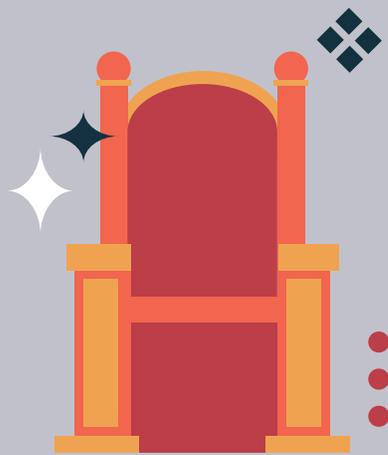


**SONGS
OF THE**
exalted
LOWLY

.....
**AN ADVENT
BIBLE STUDY**



HE HAS PUT
DOWN THE
MIGHTY FROM
THEIR THRONES,
AND EXALTED
THE LOWLY.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Seed of the Woman

READ:
Genesis 3:14-15

ASK:
What does God promise when he curses the serpent?

ANSWER:
That there will be a seed of the woman who comes to crush the serpent's head.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

Blessed through you...

READ:
Genesis 12:1-3

ASK:
What does God mean when he promises Abraham that all the earth will be blessed through him?

ANSWER:
That one day, a descendant of Abraham will be the one who crushes the serpent's head and brings salvation to all people who trust in him.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Barren Women

READ:
Psalm 113

ASK:
Who are some of the women in the Bible who were not able to have children (until God intervened and helped.)

ANSWER:
*Sarah – Abraham's wife.
Rebekah – Isaac's wife (Isaac is the son of Abraham).
Elizabeth – the mother of John the Baptist that we're going to read about tomorrow).*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Elizabeth's Song

READ:
Luke 1:5-25

ASK:
Who is Elizabeth?

ANSWER:
She is the wife of Zechariah and she will be the mother of John the Baptist.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Elizabeth's Disgrace Taken Away

READ:

Luke 1:23-25

ASK:

Why was Elizabeth so happy?

ANSWER:

Because the Lord showed favor and took away her disgrace – he was going to give her a baby.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

The Angel Visits Mary

READ:

Luke 1:26-38

ASK:

What did Mary feel like when the angel visited her? Why did she feel that way?

ANSWER:

She was greatly troubled (and afraid). The appearance of an angel is always frightening, but also the important words that he said to her.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

The Son of David

READ:

Luke 1:31-33; 2 Sam. 7:11-16

ASK:

What are some of the things that the angel says about the baby Jesus?

What about him being the “son of David”?

ANSWER:

That he will be great, the Son of the Most High. He is also the one who is the promised son of David who will rule on the throne forever.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Mary Believes God's Promise

READ:

Luke 1:38

ASK:

What did Mary say? What did she believe in order for her to be able to say that?

ANSWER:

She essentially said “yes” to God's plan. She believed God's promise to her.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Elizabeth's Joyful Exclamation

READ:

Luke 1:39-45

ASK:

What did Elizabeth say to Mary at the end of her joyful exclamation?

ANSWER:

Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Blessed are those who believe!

READ:

John 20:24-29

ASK:

This story happened a little over 30 years after Elizabeth blessed Mary. What did Thomas believe? What did Jesus say?

ANSWER:

Thomas believed who Jesus was. Jesus said that we are all blessed if we believe who he is and what he has promised.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Mary's Song

READ:

Luke 1:31-33; 2
Sam. 7:11-16

ASK:

What are some of the things that Mary says her "song"? ✨

ANSWER:

My soul glorifies the Lord.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Hannah's Soul Rejoices Too

READ:

1 Samuel 2:1

ASK:

What does Hannah say in her prayer that Mary repeated in her "song"?

ANSWER:

My heart (soul) rejoices in the LORD.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

God Exalts the Lowly

READ:

1 Samuel 2:7-8; Luke 1:51-52

ASK:

What is a major theme in these "songs" from Hannah and Mary?
Why is that an important theme?

ANSWER:

That God brings down the exalted, and he exalts the lowly ones. That is important because it shows that God loves us all, and that we all need Jesus.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Through Jesus, All are Blessed

READ:

Luke 1:54-55; Genesis 12:1-3 (the text from the 2nd)

ASK:

Do you remember what God promised Abraham?
What does Mary say about that?

ANSWER:

Yes – that God would bless the whole world through Abraham's descendent. Mary reminds us that God has not forgotten his promise. Jesus is the answer to that promise.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

John the Baptist is Born

READ:

Luke 1:55-66

ASK:

What is the name of Elizabeth's baby?

ANSWER:

John.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Someone like Elijah

READ:

Malachi 4:5-6

ASK:

What does God promise his people?

