



The
Promise

Advent 2026

We are very excited to have our 2026, Real Life Ministries Texas family devotional for Advent!

Our hope is that these cards will help you and your family grow closer to God and each other as you journey toward Christmas this year. Each day has a story from the Bible, a few discussion questions, a simple activity and a memorable takeaway sentence for the day. In 10 -20 minutes a day, your family can interact with the story of God's fulfilled PROMISE to save mankind through Jesus.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL:

Read from the NIRV (New International Reader's Version) version of the Bible with kid friendly language or ESV (English Standard Version) which is used primarily by RLMT.

It may be helpful to read the Bible story several times during your devotional time

To encourage better understanding and retention of the story, ask someone in the family to retell the story in their own words.

We've provided multiple discussion questions each day for you to choose what works best for your family dynamics.

Some of the days have optional craft activities that require gathering simple materials (paper, tape, string, etc.) It will be helpful to look ahead and gather supplies you will need in advance.

For some people (and especially children) having a coloring page to work on while listening to the story helps maintain focus. You may want to print some coloring pages to have on hand. We have provided coloring pages at reallifetexas.org/advent.



HOPE

DAY 1 - December 7th, 2026

Read the story:

Genesis 3

Talk about it:

- What do you think God's relationship with Adam and Eve was like before they disobeyed him?
- How did Adam and Eve know that God still loved them?
- How do you show friends and family that you love them?
- How has God shown that he loves you this week?

Yesterday we learned at church through "A Promise We Can Trust" that God kept his greatest promise in Christ. We can trust every promise He makes

Activity:

Draw a picture on a piece of paper. Tear the paper into 3 or 4 pieces. Help each other tape the picture back together.

Our relationship with God is broken when we disobey him. This is also called sin. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to fix all the brokenness caused by sin.

Bottom Line:

God wants to fix his broken relationship with all people.



DAY 2 - December 8th, 2026

Read the story:

Genesis 17:1-8, Genesis 15:5

Talk about it:

- What is the promise that God made to Abram?
- Have you ever made a promise you did not keep?
How did that make you feel?
- How do you think Abram felt about this enormous promise from God?

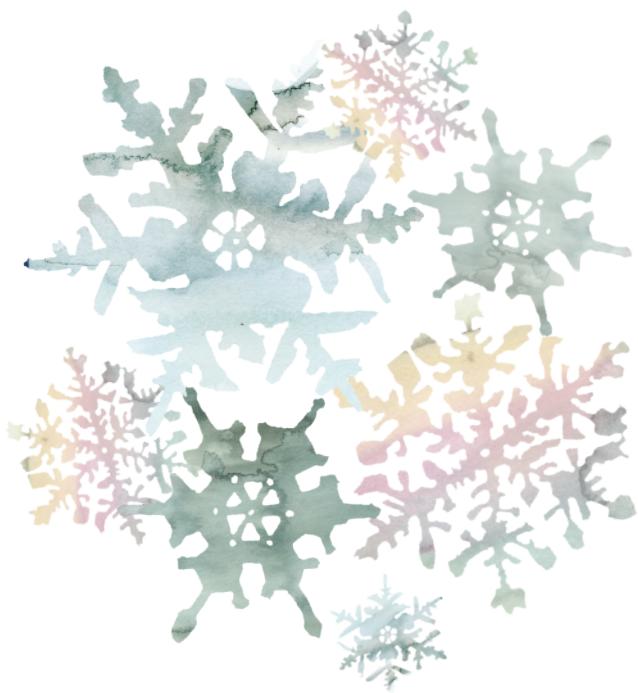
Activity:

Go outside and try to count the stars. Can you imagine being promised something so big?

Talk about how God's promise was fulfilled thousands of years after He made it. Even when we have to wait...

Bottom Line:

God keeps His promises.



DAY 3 - December 9th, 2026

Read the story:

1 Chronicles 17:7-14

Talk about it:

- What promises does God make to King David?
- What are some things a good king would do for the people in his kingdom?
- How can your family help a friend or neighbor this week?

Activity:

Make a plan to act on one of the ideas you came up with to help a friend or neighbor this week. Some ideas may include helping with house or yard work, providing a meal or taking them cookies, writing an encouraging note or drawing a special picture for them.

