST SATURDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR A DECREE

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Luke 2:1

A soldier shouts from the village square. He's reading from a scroll. The soldier says it's a decree from Caesar Augustus, the ruler of the Roman Empire.

What is the soldier saying? Everyone must be counted so Caesar can collect all his taxes. That means everyone in the empire has to go to the tax office in the town where their family comes from—that's the way this census works.

Years ago, God promised that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem, the hometown of King David. Joseph is from David's family. That's a lot of people to move just so one baby can be born where God wants him to be. God must be very serious about his promises.

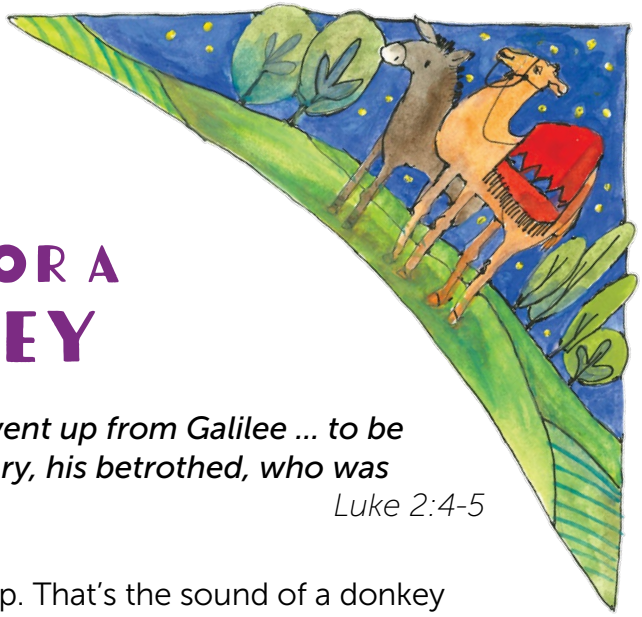


**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

TIME FOR A JOURNEY

And Joseph also went up from Galilee ... to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:4-5

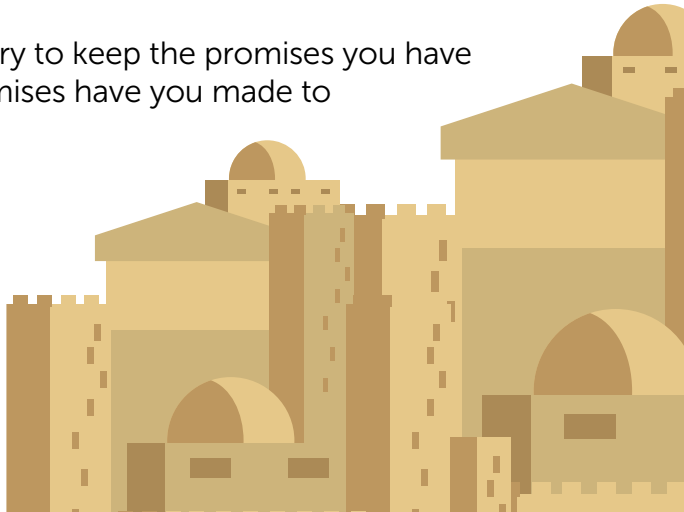


Clip clop, clip clop. That's the sound of a donkey walking along the road. Who is riding on that donkey? Why, it's Mary ... and she looks like she is going to have a baby soon. Clip clop. The group is going toward the big city of Jerusalem, where the Temple is (the one where Zechariah recently burned incense for the time of prayer when it was his turn to serve as priest). Jerusalem is on the way to Bethlehem.

Mary doesn't look too comfortable bouncing on the donkey. But she had told God's angel that whatever God wanted her to do, she would do it like a good servant of the Lord. And here she is doing it.

Clip clop.

Do you always try to keep the promises you have made? What promises have you made to the Lord?



TIME FOR A SAVIOR

Advent Daily
Devotions for Kids



WHEN THE
FULLNESS OF TIME
HAD COME,
GOD SENT FORTH
HIS SON...

—GALATIANS 4:4—



God made a promise long ago. A child will be born. A Savior is coming! With the devotions in this Advent booklet, children can take just a few minutes each day to learn the wonderful news that God's Son, our Savior, is delivered to us right on time!

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