



The Greatest Story

25 Day
Christmas Devotional

NEW CITY
KIDS

DAY 1

God's Creation and the Promise of a Savior



Bible Reading:

Genesis 1:3 & Luke 2:10-11

Devotional:

Before anything existed, there was only God. Then God imagined a beautiful universe and began to create. "Let there be light!" He said, and there was light! He made the sky, waters, land with mountains and flowers, seas filled with fish, and animals of every kind. Last of all, God made people in His very own image. That means we reflect who God is through His love, kindness, and creativity! When God looked at everything He made, He smiled and said, "It is good!"

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin came into the world. People couldn't be close to God the way they were before. But God loved His people so much that He promised to send someone special to make everything right again. That special person is Jesus!

Many years later, in Bethlehem, Jesus was born. The Savior had finally come! It was like a bright light shining in the darkness. Jesus came to bring light back and fix what was broken. When we believe in Jesus, we become part of God's great big family!

Think About It:

God made you as His masterpiece! What are some things you're really good at? How can you share His light with others this week?

Prayer:

"Thank you for creating this beautiful world and for sending Jesus to be our light. Thank you for sending Jesus, the best gift ever."

Activity:

Draw the world God made and add a heart in the middle that says, "God's plan to save us."



DAY 2

The Angel Visits Mary



Bible Reading:

Luke 1:30–31

Devotional:

Mary was just a regular girl in Nazareth who loved God with all her heart. One day, the angel Gabriel appeared to her! “Greetings! The Lord is with you!” he said. Mary was confused and scared. Gabriel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary! God is happy with you. You’re going to have a baby boy, and you’ll name him Jesus. He will be great and His kingdom will never end!”

Mary could have said no. She could have been too scared. Instead, this brave girl said something incredible: “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you said happen to me.” She trusted God even when she didn’t understand everything. That’s faith!

God had chosen Mary for something no one else would ever do: be the mother of Jesus, the Savior of the world!

Think About It:

God has a special plan for your life too! Will you trust Him like Mary did, even when His plans seem bigger than you can understand?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to trust You, just like Mary did. Amen.

Activity:

Draw an angel with a message bubble saying, “Do not be afraid!”



DAY 3

Joseph's Dream



Bible Reading:

Matthew 1:20–21

Devotional:

Joseph was engaged to Mary when an angel appeared to him in a dream! The angel said, “Joseph, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby she’s carrying is from the Holy Spirit! Name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

The name “Jesus” means “The Lord saves.” Every time someone would say His name, they would be saying what He came to do: SAVE US!

When Joseph woke up, he immediately obeyed God. He married Mary and became the earthly father who would protect Jesus. Joseph was a carpenter who was good at building things, but the most important thing he ever built was a loving family for God’s Son.

Think About It:

Joseph chose to obey God even when it seemed strange. Has God ever asked you to do something hard? Remember, God gives us the strength to do it!

Prayer:

“Thank you, Jesus, for coming to save me.”

Activity:

Think of a time when you obeyed God even when it was hard.



DAY 4

Journey to Bethlehem



Bible Reading:

Luke 2:4–5

Devotional:

The Emperor made an announcement: everyone must travel to their family's hometown to be counted. For Joseph, this meant a 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and Mary could have the baby any day!

They packed their things and began the long trip that took over 3 days. But here's God's amazing plan: hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Micah wrote that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem! If the Emperor hadn't decided to count everyone at that exact time, Jesus would have been born in the wrong town!

God used a powerful emperor who didn't even know God to make sure Mary and Joseph were in exactly the right place at exactly the right time.

Think About It:

Have you ever had something go wrong, but then realized God was working out something good? God's plans are always better than ours!

Prayer:

"God, thank you for being in control of everything."

Activity:

Pretend to travel to Bethlehem. What would you pack for a long trip?



