



The Greatest Story

December Advent Calendar

Based on Luke 1-2 and Matthew 1-2 (ESV)*

1. Once there was a woman named **Mary**. God sent an angel to her, and the angel said, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High” (*Luke 1:31-32*).
2. Then an angel came to **Joseph** and said, “Take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save people from their sins” (*Matt 1:20-21*).
3. When the baby was about to be born, Mary and Joseph traveled to the “city of David, which is called **Bethlehem [put three buildings on the board]**” so they could be counted (*Luke 2:4*).
4. But when they arrived, “there was no place for them in the **inn**” (*Luke 2:7*).
5. So they had to stay in a **stable**, which is a place where animals live.
6. Mary and Joseph had to stay with the **cows**...
7. And **goats**...
8. And **donkeys**.
9. On a hill outside of Bethlehem, “there were **shepherds [just put one on board each time]** out in the field...” (*Luke 2:8*)
10. The shepherds were “keeping watch over their **flock [add two sheep]** by night” (*Luke 2:8*).
11. “And the **shepherds** were filled with great fear” (*Luke 2:9*).
12. Because “An **angel** of the Lord appeared to” the shepherds.
13. The angel told the **shepherds**, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (*Luke 2:9-11*).
14. The angel also said to the shepherds, “And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a **manger**” (*Luke 2:12*).
15. “And suddenly there was with the angle a multitude of the heavenly host [**lots of angels – put two angels on the board]** praising God” (*Luke 2:13*).
16. The **angels [put two more on the board]** were saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (*Luke 2:14*).
17. So the shepherds left their **sheep [add two more sheep]**, saying, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us” (*Luke 2:15*).
18. There were also some “**wise men [just put one on the board each time]** from the east” searching for Jesus (*Matt 2:1*).
19. The **wise men** were looking for the “he who has been born king of the Jews” (*Matt 2:2*).
20. The **wise men** wanted “to worship him” (*Matt 2:2*).
21. They were following a star, “And behold, the **star** that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was” (*Matt 2:9*).
22. The wise men brought gifts for baby Jesus: **gold** (*Matt 2:11*)...
23. **Frankincense** (*Matt 2:11*)...
24. And **myrrh** (*Matt 2:11*).
25. And the shepherds “found Mary and Joseph and the **baby** lying the in manger,” just as the angel had said. (*Luke 2:16*).

*Wherever possible, I have included a Scripture verse. For younger toddlers, though, feel free to paraphrase and simplify, as needed. Each year, incorporate more word-for-word text. You’ll be amazed by how much they begin to memorize!