



# the Jesus Storybook Bible<sup>®</sup>

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## ADVENT GUIDE

with introduction by Sally Lloyd-Jones







INTRODUCTION: BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES

## Happy (Nearly Almost) Christmas!

**W**hat do you love most about Christmas?

Most of us say, PRESENTS! And probably all the grown-ups will laugh and want us to say something more spiritual.

But actually, do you know what? You're right. That IS the best, most important thing about Christmas.

Because, you see, Christmas is all about a present—a gift. The greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been ...

Christmas is very hard to wait for, isn't it? Waiting to open all those presents—it's so difficult. Especially when you're little.

We count down the days. We can't wait.

But do you know how long God's people had to wait for Christmas? How long they had to wait for the gift God promised them?

Weeks?

No.

Months?

Um. Longer.

Years, then?

Even longer than that.

They had to wait for centuries and centuries! Can you imagine how excited they were when at last Christmas came?





When do you think Christmas begins?

Does it begin in Bethlehem?

Or with the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary?

Or does it begin with a bright star shining on a little stable?

Actually, the story of Christmas begins long, long ago—before there were even any stars in the sky at all.

Christmas begins in the heart of God.

Back in the very beginning, God had a magnificent dream inside his heart.

He made his children to share in his Forever Happiness and the world to be our perfect home. But we lost it all when we decided we didn't need him, when we decided we could be happy without him. And everything broke—in our hearts and in his world when sin and sadness and tears came in.

But God had a plan—a magnificent dream. One day, he would get his children back. One day, he himself would come to rescue them and heal their broken hearts. One day, he promised, Christmas would come!

All through the Bible, all through the long years, God has been waiting for exactly the

right time to send his great gift. He has been waiting for Christmas!

From the moment Adam and Eve left the garden he whispered the promise, "It will not always be so." To Abraham, he promised one day a child will come to bring laughter to the whole world. He promised Joseph, David, Isaiah. One day, he will send us a Good Shepherd. A Brave Hero. A Young Prince. A Mighty King. A Great Rescuer.

A Child.

And every story whispers His name.

Christmas is when, at last, everything is ready. The time has come, at last, for God to give us his great gift.







The days leading up to Christmas are called “Advent.” Advent means the “arrival.” It means the long waiting is almost over ...

As we wait for Christmas, we’ll go on a journey together. We’ll read a story every day, decorate the tree, and tell the story of God’s Secret Rescue plan—from the very beginning ... and wait, along with God’s people ...

And on Christmas morning? PRESENTS!

And the greatest, most magnificent gift there has ever been—wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Sleeping under the stars that he made.

The baby who would rescue the world is born!

Happy Christmas!

—SL-J





## NOTE TO PARENTS:

**N**ot long after the book was published, families started sharing how they were using **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE** during Advent. That's when we first realized there were EXACTLY the right number of stories to read each day of Advent beginning on December 1st right up to Christmas day with Jesus' birth. We were amazed. It was almost as if someone had planned it. (Which, of course, Someone had!)

So we wanted to share this special family Advent resource so more of you can enjoy it.

Inside, you'll find that the team at Zondervan have created a reading plan and some beautiful printable ornaments, to your Advent season especially meaningful as a family. For every day of Advent, there is a printable ornament, and on the reverse of each ornament there is the related story to read in **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**, and the scripture passage it comes from.

As your family adds the ornaments to the tree, trace God's hand through all the stories, and tell the one big story of God's Great Rescue Plan through every day of Advent—starting with creation and leading up to Jesus' birth.

It's almost like an Advent tree calendar. (Is there such a thing?) Actually some people call this a Jesse Tree—named after the prophecy in Isaiah II: 1 “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse...”.

One family I know of, reads the story together and then they each spend some time drawing something from the story (the big fish from Jonah; the lions from Daniel; the big tower from the Staircase to Heaven, for example) as they listen to Christmas music.

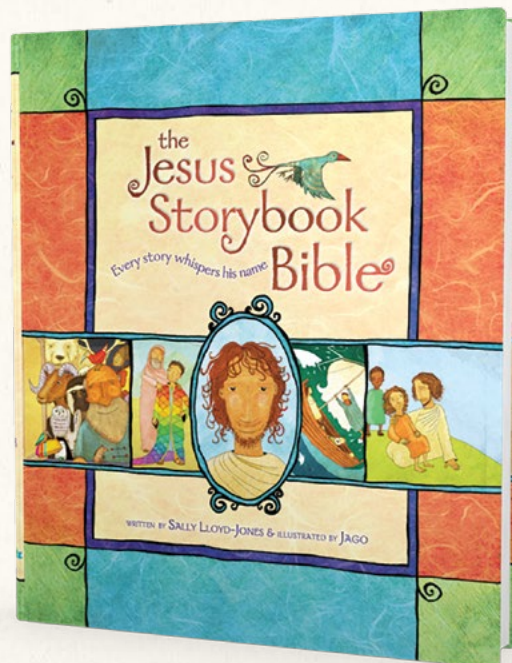
There are lots more ideas the team at Zondervan have created for you. And you will have your own ideas too.

