



ADVENT ACTIVITY GUIDE
2021





Introduction

Welcome to Advent, the season of anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth. The term comes from the Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." Advent is observed every beginning four Sundays before December 24. This year we will take a unique look at Jesus' genealogy - His Family Tree - that we find in Matthew's Gospel at the very beginning of the New Testament.

This year, we are inviting you to join us as we take time each week to remain God-Centered and put our Family First through activities that can help you:

- **Reach Out** to those who are close to you but far from God
- **Grow Deep** through a daily reading plan
- **Partner With Families** by spending time together
- **Experience the Christmas Season** through Christmas songs

The Christmas story gets told every year. It's full of wonder and magical memories of a night two thousand years ago that changed everything. It would be easy to assume the men and women outlined in Jesus' lineage were all faithful and nearly perfect, but what we find instead is a long line of imperfect people that God used to get the world ready for the moment His Son would come into the world. Join us as we look at a handful of those people and the stories of hope that God placed in them for us.

Jesus' Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-16

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

25 Day Reading Guide

- 12/1 - Genealogy of Jesus - Matthew 1:1-16
- 12/2 - Abraham - Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-7; 15:1-21, 17:1-21
- 12/3 - Isaac - Genesis 22:1-19; 25:11; 26:1-5, 12-25
- 12/4 - Jacob - Genesis 25:19-28; 27:18-30; 28:10-22; 32:22-32; 35:9-15
- 12/5 - Judah - Genesis 29:35; 37:26-28; 44:14-34; 49:8-12
- 12/6 - Tamar - Genesis 38:1-30
- 12/7 - Nahshon - Numbers 2:3; 7:12-17
- 12/8 - Rahab - Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25
- 12/9 - Boaz/Ruth - Ruth 1:3-10, 14-19, 22; 2:1-16, 19-20; 3:1-14, 18; 4:1-13, 21-22
- 12/10 - Jesse - 1 Samuel 16:1-11; 17:12-15, 17-20
- 12/11 - David - 1 Samuel 13:14; 16:12-13; 18:12-16; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:8-29
- 12/12 - The Wife of Uriah/Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:14-15, 24; 1 Kings 1:11-17, 28-31
- 12/13 - Solomon - 1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:1-15; 8:1-11, 54-61; 9:1-9; 11:1-13
- 12/14 - Rehoboam - 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:21-31
- 12/15 - Asaph/Asa - 1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chronicles 15:1-19; 16:7-14
- 12/16 - Jehoshaphat - 1 Kings 22:41-50; 2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 19:1-11; 20:18-22, 35-37
- 12/17 - Uzziah/Azariah - 2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26:1-22
- 12/18 - Hezekiah - 2 Kings 18:1-8; 19:1-7, 14-19; 20:11; 2 Chronicles 29:1-3; 30:1; 32:24-31
- 12/19 - Manasseh - 2 Kings 21:1-16; 23:26-27; 2 Chronicles 33:1-16
- 12/20 - Josiah - 2 Kings 21:24; 22:1-20; 23:1-3, 21-25; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7
- 12/21 - Jechoniah (Jehoiachin) - 2 Kings 24:8-17, 25:27-30; 2 Chronicles 36:9-10
- 12/22 - Zerubbabel - Ezra 2:1-2; 3:8-10; 4:1-3; 5:2; Haggai 1:1; 2:20-23
- 12/23 - Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15
- 12/24 - Mary - Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-8, 19, 51; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14
- 12/25 - Jesus - Genesis 3:15; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-21, Matt. 2:1-12; John 1:1-18

Family Advent Activities

GOD CENTERED- FAMILY FIRST |

We've highlighted a couple of activities each week for you and your family to engage in.

Looking to do more?

Download a copy of the complete Family Advent Calendar by using the QR code below.



Week One • 12/1 – 12/5

Abraham: The Faith-Filled Old Guy

GROW DEEP |

Daily Readings:

12/1 – Genealogy of Jesus – Matthew 1:1-16

12/2 – Abraham – Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-7; 15:1-21, 17:1-21

12/3 – Isaac – Genesis 22:1-19; 25:11; 26:1-5, 12-25

12/4 – Jacob – Genesis 25:19-28; 27:18-30; 28:10-22; 32:22-32; 35:9-15

12/5 – Judah – Genesis 29:35; 37:26-28; 44:14-34; 49:8-12

Throughout his life, Abraham showed great faith and obedience to God, even when it didn't make sense. When God promised that he would one day have a family and would become a great nation, Abraham trusted. When God required him to offer his son as a sacrifice, Abraham obeyed (SPOILER: He didn't actually end up sacrificing his son).

