LAUGH AND GROW BIBLE FOR KIDS



Family Advent Reading Plan

How to Use the LAUGH AND GROW BIBLE FOR KIDS Advent Reading Plan

We are thrilled you've chosen to use the *Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids* to guide your family on a meaningful journey as you countdown to Christmas!

To Get Started:



1. Grab your *Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids.* Don't have one yet? You can find it in our online store or wherever you buy the books you love!

2. Choose how you will follow the reading plan: DAILY—a December Christmas countdown or WEEKLY—the traditional observance of the Advent season.

3. Decide how you want to use this reading guide. A few ideas:
   - Post the plan on your fridge and mark off each day you complete the reading with a fun Christmas sticker.
   - Cut out each day and hide it in a traditional countdown calendar (the ones with little doors or maybe pockets/stockings hung on garland).
   - Pair the daily reading with one of the activity strips for a daily dose of connection and fun as you anticipate Christmas.
   - Pair the weekly reading with an Advent candle tradition for a time of reflection and connection.

We hope you experience many sweet moments together as you anticipate the arrival of Emmanuel . . . God with us, the best gift ever given . . . and ever received.

For more resources like this one, stay connected at ***gominno.com.***

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Daily Advent Reading Plan



Christmas Day

Choose a time to sit and read Luke 2:8-14 together as a family.
Consider pausing before opening gifts or at the Christmas brunch or dinner table.

Then pray this prayer together:

Dear Lord, Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus . . . Immanuel . . . God with us.
Today, in the midst of the excitement of family time and presents,
help us to keep our mind and our heart focused on Your blessing for the whole world:
Jesus, the best gift ever given . . . and ever received.

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Weekly Family Advent Reading Plan

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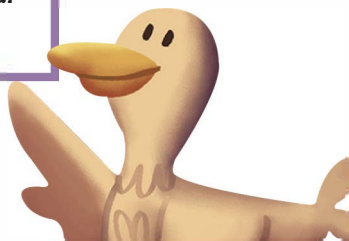
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Christmas Family Movie Night

The youngest family member gets to pick the movie!

Dinner Picnic by the Tree

The oldest sibling gets to pick the menu!

Family Christmas Cookie Bake-Off

Who can create the yummiest or prettiest treats?!

Christmas Song Dance Party

Mom or Dad gets to pick the playlist!

Christmas Lights Tour

There's only one rule: Everyone must wear PJs!

Winter Wonderland

Make paper snowflakes and hang them in the house.

Love: Handmade

Create a personal Christmas gift for a loved one.

Breakfast for Dinner!

Eggs, pancakes, and fruit—oh my!

Give Gifts to the Neighbors

Share something special (maybe a treat) with your neighbors.

Write Christmas Cards

. . . for a teacher, pastor, or special loved one.

Family Game Night

If your birthday is the furthest away from Christmas, you get to pick the game!

Hot Cocoa Bar

Have an after dinner treat to warm you up, complete with marshmallows and peppermint sticks!

Surprise and Serve

Surprise a friend or neighbor with an act of service.

Here We Come a Caroling!

In your living room or down the street, spread some Christmas cheer!

Christmas Story Time

Cozy up with a blanket and a holiday book! Middle Child? You get to pick the story!

Donation Day

Go through toys and choose some to donate to kids in need.

Prayer Time

After dinner, gather to pray for those who are hurting this season.

Play Charades

Christmas edition! How exactly do you act out a Christmas tree?!

Christmas Around the World

Pick a country (one each if you can) and talk about its holiday traditions.

Ornament Tradition

Go shopping and pick one new ornament to represent your year.

Wrapping Party

Grab the paper, scissors, and tape. Now wrap those gifts!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Host a birthday party for Jesus!

Lights, Camera, Action

Act out the Christmas story as a family. The youngest gets to be baby Jesus!

Candlelight Connection

Host your own candlelight service at home. Read Christmas Bible verses and pray.



