

Advent and Christmas - waiting for Jesus!

Advent is a time of hope and waiting for Jesus. God's people waited thousands of years for his promised Messiah to come. We have the privilege of living in the time after Christmas, Easter and Pentecost – Jesus has already come and sent his Holy Spirit to remain with us. As we read the prophecies about Jesus coming and the familiar stories about the first Christmas, let's use this time to wait and hope in Jesus once more, as we also look forward to the day when he will return.



The bible readings around Advent and Christmas can be so familiar that we can find it hard to get beyond the familiar words and connect with the story and the God of the story. This year as you take time to look at these passages, you might like to try using these suggestions to help you connect with them in a fresh way:

★ **First get yourself comfortable**, try and pray in the same place each day, be still and silent and become aware of God being with you (in fact he was here before you even arrived!)

★ **Invite the Holy Spirit** to lead you as you read the passage. Then trust him to do this as you read.

★ **Read** through the passage slowly and attentively.

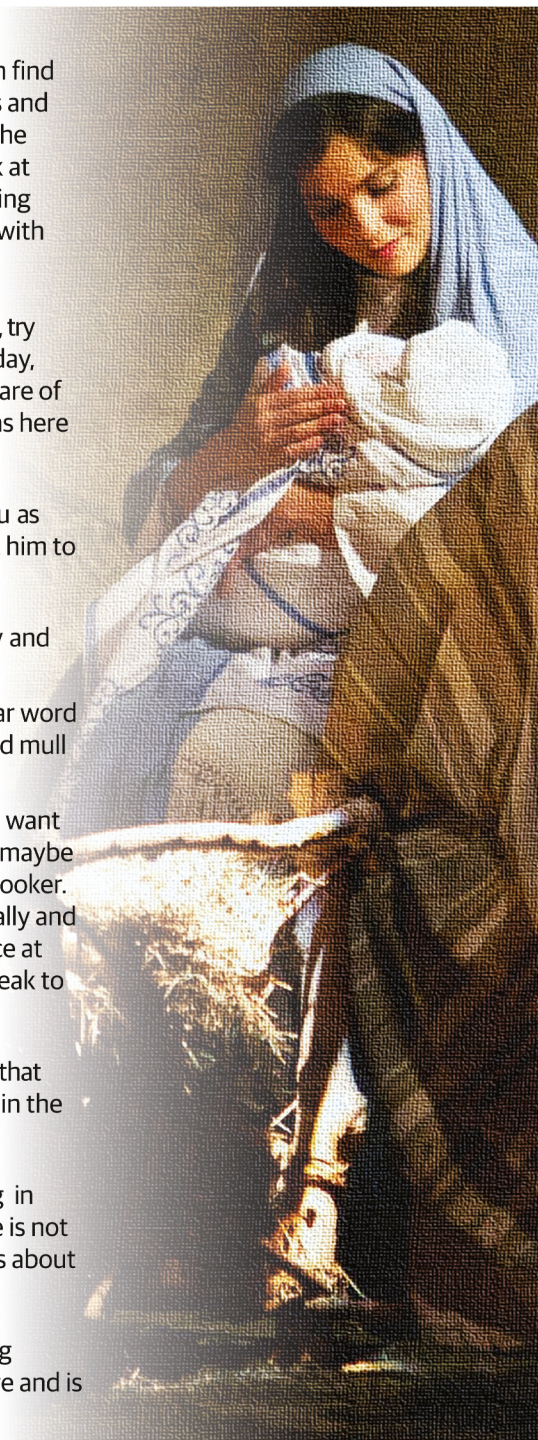
You might be drawn to a particular word or phrase. Take time to savour and mull over it. Go back and read it again.

In the gospel passages you might want to imagine yourself in the story – maybe as one of the characters or an onlooker. Think about how it would physically and emotionally feel to be in that place at that time. Maybe you want to speak to one of the characters.

★ **Don't rush** on – spend time with that word or phrase or sense of being in the story.

★ **Talk to God** about what is stirring in you. Remember reading the bible is not just about learning about God, it's about having a relationship with Him.

★ And finally, **don't worry** if nothing seems to happen – God is still here and is enjoying being with you.



Date	Passage	Journal
6th December	John 1:1-5 In the beginning . . .	
7th December	Genesis 3:8-15 The promise to Adam and Eve	
8th December	Genesis 22:1-18 The promise to Abraham	
9th December	2 Samuel 7:12-13 The promise to David	
10th December	Psalms 89:1-4 An eternal King	
11th December	Isaiah 7:14 (also Matt 1:23) Immanuel	
12th December	Isaiah 9:1-7 Hope in the Messiah	
13th December	Isaiah 11:1-5 A branch from David's line	
14th December	Isaiah 40:1-5 Comfort for God's people	
15th December	Isaiah 60:1-7 Arise Shine!	
16th December	Micah 5:2-4 A ruler from Bethlehem	
17th December	Luke 1:5-25 Angel appears to Zechariah	
18th December	Luke 1:26-38 Angel appears to Mary	
19th December	Matt 1:18-25 Angel appears to Joseph	



Date	Passage	Journal
20th December	Luke 1:39-56 Mary visits Elizabeth	
21st December	Luke 1:46-56 Mary's Song of Praise	
22nd December	Luke 1:57-66 The birth of John the Baptist	
23rd December	Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's Prophecy	
24th December	John 1:6-18 The Word became human	
25th December	Luke 2: 1-6 The birth of Jesus	
26th December	Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds	
27th December	Luke 2:21-24 Jesus is presented in the Temple	
28th December	Luke 2:25-35 The prophecy of Simeon	
29th December	Luke 2:36-40 The prophecy of Anna	
30th December	Matt 2:1-12 Visit of the Magi	
31st December	Matt 2:13-23 Escape and return from Egypt	