DAY 5

Jesus Is Born



Bible Reading:

Luke 2:7

Devotional:

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, the town was crowded and there was no room anywhere! Joseph went from door to door: "No room! No room!" Finally, someone offered them a stable where animals stayed.

That night, surrounded by animals, Mary had her baby. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, a feeding box for animals! The King of the universe was born in the most unexpected place. No palace, no comfortable bed, just a stable and a manger for a bed.

Why did God choose such a simple place? Maybe to show us that Jesus came for EVERYONE, not just important people. He came to be close to us, right where we are!

Think About It:

Jesus didn't need fancy things. He came for everyone, including kids like you! How does that make you feel?

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank you for coming close to us."

Activity:

Build a manger scene with blocks or stuffed animals.



DAY 6

The Shepherds and the Angels Celebrate Jesus



Bible Reading:

Luke 2:10–14

Devotional:

That same night, shepherds were watching their sheep when suddenly the sky EXPLODED with light! An angel appeared and said, “Don’t be afraid! I have the BEST news ever! Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born! You’ll find the baby lying in a manger.”

Then thousands of angels filled the sky, singing: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth!”

The shepherds ran to Bethlehem and found exactly what the angel described: baby Jesus in a manger. These shepherds, who everyone thought were unimportant, were chosen by God to be the first to see the Savior! They couldn’t keep quiet and told everyone what they had seen.

Think About It:

The angels were SO excited about Jesus that they threw a celebration in the sky! How do you celebrate Jesus at Christmas?

Prayer:

“Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. I want to celebrate Him too!”

Activity:

Draw angels singing around a bright star. Who could you tell about Jesus today?



DAY 7

The Wise Men Visit Jesus and King Herod's Plan



Bible Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

Devotional:

Far away, wise men saw a special star and knew a King had been born! They traveled for months following that star, bringing expensive gifts: gold for a king, frankincense showing Jesus was God, and myrrh pointing to how Jesus would die for us.

When King Herod heard about a new King, he became jealous. He pretended to want to worship Jesus but really wanted to hurt Him! The wise men found Jesus, bowed down and worshiped Him, giving their treasures.

God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, and He warned Joseph to escape to Egypt. God's plan was always bigger than Herod's evil plans!

Think About It:

The wise men gave Jesus their most valuable treasures. What can you give Jesus? He loves when you give Him your heart, time, and love!

Prayer:

"Jesus, you are my King. Thank you for keeping me safe."

Activity:

Draw a star guiding the wise men to Jesus.



DAY 8

Jesus Grows Up



Bible Reading:

Luke 2:46-47, 52

Devotional:

Jesus grew up just like you! He helped Joseph in the carpenter shop, played with friends, and learned at the synagogue. The Bible says Jesus grew in four ways: He got smarter (wisdom), taller (stature), closer to God, and better at loving people.

Jesus was God, but He was also fully human, which means He had to learn and grow just like you do! He didn't start doing miracles as a kid. He spent years growing, learning, and preparing for God's work.

Think About It:

God has a special plan for your life too, and right now, part of that plan is growing and learning! How can you grow more like Jesus?

Prayer:

"Lord, help me grow in wisdom like Jesus."

Activity:

Draw yourself now and what you think you'll look like when older.



DAY 9

Jesus Is Baptized



Bible Reading:

Matthew 3:16–17

Devotional:

When Jesus was about 30, He went to the Jordan River where His cousin John was baptizing people. John said, “I need to be baptized by YOU! Why are you coming to me?” Jesus wanted to be baptized to show us the way and begin His ministry.

When Jesus came up from the water, something AMAZING happened! The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove, and God the Father spoke: “This is My Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him!”

This was the only time we see all three persons of God together: the Father speaking, the Son being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descending. If you believe in Jesus, God says the same thing about YOU: you are His beloved child!

Think About It:

God loves you just because you’re His! You don’t have to earn His love.

Prayer:

“Thank you, God, for sending Your Son.”

Activity:

Use a bowl of water to pretend to baptize a toy. Why do you think God spoke from heaven?



