

2017
Advent
Family Conversation Cards



Merry Christmas!

Our families do a lot of preparing for the Christmas season. We make plans. We make trips to the grocery store. We make lists. We make lists to remind us to make lists. We stress out because everyone wants to be prepared for Christmas. During that preparation, we forget something. We neglect to prepare our hearts. What is important comes in second to the busyness of the season.

We have created this conversation tool for you and your family to use this Christmas. Don't think of this as just "one more thing" to check off your list during this crazy time. Think of it as a tool designed to help your family slow down and focus on the things that are important. Our hope is that you can take a deep breath, sit down with your family, and spend some quality time remembering why we celebrate Christmas.

We pray for a joyous Christmas season for you and your family!

The Next Gen Team

Pathway Church

Special thanks to Jessica Lindsey and Jessica Williamson for sharing their literary talent in celebrating the truth of God's Word this Advent season!



1

Angel to Zechariah

READ MARK 1:1-3:

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way" —
"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"*

QUESTIONS:

1. During this first week of Advent, we'll hear about the birth of a man known as John the Baptist! What did John do?
2. What does it mean to "prepare?"
3. What do you think it means to "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him?"

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2

Angel to Zechariah

READ LUKE 1:11-12:

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and gripped with fear.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the angel of the Lord appear to in this story?
2. Show us what expression you make when you are startled or afraid.
3. How might you feel if an angel suddenly appeared next to you?

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3

Angel to Zechariah

READ LUKE 1:13:

But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John."

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the angel tell Zechariah to name the baby?
2. What do you think Zechariah had been praying for?
3. Read Luke 1:5-10. How do these verses describe Zechariah and Elizabeth? Why was the news of Elizabeth's pregnancy so shocking to Zechariah?



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Angel to Zechariah

READ LUKE 1:14-17:

He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. What do you do when you hear about something very exciting?
2. What does it mean to “rejoice?”
3. This special baby, John, was sent to announce the long-awaited Savior. Talk about ways that you can share the message of Jesus with those around you this Christmas.

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5

Angel to Zechariah

READ LUKE 1:18-22:

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did Zechariah believe the angel?
2. What would it be like to not be able to speak? Challenge each other to see who can go the longest without talking.
3. Zechariah doubted what the angel said because it sounded impossible. How can you learn to trust God when you don't understand what He's doing?

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6

Angel to Zechariah

READ LUKE 1:64-66:

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

QUESTIONS:

1. Zechariah was able to speak again when he obeyed God and named the baby John like the angel had told him. What would you do if you could finally talk after being quiet for a long time?
2. What was the first thing Zechariah did when he was able to speak?
3. Read Zechariah's song of praise to the Lord in Luke 1:67-80.

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7

Angel to Zechariah

READ PSALM 89:1:

I will sing about the Lord's faithful love forever; I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations with my mouth.

QUESTIONS:

1. How long can we sing about the Lord's faithful love?
Make up a song about God's love and sing it!
2. What does it mean to "proclaim"?
3. What are some good things that you have in your life because of God's love?

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THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AT PATHWAY

you and your family can help others in our community by participating in one of the following giving opportunities at your campus as part of Heart2Heart—our annual Christmas outreach.

Stop by the Heart2Heart area in the Atrium at your campus this weekend for more information about how you can generously make a difference this year.





8

Angel to Joseph

READ COLOSSIANS 3:16:

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is Christ?
2. What is the message of Christ?
3. What does it mean to let Christ's message "dwell among you richly"?



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9

Angel to Joseph

READ MATTHEW 1:18-20:

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the angel tell Joseph?
2. How do you think Joseph felt when he heard Mary was pregnant?
3. Talk about how this story is similar to Zechariah and Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy and how it's different.

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10

Angel to Joseph

READ MATTHEW 1:21:

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the angel tell Joseph to name the baby?
2. What does the name Jesus mean?
3. Why did Jesus come into the world? How does that change us?



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11

Angel to Joseph

READ MATTHEW 1:22-23:

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

QUESTIONS:

1. What does Immanuel mean?
2. Do you know what your name means? Spend time looking up the meaning of the names of the people in your family.
3. Why is it important that Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before he was born?

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12

Angel to Joseph

READ ACTS 10:43:

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the prophets testify about?
2. Who receives forgiveness of sins?
3. Scripture says “all the prophets” testified about Jesus. Why all? Why not just some?



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13

Angel to Joseph

READ MATTHEW 1:24:

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Joseph do when he woke up?
2. Do you know what it means to obey? Who should you obey?
3. Is it easy or difficult for you to obey your parents? Do you obey even when you don't want to?



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14

Angel to Joseph

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:5:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

QUESTIONS:

1. Make up motions to show the three ways we are to love God.
2. What does it mean to love the Lord “with all your strength?”
3. Talk about how Joseph’s love for God and obedience to him can be a good example for you every day.

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15

Angel to Mary

READ PSALM 24:9:

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the King of glory?
2. What are some qualities of a good king?
3. Think about what a door or gate looks like. What is the purpose of a door or gate? How can we welcome Christ this Advent season?

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16

Angel to Mary

READ LUKE 1:26-27:

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the angel sent to speak to?
2. Where did the angel go?
3. Who was David? Talk about why this part of scripture mentions that Joseph is a relative of David.

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17

Angel to Mary

READ LUKE 1:28-31:

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Mary to name the child?
2. What does "highly favored" mean?
3. The angel tells Mary, "Do not be afraid." Who are the other people we've heard an angel say that to in our previous Advent stories? What news had the angel brought each of those people?

