



2018

# Advent

GATHER AROUND AND **READ** GOD'S STORY  
OF COMPASSION, ONE DAY AT A TIME. THEN GO AND **DO**  
THE SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND LIVE OUT YOUR OWN STORY  
OF COMPASSION AS A FAMILY.



*one*

**A YOUNG COUPLE, MARY  
AND JOSEPH, GET ENGAGED.**

Tape change to a vending  
machine for someone else to find.

*(Surprise!)*

Two

**ONE DAY, GOD SENDS THE ANGEL  
GABRIEL TO MARY. HE HAS SOME  
VERY SPECIAL NEWS!**

Help your child buy their favorite book  
to donate to a children's hospital.  
*(Stay for reading time if you can!)*

three

**MARY IS GREATLY TROUBLED  
WHEN SHE HEARS THE ANGEL'S GREETING.**

Pay for the person's order behind you in the  
drive-thru. *(Being sneaky while doing good is fun!)*

four

**GABRIEL RESPONDS TO MARY:  
"DON'T BE AFRAID; GOD IS VERY  
HAPPY WITH YOU!"**

Send cards to service men and women  
who are serving overseas.  
*(Long-distance Christmas cheer!)*

five

**GABRIEL TELLS MARY THE SPECIAL  
NEWS: SHE WILL HAVE A BABY BOY, AND  
HE WILL BE NAMED JESUS.**

Donate new toys to a local charity that provides  
for families in need. (*Visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)  
for some great info!*)

six

**GABRIEL SHARES MORE DETAILS OF  
GOD'S PLAN WITH MARY: "JESUS WILL  
BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED  
GOD'S VERY OWN SON!"**

Help someone do a chore or other job.  
*(And sing Christmas carols while you work!)*

seven

**MARY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE CAN HAVE A BABY WITHOUT BEING MARRIED, BUT THE ANGEL GABRIEL ASSURES HER OF A GREAT TRUTH: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.**

Donate non-perishable food or toiletry items to your local food bank or volunteer to sort donated items.

*(Spread that Christmas cheer!)*



eight

**"I SERVE GOD WITH MY LIFE AND  
WANT ALL THAT YOU HAVE SAID TO  
HAPPEN," MARY TELLS THE ANGEL,  
AND HE LEAVES.**

Give Christmas candy attached to a gift card  
for lunch to your mail carrier.  
*(They give to you every day!)*



nine

**MARY VISITS HER COUSIN  
ELIZABETH AND IS SO OVERWHELMED  
WITH GOD'S GOODNESS THAT SHE  
SINGS A SONG OF PRAISE.**

Send some Christmas love to a child in another  
part of the world. ([www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)  
*is a great place to start!*)

# Ten

**CAESAR AUGUSTUS WANTS TO KNOW  
HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HIS EMPIRE,  
SO HE TELLS ALL THE PEOPLE TO GO BACK  
TO THEIR HOMETOWN TO BE REGISTERED  
AND COUNTED.**

Donate books you no longer need to a local  
school. *(You'll be giving the stories a second life!)*

eleven

**JOSEPH TAKES MARY, WHO  
IS PREGNANT, TO HIS HOMETOWN  
OF BETHLEHEM TO BE COUNTED.**

Donate pet supplies to an animal shelter.

*(Animals need compassion too!)*

# twelve

**WHILE JOSEPH AND MARY ARE IN  
BETHLEHEM, THE TIME COMES FOR  
THE BABY TO BE BORN.**

Donate coats you've outgrown  
or blankets you don't need.  
*(Warmth is a wonderful gift!)*

*thirteen*

**MARY GIVES BIRTH TO JESUS,  
WRAPS HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS  
AND LAYS HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE  
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THEM ANYWHERE.**

Make room for your neighbors by choosing a night  
to invite just one neighbor family (*or maybe  
two!*) over for coffee and dessert.

fourteen

**AT NIGHT IN A NEARBY FIELD,  
SHEPHERDS ARE WATCHING  
THEIR FLOCKS.**

Give candy canes to the residents at your local nursing home. *(Hugs are a welcomed bonus!)*

fifteen

**THE SKY LIGHTS UP—GOD HAS SENT  
AN ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS TO TELL  
THEM THE GOOD NEWS.**

Donate a pair of new Christmas pajamas for  
a foster kid. *(Choose the coziest, snuggliest ones.)*



sixteen

**WHEN THE SHEPHERDS SEE  
THE ANGEL, THEY'RE AFRAID!**

Drop some money in the Salvation  
Army bucket. *(Make the bell ring!)*

*seventeen*

**THE ANGEL TRIES TO CALM THE  
SHEPHERDS: "DON'T BE AFRAID—I BRING  
WONDERFUL NEWS THAT WILL BRING JOY  
TO ALL OF THE WORLD!"**

Make a Christmas card for someone who needs  
a little cheer. *(Add glitter for more cheer!)*

*eighteen*

**"A SAVIOR—THE RESCUER YOU HAVE  
BEEN WAITING FOR IS BORN TODAY!"  
THE ANGEL PROCLAIMS TO  
THE SHEPHERDS.**

Take coffee or a favorite soda to your teachers.  
*(Christmas caffeine!)*

*nineteen*

**THE ANGEL EXPLAINS THAT THE  
SHEPHERDS WILL FIND THE BABY WRAPPED  
IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING  
IN A MANGER.**

Leave some Christmas candy with a thank  
you note for the garbage crew. (*Or anyone else  
who cleans up after you.*)

# Twenty

**MORE ANGELS COME TO CELEBRATE  
THE GOOD NEWS—THEY ARRIVE AT THE  
SHEPHERD'S FIELD AND BEGIN  
PRAISING GOD!**

Volunteer at a local food kitchen. (*Don't forget  
to smile and say, "Merry Christmas!"*)

twenty  
one

**THE SHEPHERDS LEAVE THEIR FLOCKS  
AND HURRY TO FIND MARY, JOSEPH,  
AND THE BABY, WHO IS LYING  
IN A MANGER.**

Deliver Christmas flowers to a widow  
or widower in your neighborhood.  
*(Help them deck their halls!)*

Twenty  
two

**AFTER THEY SEE THE BABY, THE  
SHEPHERDS EXCITEDLY GO AND TELL  
EVERYONE THEY RUN INTO  
THE GOOD NEWS!**

*Tell a joke to make someone smile. (Or tell  
several to spread even more joy!)*

twenty  
three

**THE SHEPHERDS RETURN TO THEIR  
FLOCKS, PRAISING GOD FOR ALL  
THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD.**

As you are running last minute errands,  
take a few minutes to speak kind words to the  
folks at the store counters.



# twenty four

**MARY NAMES THE BABY  
JESUS JUST AS THE ANGEL HAD  
TOLD HER TO DO.**

Take Christmas cookies to your local  
fire station. *(Add a high five!)*

# Twenty five

**GOD HAS SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE  
US BECAUSE HE LOVES US SO VERY  
MUCH! LUKE 1:26-2:21**

Grab some hot chocolate and read the entire calendar Christmas story together. *(Talk about what God did to show compassion for the world. Hint: JESUS!)*