But there's another side to Abraham. He was a liar, which got him into trouble a few times. When God didn't fulfill His promise in Abraham's timeline, he began to doubt God and decided to take matters into his own hands, which ended up hurting many people.

It's easy to assume people in the Bible must have been nearly perfect, but what we see again and again is that there are no perfect people, and even the most faithful throughout history are not even nearly perfect. God invited several imperfect people into His Greatest Story when 2000 years ago He sent His One and Only Son into the world as a baby. With God, perfection is not the point. Great faith and obedience despite our shortcomings are what matter most, and this should bring us peace. In this season, remember that God works through the imperfections of people to bring forth the Prince of Peace – His Son, Jesus.

PARTNER WITH FAMILIES |

- Light a candle at dinner time or bedtime. Share your favorite Christmas tradition that you don't want to miss doing together this year. Read Luke 1:27.
- Choose 1-3 relatives or family friends. Record a short selfie video Christmas greeting as a family and text it to them. Read Luke 1:26-28.

REACH OUT ACTIVITY |

- Buy a toy for our Christmas Store. (December 11) This is a great way to provide Christmas to a family that needs some this year at Christmas. For all the information you need, go to ehills.org/weekend.

CREATIVE ELEMENT |

- Listen to Here Comes Heaven | Elevation Worship



Week Two • 12/6 - 12/12

Rahab: The Protective Prostitute

GROW DEEP |

Daily Readings:

12/6 - Tamar - Genesis 38:1-30

12/7 - Nahshon - Numbers 2:3; 7:12-17

12/8 - Rahab - Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25

12/9 - Boaz/Ruth - Ruth 1:3-10, 14-19, 22; 2:1-16, 19-20; 3:1-14, 18; 4:1-13, 21-22

12/10 - Jesse - 1 Samuel 16:1-11; 17:12-15, 17-20

12/11 - David - 1 Samuel 13:14; 16:12-13; 18:12-16; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:8-29

12/12 - The Wife of Uriah/Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-27; 12:14-15, 24; 1 Kings 1:11-17, 28-31

Have you ever been given a nickname based on something you've done? Rahab is known in both the Old and New Testaments by a less than desirable profession she once had. But what we learn about Rahab is that although she didn't know who God was, she knew that He was about to do something powerful, and she wanted to be a part of it. This act of dauntless faith propelled her right into God's bigger story and onto Jesus' family tree.

After Rahab and her family were rescued from Jericho before it was completely destroyed, she could have been shunned because of her nationality and her former profession, but instead, she is welcomed into the community of God's people and marries a Jewish man, becoming the great-great-grandmother of the man who would be King David.

We all have a past, and there are things we've done that we would love to hide from but God already knows, and He already loves you anyway. This Advent season, take some time to think about some of the things you have done that you feel would prevent you from being used by God. Now remember that there is always hope that can be found in Jesus, and just like Rahab, it doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done, He's always inviting you to come close to Him.

PARTNER WITH FAMILIES |

- Bake a batch of Christmas cookies (no shame if you grab a tube from the grocery fridge section!) Share a snack together and take some of them to a neighbor. Read Luke 1:38.
- Parents, share about a particularly special or unique Christmas that you experienced as a child. Read Luke 2:1-4.

REACH OUT ACTIVITY |

- Take some of the Christmas cookies you baked over to a neighbor, see if they would like to join your family on a light tour. Google "Best Christmas Lights in Denver" and find a tour, set a date, and ride together for a fun night.

CREATIVE ELEMENT |

- Enjoy a ***Carols Night of Worship*** on Sunday, December 12 at 5 pm in the Auditorium. We'll sing out songs of old, dive into the history and the power carols hold. Childcare available for newborns to grade 3 with registration.

Week Three • 12/13 – 12/19

David: The Repentant Failure

GROW DEEP |

Daily Readings:

12/13 – Solomon – 1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:1-15; 8:1-11, 54-61; 9:1-9; 11:1-13

12/14 – Rehoboam – 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:21-31

12/15 – Asaph/Asa – 1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chronicles 15:1-19; 16:7-14

12/16 – Jehoshaphat – 1 Kings 22:41-50; 2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 19:1-11; 20:18-22, 35-37

12/17 – Uzziah/Azariah – 2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26:1-22

12/18 – Hezekiah – 2 Kings 18:1-8; 19:1-7, 14-19; 20:11; 2 Chronicles 29:1-3; 30:1; 32:24-31

12/19 – Manasseh – 2 Kings 21:1-16; 23:26-27; 2 Chronicles 33:1-16

It's hard not to love the story of an underdog, and David was an unlikely pick to be king. He was not the firstborn, and when Samuel the prophet anointed him as the next king of Israel, he was just an unknown farm boy, but God dismissed expectations when He chose David, the underdog, a young shepherd boy, and not an experienced political-military leader to lead His people.