Happy Advent!

Emmanuel!

God has come to live with us!

—SL-J



# The Jesus Storybook Bible

## Advent Reading Plan



The Story  
and the Song



The Song  
of Creation



The Terrible Lie



A New Beginning



A Giant Staircase  
to Heaven



Son of Laughter



The Present



The Girl  
No One Wanted



The Forgiving  
Prince



God to the  
Rescue!



God Makes a Way



Ten Ways to  
be Perfect



The Warrior  
Leader



The Teeny  
Weenie...  
True King



The Young Hero  
and the  
Horrible Giant



The Good  
Shepherd



Little Servant Girl  
and the Proud  
General



Operation 'No  
More Tears'!



Daniel and the  
Scary Sleepover



God's Messenger



Get Ready!



He's Here!  
WATCH THE VIDEO



The Light of the  
Whole World



The King  
of All Kings





# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

with Advent bible verses and readings from:

The Jesus Storybook Bible

## 1 PRINT THE CARDS

You'll want to start by printing the countdown graphics. Use the best color printer and the best paper that is available to you. The photos go on one side, and the Scriptures and readings are on the back so you will want to print double-sided or feed your paper separately into your printer and print each page one-by-one. (If you're not accustomed to printing double-sided, you may want to test this first with your black-and-white printing settings to save your color cartridge.)

## 2 CUT THE CARDS

The printables have square cutting lines around the images to guide you as you cut with a paper cutter or scissors. If you'd like you can also laminate the cards, either before or after you cut them, for durability. This is a good idea if you plan to use these year after year each Christmas!

## 3 DISPLAY YOUR CARDS

There are many options for how to display your advent Scripture cards each day as you count down to Christmas! Here are four simple ideas:

1. Turn your cards into ornaments! You can bunch a hole at the top of each card and hang them on your Christmas tree, or create a mini-tree to feature these images and scriptures on their own.
2. Create a clothesline display of the cards. Grab some ribbon or baker's twine and clothespins to hang the Advent pieces across a mirror, a picture frame, or mantle.
3. Place the cards in a pocket chart or other clear type display. You can often find these at teacher supply stores.
4. Hang them from a Christmas-card holder or other type of display that you find at retail stores.

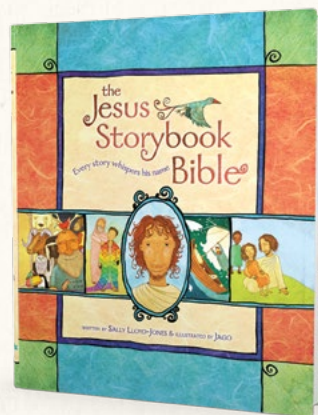
## 4 SHARE YOUR CREATIONS

We'd love to see how you display your cards. Upload your photos on Instagram, Twitter, or Pinterest with hashtag #JSBAdvent and we will try to like, retweet, and re-pin your images to the FaithGateway, Zonderkidz, and The Jesus Storybook Bible social media accounts. We can't wait to hear your stories and see your creative ideas for displays!

## SPECIAL OFFER

for our Advent Calendar Participants

SAVE NOW on The Jesus Storybook Bible!



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The Jesus Storybook Bible

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December 2

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Song of Creation" (pg. 18-27)

December 1

Today's Scripture:  
Psalm 19 and Hebrews 1

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Story and The Song" (pg. 12-17)

December 4

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 6-9

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"A New Beginning" (pg. 38-47)

December 3

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 3

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Terrible Lie" (pg. 28-37)

December 6

Today's Scripture  
Genesis 12-21

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"Son of Laughter" (pg. 56-61)

