

# ADVENT READING PLAN

FOR TEENS

## DAY 1 Read Luke 1:30–33.

Good news! Jesus will rule over the house of Jacob forever. But wait, who is Jacob? Here's the short version: Jacob was an Old Testament patriarch who wrestled with his dysfunctional family for years. Though he often perpetuated the dysfunction, God changed his life, and He used Jacob's line to preserve a remnant of Israel (through his son Joseph) even during famine.

With this in mind, read Genesis 49:10. Jacob's prophecy would be fulfilled in Jesus. Take a few minutes to consider what that means for believers today. Pray for your friends who need to hear this news. Pray for the courage to share it with them as well as for their hearts and minds to be open to listening.

## DAY 2 Read Galatians 4:4.

Jesus was born into the world after what had seemed like a season of silence from God. Think about all the time that passed between the Old Testament and the New Testament. We're talking hundreds of years. Even though no one could see it, God was working all along to orchestrate the coming of Christ at just the right time. Take time to thank God for always working on our behalf, even when we can't see it.

## DAY 3 Read Luke 2:8–20.

The shepherds who seemed to be just minding their own business on the night shift shepherding the flock were met with angels proclaiming the good news of the coming of Christ. They not only went to meet Jesus, but they also told others about the good news of Jesus' birth. What bit of good news have you received lately? Who did you tell? Have you told that same person about the good news of Christ yet?

## DAY 4 Read Matthew 2:1–12.

Led by a star, these magi (or wise men) went to Jerusalem searching for Jesus and quoting a prophecy from Micah 5:2. After a brief run in with Herod, the wise men found Jesus and worshiped Him.

In the story of Jesus' birth, God allows us, and allowed people alive at that time, to see glimpses of the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Notice how even Herod believed the prophecy and was afraid. In these passages, we see the countercultural way that God so often works, sending a newborn baby to be the Rescuer for His people. We also see the joy that comes when saying yes to God's leading, even and especially in things that seem like crazy requests.

## DAY 5 Read Matthew 2:16–18.

Herod, angry because he had been tricked by the magi, killed all of the boys under a certain age because he was trying to make sure Jesus was no longer a threat. It seemed impossible for Jesus to be safe in the midst of Herod's rampage and killing of the baby boys. But God kept Him.

Even though God is sovereign over all things, it doesn't always seem that way when we take into consideration all the injustice we witness on earth. Pray through some of the injustices you see in the world. Read Hebrews 2:8 and trust that God is aware and will one day set these situations right. In the meantime, consider actions you can take now until that day comes.

## DAY 6 Read Acts 1:6–11.

This passage is very "already but not yet." Jesus has left us on earth, but He's not left us alone. He's given us the Holy Spirit as a Counselor and He's given us purpose. We, as followers of Jesus on this side of the cross, have some action steps to take next. We are called to be the church and share the gospel—we're called to "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

We also see God's perfect timing in Jesus' death and resurrection—His rescue of us. Romans 5:6 reminds us, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly." In Jesus' time on earth, He showed us God's character. As we read about Jesus' interactions with people in the first century and see how He loved and where His passions lay, we come to know God more, to trust Him more.

Consider your own interactions with people you know. Do you think they can see your love for Christ by your actions?

## DAY 7 Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24.

Look up the definition of *sanctification*. Focus on what God's blessing of protection means to you personally. In the Advent season, we celebrate God's kindness to us, even as we wait on the future hope to come. This season, remember to celebrate the truth that we have nothing to fear when we live in the light.