David was "a man after God's own heart," and was a faithful king, and led the nation of Israel well while doing what was...mostly right in God's eyes. However, he is also remembered for some of his bad choices and indiscretions, which include adultery, murder, and neglecting his family. David was an unexpected choice, as was Jesus, God's Son, who was sent as a baby, vulnerable and unknown, to save the whole world.

In the greatest elimination of expectations, God makes himself the underdog so that we can experience His love and forgiveness, even for those bad choices and indiscretions that feel like a disqualification. As Christmas comes closer, what is something you need to remember God has already forgiven you for? Remember, God's love is even big enough for "that one time," and He's always rooting for the underdog.

PARTNER WITH FAMILIES |

- Use a Nativity set or stuffed animals to act out the Christmas story as a family member reads it from Luke 2. Read Luke 2:7.
- Make Christmas cards for anyone in your life who might need a little joy today, from the mailperson to the crosswalk guard. You could even add a gift card or small treat. Read Luke 2:10.

REACH OUT ACTIVITY |

- This weekend at church, pick up one of the invitation bags from the lobby. Bring this to a neighbor and invite them to our Christmas Services. If they have kids make sure they come on the 23rd to see the live reindeer.

CREATIVE ELEMENT |

- Listen to Chandler Moore- King of Kings Video



Week Four • 12/20 - 12/25

Mary: The Faithful Young'un

GROW DEEP |

Daily Readings:

12/20 - Josiah - 2 Kings 21:24; 22:1-20; 23:1-3, 21-25; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7

12/21 - Jechoniah (Jehoiachin) - 2 Kings 24:8-17, 25:27-30; 2 Chronicles 36:9-10

12/22 - Zerubbabel - Ezra 2:1-2; 3:8-10; 4:1-3; 5:2; Haggai 1:1; 2:20-23

12/23 - Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15

12/24 - Mary - Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-8, 19, 51; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14

12/25 - Jesus - Genesis 3:15; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-21; Matt. 2:1-12; John 1:1-18

Mary was a righteous and faithful young woman, full of great strength, and “highly favored” before God. She also possessed another great characteristic: the ability to identify the opportunities God presented her with far outweighed the possible obstacles she could face.

Mary was probably only 12 or 13 years old when she heard that she had been chosen to be Jesus’ mother, and while she was “deeply troubled,” she chose to trust God. She chose to have faith and not fear. She chose to rely on God and not worry, even when the obstacles were great. Mary was engaged, but getting pregnant before the wedding would bring shame on Mary, her family, her fiancé, and could even result in her death.

But Mary responded with joy. She praised God for who He was and for choosing her to bear His Son. She recognized that God’s opportunities were greater than the obstacles she might face. As we head into this final week before Christmas, don’t miss the amazing things God has for you because you’re stuck looking at the obstacles in front of you. Identify the obstacles that are holding you back and remember that God is bigger. Look for ways to find joy in the opportunities that are waiting for you.

PARTNER WITH FAMILIES |

- Grab a gingerbread man or other Christmas cookie for each member of the family to place on their forehead. Race to see who can shimmy the cookie down and bite it first before it drops. No hands! Read Luke 2:15-16.
- Share your favorite Christmas movies with each other. Then pick one (or two!), make some popcorn, and settle down in Christmas PJs for a Christmas movie marathon. Read Luke 2:17-18.
- Christmas Morning: Before opening gifts, take time to read the story of God's greatest gift of all time, Jesus, in Luke 1:26-2:21.

REACH OUT ACTIVITY |

- Put together a movie night pack for a neighbor. Add some popcorn, candy, soda, and a recommendation for your favorite Christmas Movie, drop it on their doorstep, ring their doorbell, and run away. On the card, recommend that they do the same for another neighbor.

CREATIVE ELEMENT |

- Listen to our Christmas Morning Playlist on Spotify





Join Us This Christmas

Thursday, December 23

5pm & 7pm | Live Reindeer & S'mores

Friday, December 24

12pm, 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm

kidseehills programming for kids ages newborn-third grade
is available at all services except December 24 at 6pm

ehills.org/christmas