



20 SCRIPTURES:
 an
 ADVENT READING PLAN

The Advent season is a perfect time to draw closer to God and study God's Word. This Advent Scripture reading plan walks you through the dozens of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah that could only be fulfilled by Jesus.



The CASE for
 CHRISTMAS

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Prophecies

DAY 1

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15

DAY 3

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

Psalms 22:14-18

DAY 5

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

DAY 7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

DAY 9

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

Fulfillment

DAY 2

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8

DAY 4

Read John 19:23-37

DAY 6

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God.

Luke 1:35

DAY 8

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:32-33

DAY 10

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'

John 1:23

Prophecies

DAY 11

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Hosea 11:1

DAY 13

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Micah 5:2

DAY 15

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

DAY 17

I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

Zechariah 11:12-13

DAY 19

See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.

Malachi 4:5-6

Fulfillment

DAY 12

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:14-15

DAY 14

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "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 shepherd my people Israel."

Matthew 2:4-6

DAY 16

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"; "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"; "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

Matthew 21:8-10

DAY 18

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.

Matthew 27:6-10

DAY 20

This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 11:10-15



25 ways to
SHARE CHRIST
at
CHRISTMAS

Share His Light
by
Being the Light



the CASE *for*
CHRISTMAS



Display a Nativity outdoors. The display of Nativity sets reminds others that Jesus is real -- and that we should celebrate the real gift of the season!

Reenact the first Christmas and invite friends and neighbors! It doesn't have to be elaborate. Humble, handmade costumes are the sweetest.

Give gift cards to a struggling single parent family anonymously.

Leave a generous, much bigger-than-usual, tip for your server at a restaurant and include a note that says "Merry Christmas. Jesus loves you!"

Leave a nice tip for your mailman and newspaper delivery person.

Have a Birthday Party for Jesus! You can make a cake, sing "Happy Birthday", and even put up some birthday decorations.

Stop by a school bus stop and hand out candy canes to all the children waiting.

Make a Christmas card for your pastor and church staff.

Sing Christmas hymns door-to-door or in a nursing home, like "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger" and "Oh Holy Night."

Volunteer to babysit for a single mom so she can do her Christmas shopping.

Surprise neighbors with treats and include the "You've Been Jingled" special poem that reminds of the true meaning of Christmas. (Courtesy of The Dating Divas)

25 WAYS to SHARE CHRIST at CHRISTMAS

Create and share a Blessings Jar. Read the book "The Blessings Jar" as a family. Then fill your own Christmas jar with blessings and give to someone in need.

Go on a family service project for Christmas: volunteer at a local shelter or soup kitchen, help deliver food baskets, serve at an animal shelter, or more!

Pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.

Hide a \$1 bill in the toy section of the dollar store with a note "Jesus loves you!" —make some little person's day.

Give gifts that focus on Christ. Not every gift has to be religious, but children's Christian picture books, Bibles, an inspirational Scripture calendar, or a 365-day devotional all make great Christmas gifts that friends and family can enjoy year-round!

Leave cookies or sandwiches at your local fire or police station with a note of thanks and "Merry Christmas! Jesus loves you and we are grateful for you!"

Read the Christmas story (the historical accounts directly from the Bible in the gospels of Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2) to senior citizens at a retirement or nursing home.

Shovel a snowy driveway and front walkway for a neighbor, or if you're in a warmer area mow the lawn or take the trash barrels in and out. Leave a note to tell them they are loved by Jesus!

Find a local community center that serves underprivileged children and bring Christmassy snacks, juice boxes, and crafts for a fun playtime afternoon.

Send Christmas cards to deployed soldiers.

Call your local hospital or hospice center and find out who doesn't have regular visitors and visit that person with a pointsettia or a mini-tree. Make a new friend!

Deliver cups of hot cocoa to the bell ringers outside of the stores.

Deliver a Christmas tree to a family or senior who can't afford one.

Deliver blankets, warm socks, and toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap, tooth brush, toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm) to a homeless shelter.



12 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these conversation starters before watching each video session of *The Case for Christmas*, or use them for table topics at your next Christmas dinner party!





The **CASE** *for*
CHRISTMAS



SESSION ONE





What's your favorite Christmas movie? How about a favorite character? Is there a favorite memory you can share of a time when you watched this movie with your family or friends?



SESSION TWO





What gift did you long for as a child? Did you ever receive it? Was it as amazing as you thought it would be?



SESSION ONE





What is your family's tradition as it relates to the opening of presents? Does your family open their gifts on Christmas Eve or on Christmas morning?



SESSION TWO





What's the most bizarre Christmas present you've ever received? Was it from a crazy relative? A coworker? What did you end up doing with the gift?



SESSION ONE





Do you have a nativity scene that you display during this time of year? What would that scene look like without the stable or the wise men? (It would make the scene look a bit different and less familiar, wouldn't you agree?)



SESSION TWO



Have you ever received a heartwarming gift from a person best described as having a "cranky exterior"? Describe how it happened.







SESSION THREE





Are you into decorating your home for Christmas? If so, how elaborate are your decorations?



SESSION FOUR



How many times would you guess you've watched A Christmas Carol? Which is your favorite version? Why?



SESSION THREE



What's your favorite part about Christmas dinner? Why?



SESSION FOUR





Who is your favorite character in The Christmas Carol?



SESSION THREE



Where's the most unusual place you've ever spent Christmas? How did it happen that you were there?



SESSION FOUR



Why do you think there have been so many adaptations and retellings of A Christmas Carol? What about the story do you think most resonates with people?

