

# Scripture Reading

## Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> Those who walked in the dark  
have seen a bright light.  
And it shines upon everyone  
who lives in the land  
of darkest shadows.

<sup>3</sup> Our Lord, you have made  
your nation stronger.  
Because of you, its people  
are glad and celebrate  
like workers at harvest time  
or like soldiers dividing up  
what they have taken.

<sup>4</sup> You have broken the power  
of those who abused  
and enslaved your people.  
You have rescued them  
just as you saved your people  
from Midian.

<sup>5</sup> The boots of marching warriors  
and the blood-stained uniforms  
have been fed to flames  
and eaten by fire.

<sup>6</sup> A child has been born for us.

We have been given a son

who will be our ruler.

His names will be

Wonderful Advisor

and Mighty God,

Eternal Father

and Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His power will never end;  
peace will last forever.

He will rule David's kingdom  
and make it grow strong.

He will always rule  
with honesty and justice.

The Lord All-Powerful  
will make certain

that all of this is done.

## Matthew 1:18-2:2

<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus Christ was born.  
A young woman named Mary was  
engaged to Joseph from King  
David's family. But before they were  
married, she learned that she was  
going to have a baby by God's Holy  
Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph was a good man  
and did not want to embarrass Mary  
in front of everyone. So he decided to  
quietly call off the wedding.

<sup>20</sup> While Joseph was thinking  
about this, an angel from the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream. The  
angel said, "Joseph, the baby that  
Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit.  
Go ahead and marry her.

<sup>21</sup> Then after her baby is born, name  
him Jesus, because he will save his  
people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> So the Lord's promise came true,  
just as the prophet had said. <sup>23</sup> "A

virgin will have a baby boy, and he  
will be called Immanuel," which  
means "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> After Joseph woke up, he and Mary  
were soon married, just as the Lord's  
angel had told him to do. <sup>25</sup> But they  
did not sleep together before her  
baby was born. Then Joseph named  
him Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> When Jesus was born in the village  
of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod  
was king. During this time some  
wise men from the east came to  
Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and said, "Where is the  
child born to be king of the Jews?  
We saw his star in the east and have  
come to worship him."

## KINDA SECRET MILITARY FAMILY MISSION

HEROSQUAD

# MISSION MANUAL

ISSUED FOR  
WINTER MISSION

Memory  
Verse  
Challenge

Memorize the highlighted verse. Who will  
be first to commit this verse to memory?

# Adventure-Filled Advent

## Activity Instructions

**Step 1:** As a family, read the Scripture passages from Isaiah and Matthew (back) and “Joy Foretold” (below).

**Step 2:** Discuss the Scripture passages using the Family Discussion Questions (right) to learn how to apply it to your lives.

**Step 3:** Place your Advent Calendar somewhere central in your home (perhaps on your refrigerator). Each day leading up to Christmas, fill your hearts with the day’s suggested Scripture and follow the prompt to bless your community and spend quality time adventuring together as a family.

**BONUS:** Take the Memory Verse Challenge on the back page!

## Joy Foretold

Isaiah was a prophet—a person called to speak for God and deliver God’s messages to people. He lived hundreds of years before Matthew wrote about Jesus’s birth. For centuries the Jewish people memorized the words spoken by the prophet Isaiah. They waited and waited, placing their hope in a brighter day when God would send a deliverer to change the world.

Now imagine that night.

Imagine the shepherds who had heard the words of Isaiah countless times from their family or friends but were just wondering and waiting to see if God would come through.

Imagine the wise men’s thoughts and anticipation when the bright star they’d been expecting appeared. Imagine the awe, wonder, and joy when they set their gaze on a baby who would save them all.

How do you think they felt to see and experience a promise fulfilled?

Now here we are more than 2000 years later, but the power and magnitude of what God did for us on the night of Christ’s birth still should produce so much joy.

When God makes a promise, he delivers, so let us thank him for Jesus. Thank him for miracles. And thank him for always fulfilling his promises.

## Family Discussion Questions

### Eagle Squad

- Why do you think the birth of Jesus is so special?
- What is one thing you can do to spread joy this Christmas?

### JV Squad

- Not only was Jesus’s birth a miracle, but the foretelling of his birth hundreds of years prior was also a miracle! What miracles have you seen in your life?
- How does it make you feel that the birth of Jesus was promised and then later fulfilled?

### Varsity Squad

- God waited hundreds of year to fulfill the promise of Jesus. Does knowing this make it a little easier to wait for answers to your prayers? Why or why not?
- How does knowing the Bible foretells and then confirms stories strengthen your faith?



## Don’t Forget!

We have a brand new digital resource library!

Just scan the QR code with your phone to access it.

There you will find all of our Hero Squad children’s devotionals and family activities available for download.



## For the Grown-Ups

Not only was the story of Jesus’s birth foretold and fulfilled, but it was also confirmed—told by more than one author.

As a family, read through Luke 2:1–20, and discuss how each author focused on different details of the event.

Lead your family in a discussion on how significant it is that Matthew and Luke shared stories about Jesus’s birth. Then share about any promises that God has fulfilled in your life.

# Advent

## ADVENTURE CALENDAR



<b>1</b> FIND A TOY TO DONATE (HEBREWS 13:16)	<b>2</b> SEND AN ENCOURAGING TEXT (1 THESS. 5:11)	<b>3</b> MAKE A FAMILY MEMBER'S BED (HEBREWS 6:10)	<b>4</b> MAKE A TREAT FOR A NEIGHBOR (MATT. 5:16)	<b>5</b> SAY THANK YOU TO YOUR BUS DRIVER (ROMANS 12:10)
<b>6</b> WRITE YOUR TEACHER A KIND NOTE (COL. 2:7)	<b>7</b> TELL A FRIEND ABOUT JESUS'S BIRTH (JOHN 3:16)	<b>8</b> ENCOURAGE A STRANGER AT SCHOOL (PHIL. 2:4)	<b>9</b> HAVE A FAMILY GAME NIGHT (ECCLES. 8:15)	<b>10</b> INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH (ROMANS 15:7)
<b>11</b> LIGHT A CANDLE AND SAY A PRAYER (COL. 4:2)	<b>12</b> DONATE TO A CHARITY (2 COR. 9:7)	<b>13</b> MAKE A KID AT SCHOOL FEEL LOVED (PROVERBS 11:25)	<b>14</b> TELL YOUR PARENTS YOU LOVE THEM (DEUT. 5:16)	<b>15</b> BRING A TREAT TO A FRIEND (PROVERBS 3:27)
<b>16</b> INVITE A FRIEND TO DINNER (1 PETER 4:9)	<b>17</b> LOOK AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (JOHN 8:12)	<b>18</b> SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PSALM 9:2)	<b>19</b> MAKE A CARD FOR A GRANDFRIEND (1 THESS. 1:2)	<b>20</b> MAKE DINNER AS A FAMILY (ACTS 2:46B)
<b>21</b> GIVE A SURPRISE GIFT TO A FRIEND (1 JOHN 3:18)	<b>22</b> WRITE A LOVE NOTE TO JESUS (1 JOHN 4:9)	<b>23</b> WATCH A NATIVITY MOVIE (LUKE 2:11)	<b>24</b> THANK JESUS FOR HIS BIRTH (LUKE 19:10)	<b>25</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS!