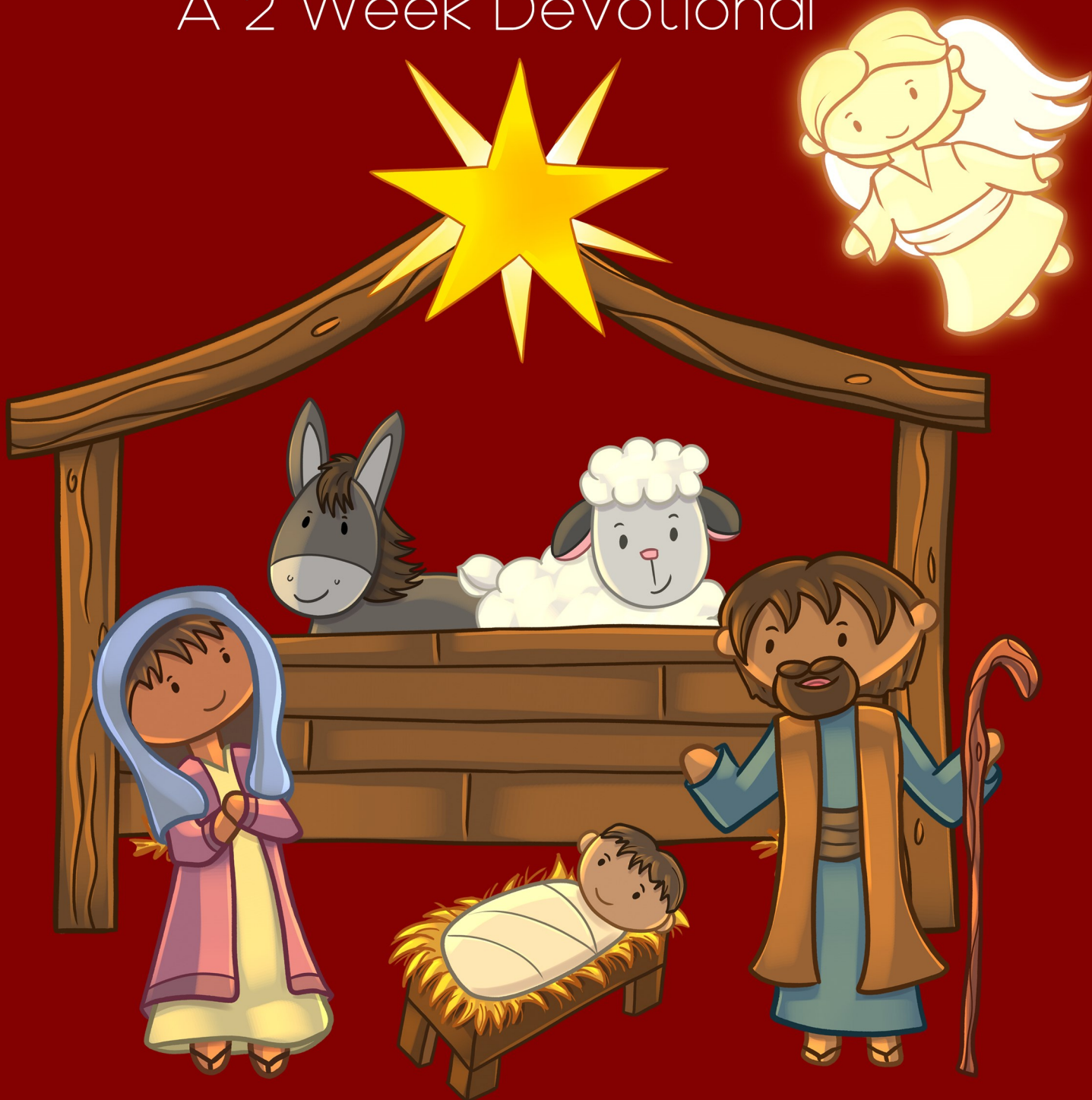


# Preparing Your Heart FOR CHRISTMAS

A 2 Week Devotional



## ***Preparing Your Heart For Christmas***

by Carrie Fernandez and [WriteBonnieRose](#)

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# How to Use

This devotional focuses on themes of hope, faith, joy, and peace and assumes a familiarity with the birth of Christ. It may be helpful to review the story with your children prior to doing the study. You can find it in the following passages: Matthew 1:1-2:23 and Luke 1:5-2:40 and 3:23-38.

