

Grace and Peace to you!

As we eagerly anticipate the Advent season, we invite You to join us in a Reverse Advent Calendar collection for Church food banks in our area.

We invite you to share with us the heartwarming moments as families and individuals collect items each day for the Reverse Advent Calendar. Whether it's a snapshot of a child placing an item in the box, a family praying together over the collected goods, or any other meaningful moments, your stories will inspire and encourage others in our shared mission of spreading hope, joy, and the meaning of Christmas.

Additionally, we are excited to provide you with a resource to deepen your Advent journey. Enclosed Is A 24 days of scripture devotionals for families and individuals. These devotionals are designed to guide us through the Advent season, helping us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

We encourage you to incorporate them into your daily routines as we count down the days to Christmas. It is our prayer that these scripture readings will be a source of inspiration, reflection, and spiritual growth for each participant.

As you embark on this Reverse Advent Calendar journey and engage in the devotionals, we invite you to capture and share the moments of transformation and joy within your family. Whether through written anecdotes or photographs, your stories will not only inspire others but also serve as a testament to the impact we can collectively make when we come together in love and service.

Together, let us make this Advent season a time of profound connection, generosity, and spiritual growth.

Thank you for your commitment to spreading love and hope within our community. We look forward to hearing about your participation and sharing in the joy of this special season together.

In the Name of Christ,

DAY I:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does Jesus being our Wonderful Counselor bring comfort and guidance to your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Reach out to someone in need of hope, encouragement, or counsel.

DAY 2:

Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Reflect on the significance of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, a seemingly insignificant place. How does this remind us that God often works in unexpected ways?

ACTION ITEM:

Volunteer or contribute to a cause that might seem small but has a big impact on someone's life.

DAY 3:

Luke 1:30–33 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 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. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the promise of Jesus' eternal reign bring hope to a world in need?

ACTION ITEM:

Reflect on your own sphere of influence and how you can bring a glimpse of God's kingdom into it.

DAY 4:

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

In what ways has Jesus brought salvation and freedom into your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Extend forgiveness to someone who may have wronged you, reflecting Christ's forgiveness.

DAY 5:

Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "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."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the birth of Jesus bring joy and peace into your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Share the joy of Christmas with someone by offering a small act of kindness.

DAY 6:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the name Immanuel, "God with us," impact your understanding of God's presence in your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Spend intentional time in prayer, seeking to experience the presence of God in your daily life.

DAY 7:

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How can your soul magnify the Lord in your daily life, even in the midst of challenges?

ACTION ITEM:

Practice gratitude by writing down three things you are thankful for today.

DAY 8:

Matthew 2:2 Saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the act of worship draw you closer to Jesus, the King?

ACTION ITEM:

Attend a worship service or spend time in personal worship, expressing your adoration for Christ.

DAY 9:

Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

In what ways can you treasure and ponder the significance of Jesus in your own heart?

ACTION ITEM:

Set aside time for quiet reflection, meditating on the goodness of God in your life.

DAY 10:

Matthew 2:10-11 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

What gifts do you bring to Jesus, and how can you offer your talents and resources in worship?

ACTION ITEM:

Commit to giving a portion of your time or resources to serve others in need.

DAY II:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does Jesus embody both grace and truth, and how can you reflect these qualities in your interactions with others?

ACTION ITEM:

Extend grace to someone who may be in need of understanding or forgiveness.

DAY 12:

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the concept of adoption as sons and daughters of God impact your identity and sense of belonging?

ACTION ITEM:

Reach out to someone who may be feeling lonely or isolated, offering the warmth of Christian community.

DAY 13:

Matthew 2:13–15 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the theme of refuge and protection in the Christmas story remind you of God's care for His children?

ACTION ITEM:

Support a local organization or ministry that provides refuge and assistance to those in need.

DAY 14:

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

In what ways can you actively pursue peace in your relationships and community during this Christmas season?

ACTION ITEM:

Reach out to someone with whom you may have conflict and work towards reconciliation.

DAY 15:

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How can you live each day with a conscious awareness of God's presence with you?

ACTION ITEM:

Create a visible reminder of God's presence in your life, such as a small symbol or note.

DAY 16:

Luke 2:25-32 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel... for my eyes have seen your salvation.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How can you cultivate a spirit of patient expectation, eagerly awaiting the promises of God in your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Identify an area in your life where patience is needed, and intentionally practice patience and trust in God's timing.

DAY 17:

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem...

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Reflect on the tragic consequences of Herod's actions. How does this story prompt you to advocate for justice and protect the vulnerable in your community?

ACTION ITEM:

Support a local organization working towards justice and protection of vulnerable populations.

DAY 18:

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

In what ways can you actively seek personal growth and wisdom, following the example of Jesus?

ACTION ITEM:

Commit to reading a book or engaging in an activity that promotes personal and spiritual growth.

DAY 19:

Matthew 2:19–20 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Reflect on the journey of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus from Egypt to Israel. How does this story encourage you to trust in God's guidance during times of uncertainty?

ACTION ITEM:

Reach out to someone going through a challenging time, offering words of encouragement and support.

DAY 20:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the profound love of God, demonstrated through the gift of His Son, inspire you to love and serve others?

ACTION ITEM:

Identify a practical way to demonstrate love to those around you, whether through a kind gesture or a thoughtful act.

DAY 21:

Luke 2:8-14 And in the same region, there were shepherds out in the field... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Consider the shepherds who received the angelic proclamation.

How can you actively seek peace and goodwill towards others

during this season?

ACTION ITEM:

Make a deliberate effort to reconcile with someone with whom you may have strained relationships.

DAY 22:

Matthew 1:24–25 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Reflect on Joseph's immediate obedience to God's command. How can you respond promptly and obediently to God's guidance in your own life?

ACTION ITEM:

Identify an area where God may be calling you to obedience, and take a step in faith, trusting in His plan.

DAY 23:

Luke 1:78-79 Because of the tender mercy of our God... to guide our feet into the way of peace.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does God's tender mercy guide you towards a life of peace and purpose?

ACTION ITEM:

Spend time in prayer, asking God to guide your steps and lead you in the path of peace.

DAY 24:

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How can the message of good news and great joy be a continual source of hope and inspiration in your life?

ACTION ITEM:

Share the message of joy and hope with someone today, whether through a kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or an invitation to join in the celebration of Christ's birth.



December 1 - Tortillas

December 2 - Oil (vegatable or canola)

December 3 - Rice (1lb)

December 4 - Dry beans

December 5 - Instant Mash Potatoes

December 6 - Oatmeal (plain)

December 7 - Spice (cinnamon, cumin, chili powder)

December 8 - Toothpaste

December 9 - Canned coconut milk

December 10 - Fun Item! (Cookie or cake mix, e.g.)

December 11 - Hot Chocolate

December 12 - Tissues

December 13 - Box of Cereal

December 14 - Almond Milk (shelf stable)

December 15 - Dish Soap

December 16 - Feminine Products (no tampons please)

December 17 - Hand Soap

December 18 - Can of Chicken

December 19 - Can of Tuna

December 20 - Fabric Softener

December 21 - Toilet Paper (individually wrapped)

December 22 - Can of Corn, Black/Pinto Beans

December 23 - Tissues

December 24 - Laundry Detergent

December 25 - Gift Card (\$5 or \$10)