Even a small act of kindness can have a lasting impact in someone's life.

Bottom Line:

God promised to send a King through David's family.



DAY 4 - December 10th, 2026

Read the story:

Isaiah 7:14

Talk about it:

- What words are used in this verse to describe the “sign” that the Lord will send?
- What do you think Immanuel means? (Answer: God with us)
- Why do you think it was important for us to understand that God is with us and that He came as a baby?

Activity:

Use tissues or fabric scraps to wrap a small figurine (think Lego figure or small doll). Talk about how helpless a baby is and discuss how Jesus understands us because he grew up as a human.

Bottom Line:

The promised King is a baby.



DAY 5 - December 11th, 2026

Read the story:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Talk about it:

- Isaiah is talking about Jesus in these verses. He says Jesus will be a light to people in darkness. Discuss how you feel in darkness versus how you feel in the light.
- What are the names of God (Jesus) listed in this passage?
- What are some of the good things we are promised that King Jesus will do?

Activity:

Isaiah says Jesus will be a light that shines in the darkness. This is part of the reason we use lights to decorate our homes at Christmas. Drive through your neighborhood or one nearby and look at Christmas lights together.

Talk about which colors and decorations make you feel peaceful and which ones make you feel like celebrating. (If you can't do this today, take a moment to put this on your calendar to do as a family now!)

Bottom Line:

The promised King will bring hope.

Note: Tomorrow at church, we will discuss "The Promised Savior". Join us at 9:15 or 11am!



DAY 6 - December 12th, 2026

Read the story:

Isaiah 53:1-5

Talk about it:

- Today we learned about the importance to remember we have a Savior! What are some of the words used to describe what Jesus would look like and how He would be treated?
- In verse 5 it says that “He was pierced because we had sinned.” How does it make you feel that our King and Savior (Jesus) suffered for us?
- Why did Jesus have to be pierced for our sin?
(Hint: the second half of verse 5)

Activity:

Sin is anything we say, think or do that separates us from God. Sin is our nature apart from Christ. Using strips of paper, write some things we have done that you know are sin and shows our need for a Savior. Thank God for sending Jesus.

Bottom Line:

The promised King is our Savior.



DAY 7 - December 13th, 2026

Read the story:

Isaiah 61:1-3

Talk about it:

- What are some things you are hoping for this Christmas?
- If you have kids, explain how sometimes the holiday season is hard and lonely for some people. Who do you know that might be sad or lonely this Christmas?
- How can you share the hope of Jesus with them?

Activity:

One way to share the hope of Jesus is by meeting other people's needs. Talk about how you can share what you have with others. Make plans to donate a toy, clothing or food items to someone who needs it this Christmas. Or maybe visit someone lonely or drop off a care package to them.

If you don't where to donate, TEAM (Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries) is a ministry in Tomball that we partner with to meet needs in our community. Their food pantry can always use dry and canned goods, toiletries and diapers.

Bottom Line:

The promised King turns sadness to hope.



FAITH

DAY 8 - December 14th, 2026

Read the story:

Micah 5:2

Talk about it:

- What is the name of the town that the Ruler will come from?
And how is it described in this verse?
- Do you remember from the first few days whose family line the Messiah will come from? (Hint: Day 2 and 3)
- Bethlehem was promised as the birthplace of Jesus 700 years before He came. He does the perfect fulfillment of God's promises encourage you and give you hope?

Activity:

Look online for free coloring pages of Bethlehem. Work on coloring them while you read the scripture and talk through the questions.

Go to reallifetexas.org/advent for provided coloring pages!

Bottom Line:

God carefully prepared every detail of the Messiah.



DAY 9 - December 15th, 2026

Read the story:

Matthew 1:1-17

Talk about it:

- Why do you think Matthew starts his story with a list of names of the family of Jesus?
- Which names in the list did you recognize from previous days?
- Why is that important in the story of Jesus?
(Hint: It's about the Promises of God)

Activity:

Make a list of the names of people in your family as far back as you can comfortably remember. Take turns telling a short story about a parent or grandparent. Pray together for your family.

For a deeper experience, pray out loud for each other right now – having each person pray for the person to their left.

Bottom Line:

In God's perfect time, the promised King, the Messiah is here!