December 5

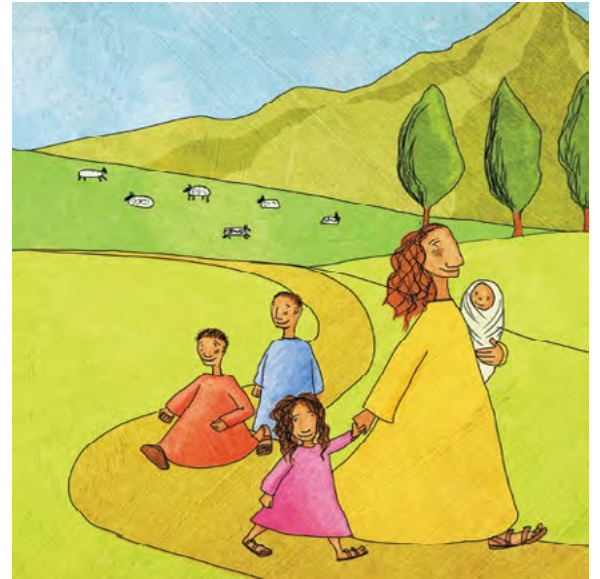
Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 11

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"A Giant Staircase to Heaven"  
(pg. 48-55)

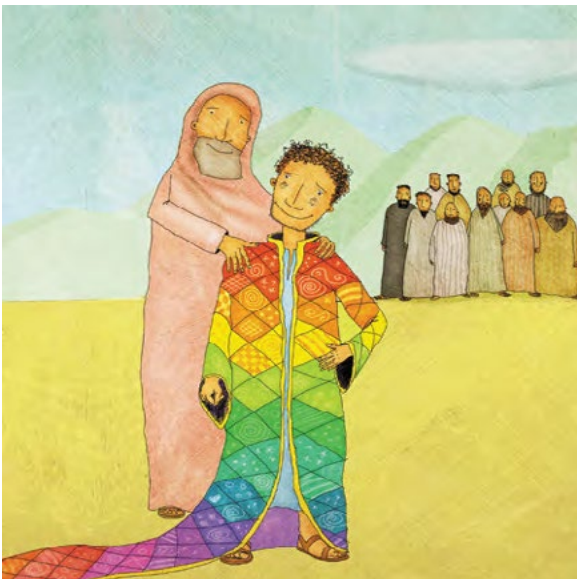




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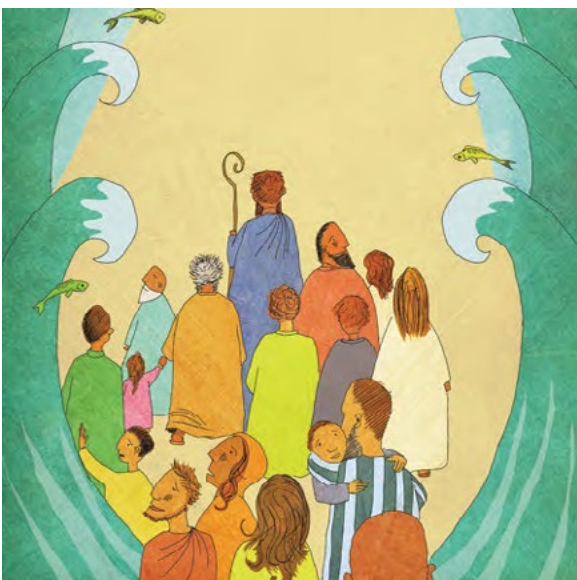
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December 8

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 29-30

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Girl no One Wanted" (pg. 70-75)

December 7

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 22

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Present" (pg. 62-69)

December 10

Today's Scripture:  
Exodus 3-13

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"God to the Rescue!" (pg. 84-91)

December 9

Today's Scripture:  
Genesis 37-46

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Forgiving Prince" (pg. 76-83)

December 12

Today's Scripture:  
Exodus 16-17, 19-40

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"Ten Ways to be Perfect" (pg. 100-107)

December 11

Today's Scripture:  
Exodus 14-15

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"God Makes a Way" (pg. 92-99)





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December 14

Today's Scripture:  
1 Samuel 16

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Teeny Weenie... True King"  
(pg. 116-121)

December 16

Today's Scripture:  
Psalm 51, 2 Samuel 7;  
paraphrase of Psalm 23

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Good Shepherd" (pg. 130-135)

December 18

Today's Scripture:  
Isaiah 9, 11, 40, 50, 53, 55, 60

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"Operation 'No More Tears!'"  
(pg. 144-151)

December 13

Today's Scripture:  
Joshua 3 and 6

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Warrior Leader" (pg. 108-115)

December 15

Today's Scripture:  
1 Samuel 17

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Young Hero and the Horrible  
Giant" (pg. 122-129)

December 17

Today's Scripture:  
2 Kings 5

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"A little Servant Girl and the Proud  
General" (pg. 136-143)

