

Advent at Home

Travelling Nativity

Try setting up your nativity scene in stages this year:

- move the Mary and Joseph figures on a journey through the house until Christmas Eve, when they arrive at the manger
- add angel figures beside the manger on Christmas Eve
- place the baby Jesus figure in the manger on Christmas morning
- add the figures of the shepherds later on Christmas Day
- keep the nativity scene for the twelve days of Christmas
- have the magi figures travel through the house from Christmas Day until the Day of the Epiphany (January 6)
- place the magi figures beside the baby Jesus on the Day of the Epiphany.

Advent surprise gifts

There is a German tradition of secret gift giving during the Advent season, called “christkindl” (Christ child):

- write the name of each member of the family on a slip of paper
- each person chooses a name (without telling who it is) on the first Sunday of Advent
- throughout Advent each person does secret “good deeds” for the person whose name they drew (such as helping with a task without being asked, making a small gift, leaving a note or poem on a pillow or in a pocket)
- reveal the names on Christmas Eve or Day and celebrate the gifts each has received.

Advent bookmark

Make a bookmark to remind you of the Advent Bible stories. Cut out the bookmark, colour it, and glue it to heavier paper.



Advent Bible stories

Stories of events that happened before Jesus' birth

Elizabeth and Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25

The birth of John the Baptizer

Luke 1:57-80

Mary and the angel

Luke 1:26-38

Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Joseph's dream

Matthew 1:18-24