DAY 10

Jesus Calls His Disciples



Bible Reading:

Matthew 4:19

Devotional:

Jesus saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, fishing. He called, "Come, follow Me! I'll make you fishers of people!" They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. He called James and John from their boat, and they left everything to follow Him too.

Jesus chose 12 disciples who weren't famous or well educated, just ordinary people. They made mistakes, but Jesus taught them, loved them, and trained them. After Jesus rose from the dead, these disciples went everywhere telling people about Him!

Think About It:

Jesus is still calling people to follow Him today! Following Jesus means putting Him first, learning from Him, and telling others about Him. Are you ready to follow?

Prayer:

"Jesus, I want to follow you every day."

Activity:

What does it mean to follow Jesus at home or school?



DAY 11

Jesus' First Miracle



Bible Reading:

John 2:11

Devotional:

At a wedding in Cana, they ran out of wine. This was terrible! Mary told Jesus about the problem, then told the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you." Jesus had them fill huge jars with water, then pour some out. Somewhere between the jar and the cup, that water became wine, the BEST wine anyone had ever tasted! This was Jesus' first miracle, showing His disciples He was God's Son.

Jesus cared about this celebration. Nobody's life was in danger, but Jesus saw people about to be embarrassed and helped. He cares about ALL parts of our lives!

Think About It:

What do you need help with today? Jesus cares about it, no matter how big or small!

Prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, for showing your power and love."

Activity:

Make a list of ways Jesus has helped you.



DAY 12

The Good Shepherd / Lost Sheep



Bible Reading:

John 10:11 / Luke 15:4

Devotional:

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd." Sheep need shepherds because they get lost easily and can't protect themselves. A good shepherd knows each sheep by name, leads them to food and water, and protects them from danger.

Jesus told a story: "If a shepherd has 100 sheep and one gets lost, he leaves the 99 safe sheep and searches for the lost one. He doesn't give up until he finds it! When he does, he celebrates!"

You are that sheep, and Jesus is that shepherd! He never gives up on you. You're never too far away for Jesus to find you.

Think About It:

Have you ever felt lost or alone? Jesus comes looking for you and welcomes you back with joy!

Prayer:

"Jesus is my Shepherd, and I follow Him."

Activity:

Draw a sheep and shepherd. How can you follow Jesus?



DAY 13

Jesus Heals the Sick



Bible Reading:

Matthew 9:35 / Mark 1:34

Devotional:

Everywhere Jesus went, miracles happened! People who couldn't walk started running! People who couldn't see opened their eyes for the first time! Jesus healed "every disease and sickness" because His heart was filled with compassion.

One time, the whole town gathered at the door where Jesus was staying! He healed person after person, late into the night. He didn't turn anyone away or say "I'm too tired."

The name "Jesus" means "The Lord saves," and every time someone called His name for help, He saved them!

Think About It:

Jesus still cares when you're sick or hurting! You can pray to Him anytime. How can you show Jesus' compassion to someone this week?

Prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, for caring about me."

Activity:

Make a "get well" card for someone who isn't feeling good.



DAY 14

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man



Bible Reading:

Mark 2:3–12

Devotional:

Four friends had a paralyzed friend who needed Jesus. When they got to where Jesus was teaching, the house was packed! So they carried their friend to the roof, made a hole, and lowered him down to Jesus!

Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralyzed man, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then He said, “Get up, take your mat, and go home!” Immediately, the man stood up and walked! His muscles worked perfectly for the first time in years!

Jesus has power to heal our bodies AND forgive our sins. Both are important!

Think About It:

The four friends didn’t give up. They found a creative way to help their friend meet Jesus. Who in your life needs to know about Jesus?

Prayer:

“Thank you, Jesus, for having power to heal and forgive.”

Activity:

Build a “roof” with blocks and pretend to lower a toy down to Jesus.