DAY 10 - December 16th, 2026

Read the story:

Matthew 1:18-24

Talk about it:

- What are some of the promises that God fulfilled in this part of the Christmas story? (Hint: Look for promises in Day 3, 4, 6)
- How do you think Joseph felt in this story?
- How would you feel if an angel came to you in a dream?

Activity:

Find DIY Angel Ornaments at reallifetexas.org/advent or on Pinterest to make as a family. Use this as a reminder that even when we are afraid, we can obey what God asks of us.

Bottom Line:

We can have faith in God even when we are afraid.



DAY 11 - December 17th, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 1:26-33

Talk about it:

- What was the name of the woman God chose to be Jesus' mother?
- What is something special about your mother?
- What does the Bible tell us about Jesus' mother? Is there anything that tells us she was important or famous?

Activity Prep Question:

Mary was not a queen, but the angel told her that her baby, Jesus, would be a king. What do people do when they see a king or queen? (Hint: They honor the king or queen.) What would you do to honor a king or a queen if you met one?

Activity:

Find a crown or a hat to use as a crown. Take turns pretending to be the king or queen. Put on the crown and walk around the room pretending to be royal. The other family members should 'honor' them – cheering, clapping, making way for them. When each person has had a turn, talk about how it felt to be a king or queen. What did you like / not like?

Bottom Line:

God can and will use ordinary people to fulfill His promises.



DAY 12 - December 18th, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 1:46-55

Talk about it:

- Is music important to you and your family during the Christmas season? Why?
- Who is Mary singing this song about? Look at the verses and talk about the ways she describes God.

Activity:

As a family, talk about your favorite Christmas song. What is special about it to each of you? Choose a song about the Christmas story and sing/play it aloud together.

Bottom Line:

Music is a beautiful way to worship the promised King.



DAY 13 - December 19th, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 2:1-7

Talk about it:

- Over the last 2 weeks, we have read many promises about Jesus in the Bible. Which promises do you see fulfilled in today's story?
- How did the people of Bethlehem welcome baby Jesus?
- How do you celebrate the birth of baby Jesus?

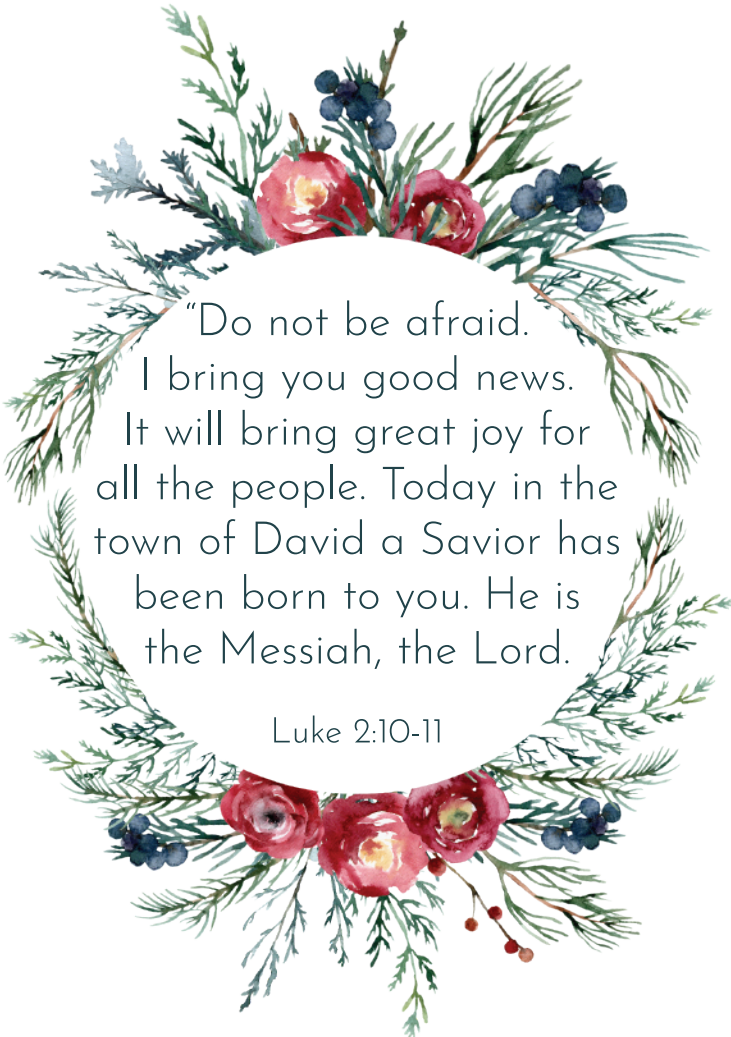
Activity:

