

ADVENT ALPHABET

This year, Advent is exactly 26 days long, one day for each letter of the alphabet! This activity helps us remember the story of that first Christmas and how Christians around the world have celebrated since!

Think of a word related to Advent or Christmas that starts with the letter of the day and draw a picture to match. Some letters can be pretty tricky, so check below for some suggestions if you get stuck.

Advent – a season of remembering the birth of Jesus and preparing for His return

Angels – the heavenly messengers of God who proclaimed the good news about Jesus (Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 2:19; Luke 1:11, 1:26, 2:9-14)

Augustus – the ruler of Rome who ordered the census that sent Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1)

Anna – the prophetess who praised God when the baby Jesus was brought to the temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38)

Bethlehem – the city of David, where Jesus was born (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4; Matthew 2:5-6)

Baby boy – the way Jesus chose to come to earth (Luke 2:11-12)

Candles – used to decorate as a reminder that Jesus is the light shining in the darkness (John 1:5; Isaiah 9:2)

Christ – the promised Messiah, one of the titles of Jesus (Matthew 1:17, Luke 2:11)

Carols – traditional hymns sung at Christmastime to bring people together and communicate the gospel through music

Dreams – how God communicated to Joseph and the Magi (Matthew 1:20, 2:12-13, 2:19, 2:22)

E

Elizabeth – wife of the priest Zechariah who was unable to have children, but after the angel Gabriel announced that she would have a son, she gave birth to John the Baptist; a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1).

Frankincense – one of the gifts the Magi presented to Jesus (Matthew 2:11)

Gabriel – the angel who announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus (Luke 1:11-20, 26-38)

Galilee – the district where Joseph and Mary were from, and where they settled with Jesus when they returned from Egypt (Luke 1:26, 2:4; Matthew 2:22)

Gifts – the Magi brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11)

God – Advent is the story of God Himself coming to live with His people, and Jesus is called the Son of God (Luke 1:32,35)

Gold – one of the gifts the Magi presented to Jesus (Matthew 2:11)

Heavenly **H**osts – the army of angels who appeared to the shepherds, praising God when Jesus was born (Luke 2:13-14)

Holy Spirit – God's own spirit, whose power enabled both Elizabeth and Mary to miraculously give birth to sons, and Zechariah to prophesy

Immanuel – one of the names of Jesus, meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23); can also be spelled with an E

John – son of Zechariah and Elizabeth; "a prophet of the Most High" who prepared the way for Jesus (Luke 1)

Joseph – carpenter from Galilee; husband of Mary; the adopted, or earthly, father of Jesus

Jesus – the Son of God, son of Abraham, son of David, Saviour of the world

King Herod – ruler of Judea who was threatened by Jesus, the true King of the Jews, and tried to kill Jesus by having all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem killed (Matthew 2:1-8,13-18)

Lambs – the first people to hear the good news of Jesus' birth were shepherds taking care of their flocks (lambs and sheep; Luke 2:8-20)

Light – “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Love – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Mary – wife of Joseph; mother of Jesus

Magi – wealthy men, likely scholars and possibly magicians, from the east who followed a special star all the way to Israel, because they wanted to worship Jesus, the king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12)

Myrrh – one of the gifts the Magi presented to Jesus (Matthew 2:11)

Natal/Navidad/Noël – Christmas in Portuguese, Spanish, and French

Nativity – the birth of Jesus or the scene of His birth (Mary & Joseph, the manger, animals and shepherds)

Offspring – another word for descendants; Matthew begins his account of the birth of Jesus with a genealogy (list of offspring) to show that Jesus was descended from Abraham (God promised to bless all nations through his offspring) and David (God promised to make one of his offspring a king who would reign forever).

Ornaments – decorations added to a Christmas tree. It is widely believed that the tradition of decorating an evergreen tree was started by Martin Luther, who used lit candles. Over the centuries, this German tradition has spread around the world.

Peace – “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.” (Luke 2:14)

Promises – God kept many promises in the coming of Jesus: the promise of a Saviour, the promise that Mary would have a son, and the promise that Simeon would see the Messiah before he died (Luke 2:25-29)

Prophets – God's human messengers who spoke God's words for centuries of why people needed a saviour, and that God Himself would be their Saviour (Luke 1:68-70)

Quake – when the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, they were terrified and quaked (trembled) with fear (Luke 2:9)

Receive – “He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:11-12)

Remember – during Advent, we remember how many waited expectantly for the coming of the promised Messiah, how Jesus came to earth as a baby, how He died and rose again, and that we now wait expectantly for Him to return

Ruler – “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.” (Micah 5:2/Matthew 2:6)

Shepherds – the first to hear and share the announcement of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:8-20)

Simeon – a man who loved God, who was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died. He prophesied about Jesus when His parents brought Him to the temple to be circumcised (Luke 2:25-35)