Turn this Advent study into a family discussion as your children answer reflection questions. Each of the ten devotions includes a Scripture passage and a short reading followed by questions for discussion and reflection on what was read. The student can read the lesson text (or a parent/teacher can read it aloud) and use the notebooking page that is included for written narration, using the questions as writing prompts. Alternatively, you can ask the questions orally if that suits your student's learning style best. The written narration section is the perfect place for your child to journal their thoughts on what you read together.

In addition to the text and questions for each day, there is a memory verse you and your students can commit to heart. Printable Scripture Memory Cards are included that you can print and use for memorization and review. Be sure to print these when you begin the unit and have them handy for each day.

We've included a set of Christmas Story Cards at the end of the unit that your children can use to retell the Christmas story or that you can use to help illustrate the story as you read it together. These cards follow the events of the Christmas story as listed below, not the specific daily readings. There are also fun coloring pages and a Nativity scene builder. The scene builder pages include figures for a Nativity that children can color (if desired), cut out, and paste onto larger sheets of paper to create their own Nativity.

**Angel Appears to Zechariah** (Luke 1:5-25)

**Angel Appears to Mary** (Luke 1:26-38)

**Mary Visits Elizabeth & Birth of John** (Luke 1:39-80)

**Angel Appears to Joseph** (Matthew 1:18-24)

**Journey to Bethlehem & Birth of Christ** (Luke 2:1-7)

**Angels Visit Shepherds** (Luke 2: 8-14)

**Shepherds Visit Jesus** (Luke 2:15-20)

**Simeon and Anna at the Temple** (Luke 2:21-40)

**Visit of the Magi** (Matthew 2:1-12)

**Escape to Egypt** (Matthew 2:13-23)

**Genealogy** (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38)

# Introduction

What is Advent, and why do we celebrate it? The word “advent” is from a word that means the coming or arrival of something. When we talk about Advent, we are usually talking about the coming of Jesus at Christmas. So, the Advent season is a time we stop and think about what it means that Jesus came. We think about why He came and about everything that led to His coming. We also think about His promise to come again and make everything perfect for those who love Him—and that’s something even more exciting than Christmas!

## Day One: Scripture Reading

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

## Devotional: What Is Hope?

What words do you think of when you think about Christmas? Make a list of the words you think of. Go ahead—come back when you’re done.

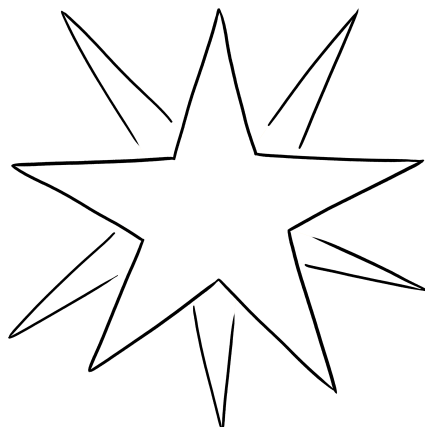
Are you finished? Is the word “hope” on your list? Hope is an important word when it comes to Christmas, and because it’s so important, we need to be sure we understand what it means. When the Bible talks about “hope” in Hebrews 11:1, it’s not talking about wishful thinking, as if you said, “I hope someone stops by my house today and gives me \_\_\_\_\_.” No, “hope” here means more like trusting or confidently expecting something.

Many times in the Bible, hope is connected to faith. It’s being excited about what God is going to do even when He hasn’t done it yet. It’s possible because God has shown us what He is like and because God always keeps His promises.

## Scripture Memory

Use your flashcards to help you commit this verse to heart.

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*



## Day One: Reflection Questions

1. What do you think the coming of Jesus meant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How can you explain the difference between wishing and hoping? Can you name something you wish for?

3. What is something that God has promised us in His Word that you are looking forward to with hope and faith?

## Written Narration



## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

### Day One

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1*



## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

### Day Two

*"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3*



## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

### Day Three

*"... for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5*



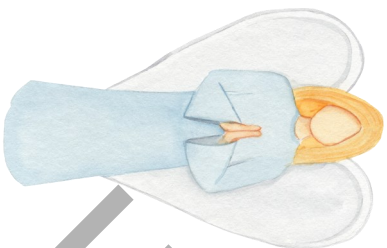
## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

### Day Four

*"Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.'" John 13:7*



## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas



Angel Appears to Zechariah

## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas



Angel Appears to Mary

## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas



Mary Visits Elizabeth & Birth of John

## Preparing Your Heart for Christmas



Angel Appears to Joseph