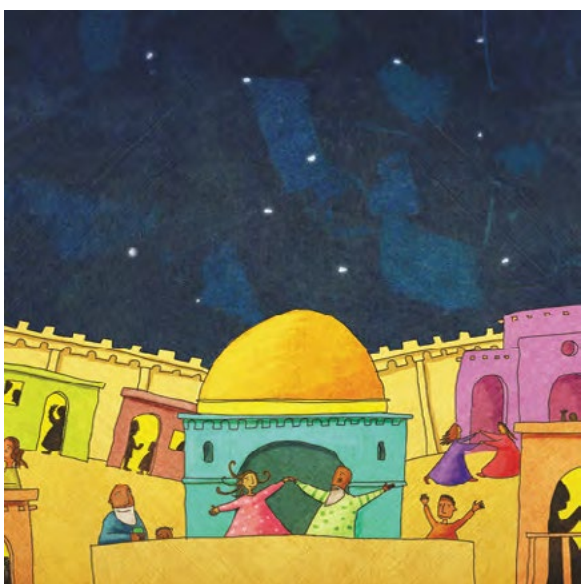




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December 20

Today's Scripture:  
Jonah 1-4; Hebrews 1:1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"God's Messenger" (pg. 160-169)

December 19

Today's Scripture:  
Daniel 6

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"Daniel and the Scary Sleepover"  
(pg. 152-159)

December 22

Today's Scripture:  
Luke 1-2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"He's Here!" (pg. 176-183)

December 21

Today's Scripture:  
Nehemiah 8-10, Malachi 1, 3  
and 4, Ezra 7

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"Get Ready!" (pg. 170-175)

December 24

Today's Scripture:  
Matthew 2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The King of all Kings" (pg. 192-199)

December 23

Today's Scripture:  
Luke 2

Read along in The Jesus Storybook Bible  
"The Light of the Whole World"  
(pg. 184-191)



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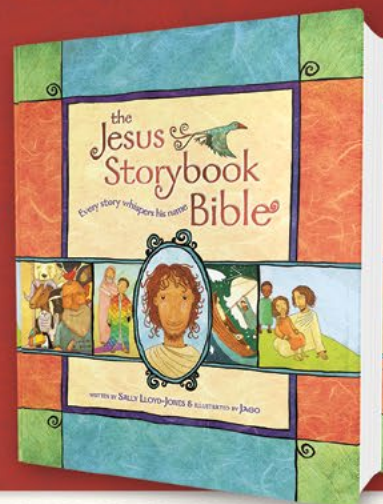
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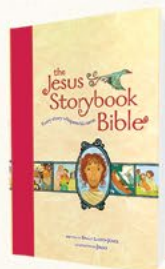
"Sally Lloyd-Jones has captured the heart of what it means to find Christ in all the scriptures, and has made clear even to little children that all God's revelation has been about Jesus from the beginning--a truth not all that commonly recognized even among the very learned." - Dr. Tim Keller, pastor of New York City's Redeemer Church.



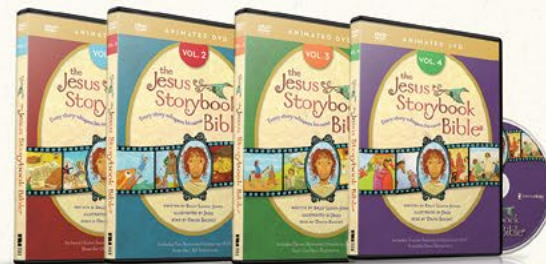
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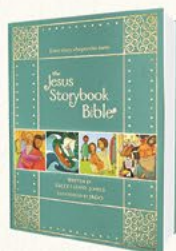
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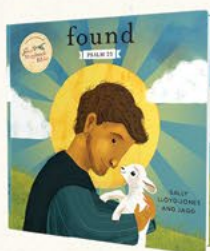
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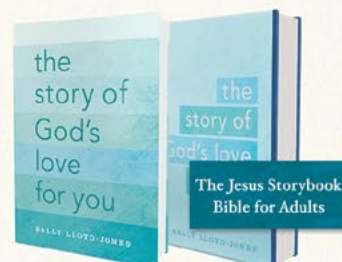
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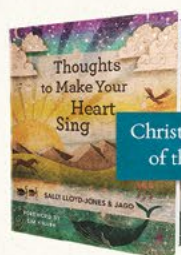
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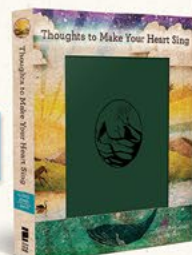
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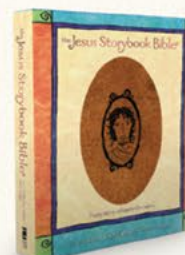
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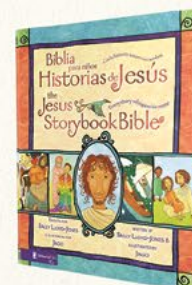
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