DAY 15

Jesus Calms the Storm



Bible Reading:

Matthew 8:26

Devotional:

Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a furious storm came! Huge waves crashed over the boat. The disciples were terrified, but Jesus was sleeping!

"Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" they shouted. Jesus woke up and said, "Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?" Then He stood and commanded the storm: "Peace! Be still!" Instantly, everything became calm. The disciples were amazed: "Even the wind and waves obey Him!"

Think About It:

We all have "storms" in our lives that make us afraid. Jesus is MORE POWERFUL than any storm! When you're afraid, call out to Jesus. He's stronger than your fears!

Prayer:

"Jesus, help me trust you when I'm afraid."

Activity:

Whisper "Peace, be still" when you feel worried.



DAY 16

The Good Samaritan



Bible Reading:

Luke 10:30–37

Devotional:

Jesus told a story: A man was attacked by robbers and left hurt on the road. A priest walked by but didn't help. A Levite looked at him but walked away. Then a Samaritan came. Even though Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other, this Samaritan stopped, bandaged the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for his care!

Jesus asked, "Which one was a neighbor to the hurt man?" The answer: "The one who showed mercy."

Jesus said, "Go and do likewise!"

Think About It:

Our "neighbor" is anyone who needs help! Who in your life needs help right now? What would it look like to be a Good Samaritan this week?

Prayer:

"Jesus, help me love and help others."

Activity:

Draw the Samaritan helping the man. Who can you help this week?



DAY 17

The Prodigal Son



Bible Reading:

Luke 15:11-22

Devotional:

Jesus told about a son who took his father's money and left home. He spent everything on parties and fun, then had nothing left. He was so hungry he wanted to eat pig food! He decided to go home, hoping his father would at least let him be a servant.

But his father saw him from far away and RAN to him! He hugged him and threw a party to celebrate! The father didn't scold him or make him earn forgiveness.

That's how God loves you! No matter what mistakes we make, when we turn back to Him, He's ready to forgive and welcome us with open arms!

Think About It:

Even when we mess up, God still loves us and welcomes us back. How does that make you feel?

Prayer:

"Thank you, God, for always forgiving me and welcoming me back."

Activity:

Give someone a big hug and say, "I'm glad you're here!"



DAY 18

The Lamp Under a Basket



Bible Reading:

Matthew 5:14–16

Devotional:

Jesus said we're like lights in the world! "No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket." Instead, they put it where it can shine for everyone.

When you help someone, tell the truth, forgive, or include someone who feels left out, you're shining for Jesus! People see His light shining through your heart.

Even a little light makes a big difference in the dark. When you live like Jesus, His love shines through you!

Think About It:

How can your words and actions help others see God's love?

Prayer:

"Jesus, help me shine your light wherever I go."

Activity:

Draw a lamp shining bright. Write one way you can show Jesus' love this week.



DAY 19

Jesus Feeds the 5,000



Bible Reading:

John 6:1-14

Devotional:

Over 5,000 people followed Jesus to hear Him teach. They got very hungry, but there was no food except a boy's lunch: five loaves and two fish.

Jesus took the small lunch, thanked God, and began breaking it into pieces. Everyone ate as much as they wanted, and there were twelve baskets of leftovers! God had taken a tiny offering and fed thousands!

God can take even the smallest gifts and turn them into something incredible!

Think About It:

The boy gave his small lunch to Jesus, and God used it for a miracle! What small thing can you give to God?

Prayer:

"Help me give you the little things I have so you can use them for good."

Activity:

Draw a basket of bread and fish. Think of something small you can give to God.



DAY 20

Jesus Walks on Water



Bible Reading:

Matthew 14:22-33

Devotional:

The disciples were in a boat during a storm when they saw someone walking on the water! "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid," Jesus said.

Peter wanted to walk to Jesus on the water. He took a few steps, but when he saw the waves, he got scared and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Jesus immediately caught him.

When we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can be brave. When we get scared, we can call out to Him, and He will always help us!

