

Advent Calendar



Gather around and READ God's story of compassion one day at a time. Then go and DO the suggested activities and write your own story of compassion as a family.



1

A YOUNG COUPLE, MARY AND JOSEPH, GET ENGAGED.
Give up your spot in line. (They'll be so thankful!)

2

ONE DAY, GOD SENDS THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY; HE HAS SOME VERY SPECIAL NEWS!
Invite a single friend or widow/widower to participate in one of your family Christmas traditions.

3

MARY IS GREATLY TROUBLED WHEN SHE HEARS THE ANGEL'S GREETING.
Pay for someone else's coffee. (Christmas caffeine!)

4

GABRIEL RESPONDS TO MARY: "DON'T BE AFRAID; GOD IS VERY HAPPY WITH YOU!"
Encourage and bless a retail worker at the grocery store, coffee shop or any place you shop.

5

GABRIEL TELLS MARY THE SPECIAL NEWS: SHE WILL HAVE A BABY BOY, AND HE WILL BE NAMED JESUS.
Cook a double portion and deliver to a young family, a care giver or a widow/widower.

6

GABRIEL SHARES MORE DETAILS OF GOD'S PLAN WITH MARY: "JESUS WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED GOD'S VERY OWN SON!"
Park at Elizabeth Lane Elementary this morning and ride the shuttle. Bless someone else with a parking spot in the church parking lot.

7

MARY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE CAN HAVE A BABY WITHOUT BEING MARRIED, BUT THE ANGEL GABRIEL ASSURES HER OF A GREAT TRUTH: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.
Give a candy cane and card to a police officer, firefighter or EMT.

8

"I SERVE GOD WITH MY LIFE AND WANT ALL THAT YOU HAVE SAID TO HAPPEN," MARY TELLS THE ANGEL, AND HE LEAVES.
Do yard work for a neighbor.

9

MARY VISITS HER COUSIN ELIZABETH AND IS SO OVERWHELMED WITH GOD'S GOODNESS THAT SHE SINGS A SONG OF PRAISE.
Pick up litter as you go on a walk. And sing more carols!

10

CAESAR AUGUSTUS WANTS TO KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HIS EMPIRE, SO HE TELLS ALL THE PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN TO BE REGISTERED AND COUNTED.
Offer free babysitting for a family so they can do some Christmas shopping.

11

JOSEPH TAKES MARY, WHO IS PREGNANT, TO HIS HOMETOWN OF BETHLEHEM TO BE COUNTED.
Leave a cookie surprise for a neighbor to find.

12

WHILE JOSEPH AND MARY ARE IN BETHLEHEM, THE TIME COMES FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN.
Purchase a gift that is more than a gift - like clean water, a goat or clothes. Check out the options through Samaritan's Purse, Heifer Project or Mosaic Style with Love.

13

MARY GIVES BIRTH TO JESUS, WRAPS HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAYS HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THEM ANYWHERE ELSE.
Bring coffee to your coworkers or teachers. (More Christmas caffeine!)

14

AT NIGHT IN A NEARBY FIELD, SHEPHERDS ARE WATCHING THEIR FLOCKS.
Tell a joke to make someone smile. (Or tell several and spread even more joy!)

15

THE SKY LIGHTS UP--GOD HAS SENT AN ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS TO TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS.
Donate books you no longer need. (You'll be giving the stories a second life!)

16

WHEN THE SHEPHERDS SEE THE ANGEL, THEY'RE AFRAID!
Donate a pair of new pajamas to a foster kid through the Mosaic Style with Love store. (Snuggly pajamas are like a warm hug!)

17

THE ANGEL TRIES TO CALM THE SHEPHERDS: "DON'T BE AFRAID-- I BRING WONDERFUL NEWS THAT WILL BRING JOY TO ALL OF THE WORLD!"
Put money in the Salvation Army bucket.

18

"A SAVIOR--THE RESCUER YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR IS BORN TODAY!" THE ANGEL PROCLAIMS TO THE SHEPHERDS.
Make get well cards for someone who needs them.

19

THE ANGEL EXPLAINS THAT THE SHEPHERDS WILL FIND THE BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.
Compliment or encourage a stressed mom with kids. (Even a stranger!)

20

MORE ANGELS COME TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS-- THEY ARRIVE AT THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD AND BEGIN PRAISING GOD!
Give a Christmas treat to your postal, UPS or FedEx worker.

21

THE SHEPHERDS LEAVE THEIR FLOCKS AND HURRY TO FIND MARY, JOSEPH AND THE BABY WHO IS LYING IN A MANGER.
Make ornaments for your neighbors. (Help them deck their halls!)

22

AFTER THEY SEE THE BABY, THE SHEPHERDS EXCITEDLY GO AND TELL EVERYONE THEY RUN INTO THE GOOD NEWS!
Invite your neighbors to sing Christmas carols, drink cocoa and roast marshmallows.

23

THE SHEPHERDS RETURN TO THEIR FLOCKS, PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD.
Pay for the person's food in line behind you at a fast-food drive-thru.

24

MARY NAMES THE BABY JESUS JUST AS THE ANGEL HAD TOLD HER TO DO.
Leave a "Merry Christmas" note on the cars beside you in the parking lot at Christmas Eve service.

25

GOD HAS SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE US BECAUSE HE LOVES US!
Go back to Day 1 and read God's story of compassion from beginning to end. Merry Christmas! God loves you!

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