

ADVENT CALENDAR

Gather around and READ God's story of compassion one day at a time. Then go and DO the suggested activities and write your own story of compassion as a family.

2015

1

A YOUNG COUPLE, MARY AND JOSEPH, GET ENGAGED.

Give up your spot in line. (They'll be so thankful!)

2

ONE DAY, GOD SENDS THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY. HE HAS SOME VERY SPECIAL NEWS!

Donate money to a non-profit.

3

MARY IS GREATLY TROUBLED WHEN SHE HEARS THE ANGEL'S GREETING.

Pay for someone else's coffee. (Christmas caffeine!)

4

GABRIEL RESPONDS TO MARY: "DON'T BE AFRAID; GOD IS VERY HAPPY WITH YOU!"

Send cards to service men and women who are serving overseas. (Long distance Christmas cheer!)

5

GABRIEL TELLS MARY THE SPECIAL NEWS: SHE WILL HAVE A BABY BOY, AND HE WILL BE NAMED JESUS.

Tell a joke to make someone smile. (Or tell several to spread even more joy!)

6

GABRIEL SHARES MORE DETAILS OF GOD'S PLAN WITH MARY: "JESUS WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED GOD'S VERY OWN SON!"

Donate scrumptious food to your food bank.

7

MARY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE CAN HAVE A BABY WITHOUT BEING MARRIED, BUT THE ANGEL GABRIEL ASSURES HER OF A GREAT TRUTH: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

Donate pet supplies to an animal shelter. (You'll make a puppy's day!)

8

"I SERVE GOD WITH MY LIFE AND WANT ALL THAT YOU HAVE SAID TO HAPPEN," MARY TELLS THE ANGEL, AND HE LEAVES.

Help someone do a chore or other job. (And sing Christmas carols while you work!)

9

MARY VISITS HER COUSIN ELIZABETH AND IS SO OVERWHELMED WITH GOD'S GOODNESS THAT SHE SINGS A SONG OF PRAISE.

Do yard work or shovel snow for a neighbor. (And sing more carols!)

10

CAESAR AUGUSTUS WANTS TO KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HIS EMPIRE, SO HE TELLS ALL THE PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN TO BE REGISTERED AND COUNTED.

Donate books you no longer need. (You'll be giving the stories a second life!)

11

JOSEPH TAKES MARY, WHO IS PREGNANT, TO HIS HOMETOWN OF BETHLEHEM TO BE COUNTED.

Pick up litter. (It'll help the reindeer to have a safer journey!)

12

WHILE JOSEPH AND MARY ARE IN BETHLEHEM, THE TIME COMES FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN.

Offer free babysitting for a family so they can do some Christmas shopping.

13

MARY GIVES BIRTH TO JESUS, WRAPS HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAYS HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THEM ANYWHERE ELSE.

Leave a popcorn surprise for neighbors to find.

14

AT NIGHT IN A NEARBY FIELD, SHEPHERDS ARE WATCHING THEIR FLOCKS.

Donate fun toys to a children's hospital.

15

THE SKY LIGHTS UP—GOD HAS SENT AN ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS TO TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS.

Donate a pair of new pajamas for foster kids. (Snuggly pajamas are like a warm hug!)

16

WHEN THE SHEPHERDS SEE THE ANGEL, THEY'RE AFRAID!

Put money in the Salvation Army bucket.

17

THE ANGEL TRIES TO CALM THE SHEPHERDS: "DON'T BE AFRAID—I BRING WONDERFUL NEWS THAT WILL BRING JOY TO ALL OF THE WORLD!"

Make get well cards for someone who needs them.

18

"A SAVIOR—THE RESCUER YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR IS BORN TODAY!" THE ANGEL PROCLAIMS TO THE SHEPHERDS.

Bring coffee to your teachers. (More Christmas caffeine!)

19

THE ANGEL EXPLAINS THAT THE SHEPHERDS WILL FIND THE BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.

Make holiday decorations for others. (Spread that Christmas cheer!)

20

MORE ANGELS COME TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS—THEY ARRIVE AT THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD AND BEGIN PRAISING GOD!

Donate meals to No Kid Hungry.

21

THE SHEPHERDS LEAVE THEIR FLOCKS AND HURRY TO FIND MARY, JOSEPH AND THE BABY WHO IS LYING IN A MANGER.

Make ornaments for your neighbors. (Help them deck their halls!)

22

AFTER THEY SEE THE BABY, THE SHEPHERDS EXCITEDLY GO AND TELL EVERYONE THEY RUN INTO THE GOOD NEWS!

Donate new, awesome toys to Toys for Tots.

23

THE SHEPHERDS RETURN TO THEIR FLOCKS, PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD.

Feed the birds. (A tweet treat!)

24

MARY NAMES THE BABY JESUS JUST AS THE ANGEL HAD TOLD HER TO DO.

Candy cane bomb the cars in the parking lot.

25

GOD HAS SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE US BECAUSE HE LOVES US!

Go back to Day 1 and read God's story of compassion from beginning to end. Merry Christmas! God loves you!