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18

Angel to Mary

READ LUKE 1:32-33:

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

QUESTIONS:

1. When will Jesus' kingdom end?
2. How long is forever? Try to describe it.
3. Read Luke 1:26-38. This passage tells us that "nothing is impossible with God". Can you think of some things that happened in the Bible that seemed impossible?

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19

Angel To Mary

READ LUKE 1:34-35:

*How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

QUESTIONS:

1. What other name does the angel use for Jesus in this verse?
2. What is going to happen to Mary?
3. Why do you think Mary was chosen for this special mission?

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20

Angel to Mary

READ LUKE 1:36-37:

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does Gabriel say about Mary's cousin Elizabeth?
2. What does this say about God's power?
3. Have you experienced an example of God's supernatural power?

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21

Angel to Mary

READ LUKE 1:38:

I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her."

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Mary had a good attitude about God's special assignment for her?
2. What does Mary mean when she says she is "the Lord's servant?"
3. Has God ever asked you to do something difficult?

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22

Angel To Shepherds

READ MATTHEW 2:6:

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a shepherd's job?
2. What does it mean for a leader to shepherd God's people?
3. Why do you think we are told Jesus came from Bethlehem — a small, out of the way place?

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Angel To Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:8-9:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

QUESTIONS:

1. How would you react if an angel showed up unexpectedly in the night sky?
2. What does the scripture mean when it says “the glory of the Lord shone around them?”
3. The verse says the shepherds were “terrified.” Why do you think everyone is afraid of the angels?



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24

Angel to Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:10:

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the "good news" that the angel is bringing to the shepherds?
2. Talk about who you would like to share that good news with this season.
3. The angel says the birth of Jesus will cause "great joy for all people." Why does Jesus' life bring joy to all?

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25

Angel To Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:11-12:

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a manger?
2. How will the shepherds know that they've found baby Jesus?
3. Choose someone to read out loud Luke 2:1-7. Instead of being born in a building behind closed doors, Jesus was born outside in a stable where animals were kept. Why would God let Jesus, the King of kings, be born in such a lowly way?

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26

Angel To Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:13-14:

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom do we give glory?
2. What does God bring to earth?
3. Talk about how the truth of Christmas Day changes the way we live every other day of the year.

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27

Angel to Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:15-16:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did the shepherds walk slowly to go find Jesus?
2. Did the shepherds wait around and tend to their flock before setting off to find their Savior or did they leave right away?
3. Why do you think the answers to the previous questions are important?

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Angel to Shepherds

READ LUKE 2:17-18:

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

QUESTIONS:

1. After seeing Jesus, what did the shepherds do?
2. How did people respond when the shepherds told them about Jesus?
3. In what ways can you spread the word about Jesus during the Christmas season?



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Answer Key • A

WEEK 1

Day 1

1. Prepare the way for Jesus.
2. Make ready.
3. Prepare their hearts to receive and for him to live among them.

Day 2

1. Zechariah

Day 3

1. John
2. For a child.
3. They were faithful and obedient to God. They were very old and Elizabeth was barren/not able to have a baby.

Day 4

1. To celebrate great happiness or joy

Day 5

1. No
3. Spend time in his Word. Learn about God's character. Pray to know God more and have a personal relationship with Him.

Day 6

2. He praised God.

Day 7

1. Forever
2. To declare officially or publicly.

WEEK 2

Day 8

1. Jesus
2. The gospel of Jesus Christ as told in the Bible.
3. Talk about it, sing about it, teach about it.

Day 9

1. Mary is pregnant, don't be afraid to marry her.

Day 10

1. Jesus
2. God Saves, Savior, he will save his people from their sins.
3. To save his people from their sins/Discuss.

Day 11

1. God with us.
3. It gave God's people hope. It shows that Jesus is the Messiah.

Answer Key • B

Day 12

1. Jesus
2. Everyone who believes in Jesus.
3. Because Jesus is the most important thing in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Day 13

1. He took Mary home as his wife.

Day 14

2. Love God with all you have: your time, your money, your energy, everything.

WEEK 3

Day 15

1. Jesus
2. Fair, kind, wise, humble, generous, mighty.
3. Doors and gates either block out or welcome in. We can celebrate and welcome Christ in many ways!

Day 16

1. Mary
2. The town of Nazareth.
3. King David of Israel, to whom God promised salvation.

Day 17

1. Jesus
2. God chose Mary above others.
3. Zechariah, Joseph

Day 18

1. Never.
2. It goes on and on. It never ends.
3. Examples could be: David and Goliath; Jesus walking on water; Jericho's walls falling down.

Day 19

1. Son of God.
2. She's going to become pregnant with a son.
3. She was faithful and obedient to God.

Day 20

1. She's pregnant even though she was thought to be barren.
2. He can do anything regardless of earthly circumstances.

Day 21

1. Yes
2. That she has accepted what the angel says.

Answer Key • C

WEEK 4

Day 22

1. To care for sheep.
2. To lead them and watch over them.
3. To remind us that Jesus did not rule by earthly standards, but by God's standards. God can use small things to accomplish big goals.

Day 23

2. Likely a bright cloud signifying divine presence.
3. The angel showed up in a dramatic way during a quiet, uneventful night. They are strong, imposing warrior figures.

Day 24

1. The birth of Jesus.
3. Because He brings salvation to all of humanity.

Day 25

1. Something animals eat their food out of.
2. He will be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
3. To show us that Jesus really did come for all of us.

Day 26

1. God
2. Peace

Day 27

1. No! They hurried off!
2. They left immediately.
3. The news they heard was so important they left their flocks.

Day 28

1. Told everyone they met about Jesus.
2. They were amazed.



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