Remember Abraham?

God gave him three promises.

1. **YOUR CHILDREN WILL BECOME A GREAT NATION.**
2. **THAT NATION WILL HAVE ITS OWN LAND.**
3. **FROM THAT NATION WILL COME A BLESSING FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.**

After 1,500 years, two of those promises had come true. Abraham's kids became the nation of Israel, and they got their own land. The Promised Land.

*But the blessing for the **WHOLE** world? **WHAT** was it? And **WHEN** was it coming? Would it solve the problem of sin? Would it change the people of the world, so they could be friends with God again?*

The prophet Isaiah talked about the "Messiah," a word that means "**ANOINTED ONE**." God anointed kings and very special leaders when He had an important job for them to do.

But 400 years had passed since the time of Isaiah—400 years without any new prophets . . . 400 years without any new messages from God—and the Israelites were getting tired of waiting for this special leader.

***WHERE** was the blessing?*

Some of the Israelites were starting to lose hope.

But **THEN** something incredible happened.

An angel appeared to a young woman named Mary.

"You will have a son!" the angel said.

"How will this be?" Mary asked. "I'm not even married!"



It's true—Mary wasn't married. She had promised to marry a man named Joseph. But they weren't married yet. Then the angel said something amazing. He told Mary the baby's father would be **GOD** Himself! Her baby would be the **SON** of **GOD**!

Pretty wild, right? You would think that Mary would have passed out and fallen on the floor right then! But Mary was brave. She trusted God.

"I am the servant of the Lord," she said. "May this happen just as you have said."

Then the angel said one more thing to Mary. He said the baby's name would be **JESUS**.

When it was almost time for the baby to come, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. They needed somewhere to stay—a nice place for Mary to have her baby.

If this baby really was God's own son, He should be born in a palace, right? In a **BIG**, beautiful palace, surrounded by fancy people wearing fancy clothes! After all, this baby was the Son of God!

But Mary didn't have her baby in a fancy palace. Or in a nice, warm inn, by a fire. No, Mary had her baby in a barn for animals. Mary's baby—Jesus—wasn't surrounded by fancy people. He was surrounded by sheep. And goats. And chickens.

If this was God's blessing for the **WORLD**—the blessing Israel had been awaiting for almost 2,000 years—this wasn't the way people expected it to happen!

Then more angels showed up. A whole bunch of them! And they sang and celebrated the birth of a new king! The birth of Jesus!



Where do you think God's mighty angels announced the birth of His Son? Probably in the biggest city, to the world's most important people, right? To kings and generals! To rich, important, fancy people!

But that isn't where the angels sang of Jesus' birth. This amazing group of God's **MESSENGERS** appeared in the middle of a field. In the middle of nowhere. And they didn't sing to kings and rich folks. They sang to shepherds. To a group of dirty, smelly guys who took care of dirty, smelly sheep.



God showed the world His power—who He really was—not in an army, but in a baby. Not in a palace, but in a stable. Not to kings and rich people, but to **SHEPHERDS**.

God's rescue plan was happening. His kingdom was on the move. But God was announcing, very clearly, that this blessing for the world wasn't going to be what people expected.

This little tiny baby, born in a stable, celebrated by shepherds, was going to turn the whole world upside down!

BORN IN A BARN
FAMILY CONNECTION

LUKE 2:1-21



FUN FACTS

The "crib" used to hold Baby Jesus after His birth is called a manger. The word *manger* comes from the Latin word *mandere*, meaning "to chew" and the French *manger*, meaning, "to eat." A manger was a feeder for animals such as donkeys, cattle, and horses. The Bible tells us that Jesus was placed in a manger because there was no room for His family at the inn (Luke 2:7).

TALK

In what ways was Jesus' arrival different than people expected?

What do you think God was trying to show the world by sending His Son this way?



PRAY

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, as a blessing for the whole world. Help us to trust You when your blessing looks different than we expected. Amen.