Even though today is not Christmas day, spend some time as a family celebrating the birth of Jesus. This can be as simple as singing Happy Birthday to Jesus or you can wear party hats, make a birthday cake and play party games.

Bottom Line:

Christmas is a celebration of King Jesus' birthday!

Note: Tomorrow at church, we will discuss "The Promised Kingdom". Join us at 9:15 or 11am!



"Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news.
It will bring great joy for
all the people. Today in the
town of David a Savior has
been born to you. He is
the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

DAY 14 - December 20th, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 2:8-14

Talk about it:

- Who do we read about in this story?
- Why did the angel say this news will, "bring great joy for all the people?"
- Do you have joy at Christmas time? How can we find joy in the Christmas story?

Activity:

Think about the people who live around you. Do you have friends or neighbors that you could invite to your house for Christmas dinner, or the Christmas Eve service? As a family, make the opportunity to share the good news with them!

Bottom Line:

We can be messengers of the Good News too!



JOY

DAY 15 - December 21st, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 2:15-20

Talk about it:

- What were some of the things the shepherds saw and heard that night in Bethlehem?
- How did the shepherds spread the good news?
- Is it easy for you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?

Activity:

Tell each other about the first time you remember hearing about Jesus. If applicable, share the story of when you first understood that Jesus was your Savior and King.

Bottom Line:

Meeting Jesus is something to share with others.

Note: Details of Christmas Eve Candlelight Service can be found at reallifetexas.org/advent.

Join us at 5pm or 7pm on December 24th.



DAY 16 - December 22nd, 2026

Read the story:

Luke 2:25-35

Talk about it:

- Can you think of some of the stories we have already learned that Simeon would have known about this Messiah?
(Hint: Days 1-8)
- How does it make you feel when someone keeps their promise?
- What do we learn about God from this story?

Activity:

Find some building blocks (Duplo, Lego, etc) As a family, spend some time building a Temple like the one in the story where Simeon met baby Jesus. Talk about remembering that God keeps His promises to us and use this model as a reminder.

Bottom Line:

God keeps His promises toward us.



DAY 17 - December 23rd, 2026

Read the story:

Matthew 2:1-12

Talk about it:

- What made the wise men joyful and why? (Hint: See verse 10)
- What gifts did they give Jesus? (Hint: See verse 11)
- What are some gifts you can give Jesus?

Activity:

Gather a couple of items with a strong scent (perfume, spice, a candle.) Ask each person to close their eyes and then hold one item at a time near their nose and have them smell it. Have them guess what they smell. Talk about how the smells make you feel. Ask: What do you think frankincense and myrrh smelled like?

Bottom Line:

There is joy in our journey to Jesus.

Note: See you tomorrow at our Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service.

Join us at 5pm or 7pm.

Visit reallifetexas.org for details.



DAY 18 - December 24th, 2026

Read the story:

Hebrews 12:2-3

Talk about it:

- Who is supposed to be our example in this journey?
- What are some ways that you personally get discouraged on this journey?
- As a family, talk about ways you can help each other be reminded to look to Jesus when you lose hope. Put reminders around your home.

Activity:

Look for a Bible reading plan or a Devotional that you can do as a family to continue on this journey, building your faith in the new year. Recommendations can be found at reallifetexas.org/advent

Bottom Line:

The journey doesn't end after Christmas. We get to know God by spending time in His Word, individually and as a family. Be intentional with staying close to the Lord after Christmas.

Join us for
**Christmas Eve
Services**



The
Promise

Thursday, December 24th
5:00pm & 7:00pm

Childcare available for birth - K



1626 S Cherry St
Tomball, TX 77375

Worship Services

Sundays 9:15 & 11:00am

RealLifeTexas.org