Songs – Mary, Zechariah, the angels and Simeon all sing songs of praise to the Lord (Luke 1:46-55, Luke 1:68-79, Luke 2:13-14, Luke 2:28-32)

Star – a special star guided the Magi on their journey and stopped over the place where Jesus was living (Matthew 2:2,7,9-10)

Tannenbaum – German for “fir tree” or “Christmas tree”

Travel – Joseph & Mary travelled to Bethlehem for the census; the Magi travelled from the east to bring gifts to Jesus, the King of the Jews; Joseph, Mary & Jesus travelled to Egypt when King Herod tried to have Jesus killed

Tree – a common decoration at Christmas; originally used as a reminder of the two trees in the Garden of Eden – the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the second tree, and they lost access to the tree of life. But God promised that He would raise up a descendant of Eve who would crush the serpent (Satan). This promise was fulfilled in Jesus, who defeated Satan at the cross and regained our access to the tree of life. Now, it's more common for the symbol of an evergreen tree in the midst of bleak winter to represent Jesus, everlasting life itself bringing light and hope into a dark and dead world.

Unwrap – At Christmas, we give gifts to one another, often wrapped up in beautiful paper. But to enjoy the gift, you must first unwrap it. The very best gift is Jesus Himself, but this gift will not bring any joy or change to your life if you leave it wrapped under the tree. You must unwrap it for yourself.

Virgin – a word used to describe Mary, the mother of Jesus. It's important, because it reminds us that Jesus' daddy was no mere human, but God Himself, and therefore born without any sin!

Visit – there are many visits in the Christmas story: angels visiting Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds; Mary visiting Elizabeth; the Magi visiting King Herod in Jerusalem and Jesus in Bethlehem. As we celebrate, we often visit friends and family.

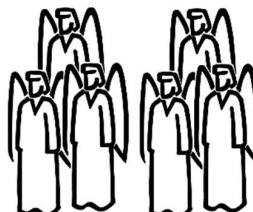
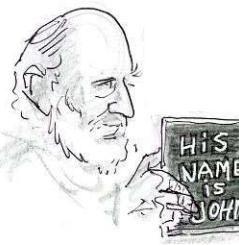
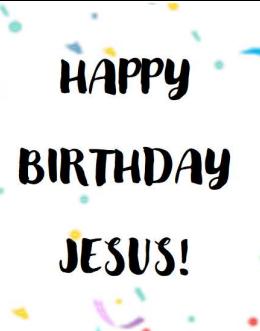
Wreath – a circle of green with no beginning or end, reminding us that God, who has no beginning or end, offers us everlasting life in Christ. To secure that life for us, the baby Jesus grew up to be a man, lived a

perfect life, died on the cross, and was raised back to life! The prickly holly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns He wore on the cross, and the red berries remind us of the blood He shed for us.

X-mas – a shorter way of writing “Christmas”. The letter “X” is from the Greek letter Chi (X), which is the first letter of the Greek word Christós (Χριστός), which became Christ in English.

Yule – another word for Christmas, specifically the “12 Days of Christmas” from 25 December to 6 January, the day we remember the visit of the Magi to worship Jesus. It first began as a German holiday to celebrate the winter solstice.

Zechariah – husband of Elizabeth and father of John the Baptist; while he was serving as priest before God, the angel Gabriel appeared to him in the temple and told him Elizabeth would have a son, and they were to name him John. Zechariah didn't believe the angel, so he was unable to speak until the angel's words came true. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son and the people asked Zechariah what his name should be, Zechariah wrote on a tablet, “His name is John.” Immediately, he was able to speak again! (Luke 1)

ADVENT ALPHABET	A <u>dvent</u> 	B <u>ethlehem</u> 	C <u>arols</u> 	D <u>reams</u> 	E <u>gypt</u> 	F <u>rankincense</u> 
G <u>abriel</u> 	H <u>eavenly Hosts</u> 	I <u>mmanuel</u> 	J <u>oseph</u> 	K <u>ing Herod</u> 	L <u>ight</u> 	M <u>agi</u> 
N <u>ativity</u> 	O <u>rnaments</u> 	P <u>rophets</u> 	Q <u>uake</u> 	R <u>uler</u> 	S <u>tar</u> 	T <u>ree</u> 
U <u>nwrap</u> 	V <u>irgin</u> 	W <u>reath</u> 	X - <u>mas</u> 	Y <u>ule</u> 	Z <u>echariah</u> 	HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS! 

ADVENT ALPHABET	A _____	B _____	C _____	D _____	E _____	F _____
G _____	H _____	I _____	J _____	K _____	L _____	M _____
N _____	O _____	P _____	Q _____	R _____	S _____	T _____
U _____	V _____	W _____	X _____	Y _____	Z _____	HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!