Think About It:

How can you trust Jesus when you feel afraid? Who can you reach out to for help?

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank you for being with me when I'm scared. Help me to trust you"

Activity:

Pretend to "walk on water" by balancing on a line. Talk about trusting Jesus.



DAY 21

Jesus Loves Children



Bible Reading:

Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 18:1-10

Devotional:

Parents brought their children to Jesus, but the disciples tried to stop them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me! The kingdom of God belongs to people like these children." He took them in His arms and blessed them.

Later, Jesus said, "Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Children are important in God's eyes! Jesus loves kids just as much as adults and wants you to know you're special.

Think About It:

Imagine being in Jesus' arms. How would it feel? Jesus loves you and you are important in His kingdom!

Prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and welcoming me."

Activity:

Create a "Kingdom of God" crown and write ways you can be humble and kind.



DAY 22

The Last Supper



Bible Reading:

Luke 22:19–20, Mark 14:12-26

Devotional:

On the night before Jesus died, He gathered His disciples for a special meal. He washed their feet to show that loving and serving others is important.

Then Jesus broke bread and said it represented His body. He gave them a cup and said it represented His blood, poured out so sins could be forgiven. Jesus was teaching them that He would give His life because He loves everyone.

Every time we take communion, we remember His amazing gift and how much He loves us!

Think About It:

Jesus gave His life for us. How can you celebrate Jesus' love this Christmas and share it with others?

Prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much that you gave Your life for me."

Activity:

At dinner, eat some bread and thank Jesus for His love.



DAY 23

Jesus Chooses the Cross



Bible Reading:

Luke 22:42; John 19:28-34; John 18:4-5

Devotional:

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed because He knew He would soon die on the cross. Even though it would be SO hard, He said, "Not My will, but Yours be done." Jesus obeyed God because He loves us so much.

When soldiers came to arrest Him, Jesus didn't hide. He went with them. On the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished!" His mission to save us was complete! He took all our sin and paid the price so we could be forgiven and live forever with God.

Jesus chose the cross because His love for us is stronger than anything in the world!

Think About It:

Every time you see a cross, remember how much Jesus loves you. His love is forever!

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank you for choosing the cross for me. Help me to trust and obey you."

Activity:

Make a cross and decorate it with hearts or words like "Forgiven" and "Love."



DAY 24

Jesus Is Alive



Bible Reading:

Matthew 28:6

Devotional:

After Jesus died, His friends placed Him in a tomb. Early in the morning, women went to the tomb. An angel appeared and said, “Don’t be afraid! Jesus is not here, He has risen, just as He said!”

Jesus had risen from the dead! This was the most incredible surprise ever. Jesus is alive forever, and because He is alive, we don’t have to be afraid of anything.

Because Jesus is alive, we can have hope when worried, joy when happy, and peace every day. We can pray to Him anytime and live forever with Him!

Think About It:

How would your life be different if you remembered every day that Jesus is alive and loves you?

Prayer:

“God, thank you for raising Jesus from the dead!”

Activity:

Hide a toy in a box, then show it’s empty like the tomb. Shout, “Jesus is alive!”





A VERY
Merry
CHRISTMAS
to you

DAY 25

Celebrate the Greatest Gift – Jesus!



Bible Reading:

Luke 2:1-20; John 3:16

Devotional:

Finally, Christmas is here! Today we celebrate the baby in the manger who is God's Son. From the beginning, God had a plan: He sent Jesus to show us His love, teach us about Him, and give us hope.

Jesus healed sick people, helped the lonely, and treated everyone with kindness. He showed that God's love is stronger and more amazing than anything we can imagine.

Christmas isn't just about presents and cookies, it's about the greatest gift ever: Jesus! God sent His Son so we could know Him, be loved by Him, and live forever with Him.

This Christmas, remember all the wonderful things Jesus did and celebrate the greatest gift of all!

“Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for being born, loving me, and giving me eternal life!”





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