ANSWER:

That someday, before the day of dreadful judgment, God will send a prophet like Elijah.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

A Voice in the Desert

READ:

Luke 3:2-6; John 17:11-13

ASK:

What does John do when he grows up? Who does Jesus say that he is?

ANSWER:

He prepares the way of the Lord. Jesus says that John is he one who came in the spirit of Elijah.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Zechariah's Song

READ:

Luke 1:67-80

ASK:

What does Zechariah feel like about the birth of his son John?

ANSWER:

He is very glad and is praising God.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Prepare the Way

READ:

Luke 1:76

ASK:

What does Zechariah say about his son?

ANSWER:

That he is the one who will go before the Lord and prepare a way for him.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

John's Important Message

READ:

Luke 1:77

ASK:

What does Zechariah say about his son's message?

ANSWER:

That he will give people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

His Name will be Jesus

READ:
Matthew 1:21

ASK:
Somewhere in the time near John's birth, the angel of the Lord spoke to Mary's husband to be, Joseph. Why did the angel tell Joseph to name Jesus, "Jesus"?

ANSWER:
Because Jesus means "the Lord saves". So, he was to be named "Jesus" because he would save his people from their sins.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

A Baby in a Manger

READ:
Luke 2:1-7

ASK:
Why do you think Jesus was born in such a lowly place?

ANSWER:
Because he came to save us all. He humbled himself to the lowest place so that everyone – even the weak ones – could be saved by him.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

6 Little Town of Bethlehem

READ:
Micah 5:2

ASK:
Why was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem?

ANSWER:
Remember our reading on the 7th, about the promise to king David? Bethlehem is the town of David.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Angels Visit Shepherds

READ:
Luke 2:8-20

ASK:
Why do you think that God told the shepherds?

ANSWER:
Because he wanted even the poor and lowly to hear the good news and tell the story

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Go Tell the Good News!

READ:
Luke 2:20

ASK:
What did the shepherds do after they saw the good news of the birth of Jesus?

ANSWER:
They went away telling everyone – they were glorifying and praising God!



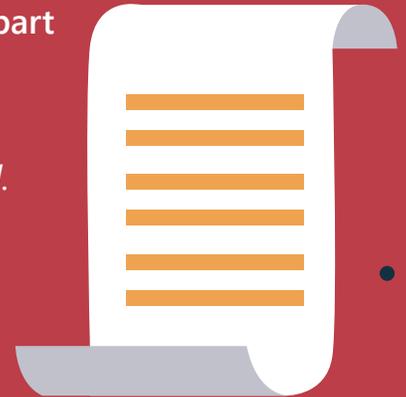
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Simeon's Song

READ:
Luke 2:21-32

ASK:
How old was Jesus in this part of the story?

ANSWER:
Eight days old.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

Waiting a Long Time for a Baby

READ:
Luke 2:21-32

ASK:
What kind of a man was Simeon?

ANSWER:
He was a righteous follower of God, who had been waiting for the good news of Jesus.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Blessing for All Nations

READ:
Luke 2:21-32

ASK:
What did Simeon say about Jesus – and what's the deal about Gentiles?

ANSWER:
He said that Jesus was the salvation of his people – but that salvation belonged to all of the nations of the earth – just as God had promised to Abraham back on our reading from the 2nd)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Rising and Falling of Many

READ:
Luke 2:33-35

ASK:
What did Simeon say to Mary?

ANSWER:
That Jesus would bring falling and rising of many – and that her heart would be sad too.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

A Stumbling Stone

READ:
Romans 9:30-33

ASK:
What is the stumbling stone?

ANSWER:
A stumbling stone is an idea that we first reject – but because we reject it, we trip over the truth. Jesus is like that. People want to say that they deserve salvation from God, but Jesus shows us that we cannot pay our sin debt – only he can. So, even though Jesus is the only way we can be saved, people often “stumble” over him, thinking that we are not that bad and that we do not need a Savior.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

One Who is Cursed

READ:
Galatians 3:13-14

ASK:
Why was Jesus cursed?

ANSWER:
Jesus was cursed – not because he did anything wrong, but because he took our punishment on him. The fact that he was “hung on a tree” is part of why many people “stumble” (like we talked about yesterday). Many people do not believe that his death makes sense, but those who realize that our sins are that bad, are very grateful for what he did for us, and we love him very much for that.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

One Who Saves Us All

READ:
Galatians 4:4-7

ASK:
What parts of these verses remind us of the Christmas story?

ANSWER:
*The timing was perfect.
Jesus was born of a woman (Mary).
Jesus obeyed the law. (at the temple when he was 8 days old).
He was punished in our place as our substitute – for the sins that we did when we disobey the law of God.
Jesus saves us from our sins.*