



Cut out each strip and link them in alphabetical order to create your

Advent Countdown Chain

With presents, candy and families quite near,
We all know that Christmas is finally here.
Elves, Santa and turkeys may soon fill our minds –
Presents and Christmas trees – best we can find!
Between the hustle and bustle and holiday joy
Remember this day honors ONE baby boy!

To keep our Lord and Savior close in our sight,
Take a link from this chain before bed every night.
When we settle down with our mom or our dad,
Talking about Jesus will sure make us glad.
The day that you find only one chain to read
Christmas is here and we'll celebrate indeed!

Begin by removing your first chain on November 30th
(The date to read each one is found in the bottom right corner of each strip)





A

is for ANGEL, God's messenger. Read Luke 1:26-28. As we see in our Bible, Mary was told by the angel, Gabriel that God was with her. God is with us too, every day. Let's pretend we are angels. Lay down on the floor and make "angels in the snow".

11/30



C

is for CATTLE, their manger was His bed. Read Luke 2:7. Can you imagine sleeping in a feeding trough? Pretend you are (or draw) an animal in the stable where Jesus was born. Sing "Away in a Manger".

12/2



E

is for the EVERGREEN tree, a symbol of God's everlasting love. Read Psalm 100:5. Talk about how God's love never changes. Make a little tree with homemade decorations and deliver it to someone less fortunate. Take boughs of evergreen and decorate some part of your home. Listen to, or sing the song "O Christmas Tree".

12/4



G

is for GIVING. Christmas is a time for giving. Read Acts 20:35. Make an ornament and write on it ways that you can give to others this Christmas season. Hang it on your tree as a reminder.

12/6



I

I is for IMMANUEL, "God with us". Read Isaiah 7:14. Talk about how Jesus had many special names and share some of these other special names for Jesus: Good Shepherd, Comforter, Prince of Peace, Son of God, etc.

12/8



K

is for KING OF KINGS. Read John 1:49. Jesus, who was born on Christmas Day was also called the "King of Kings", a king for the whole world. Make a small crown and decorate it. Add an ornament hanger and hang it from your Christmas tree to remind you that Jesus is the "King Of Kings".

12/10



M

is for MARY, Jesus' mother. Read Luke 1:38. God asked Mary to do a very big and important job. She was to raise the Son of God! Mary didn't argue, she obeyed God. Talk about the important jobs that God asks you to do and how you can honor Him.

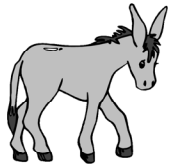
12/12



B

is for BIBLE, God's holy word. Read Isaiah 40:8. Through His word, God promises you love, grace, and salvation – forever. God's promise is that His word will stand forever, see how long YOU can stand balancing a book on your head.

12/1



D

is for the DONKEY that Mary rode to Bethlehem. Read Luke 2:1-5 and Micah 5:2. Discuss how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem (no cars, airplanes, etc). Make a felt donkey with a mane and tail of yarn for your Christmas tree. Give the children donkey rides on a parent's back.

12/3



F

is for the FRANKINCENSE, with myrrh and gold. Read Matthew 2:11 Jesus was given three very special gifts for his birthday. We all know the value of gold, but the Frankincense and Myrrh may have been even more valuable as they are special oils that work like medicines to help heal and protect the body. Talk about what you would give Jesus for his birthday.

12/5



H

is for HEAVENLY HOST OF ANGELS. Read Luke 2:13. God's angels came and announced the exciting news about Jesus' birth. Count how many angels you can find among your Christmas decorations or in your home.

12/7



J

is for JESUS. Read Matthew 1:21. God picked the name "Jesus" because it means "Savior" and He would save us all from our bad choices. Talk about what makes your name special.

12/9



L

is for LOVE. Read 1 John 4:9 -10. Jesus was God's gift of love to the world at Christmas. Make a red paper heart and take turns sharing ways that God shows His love to you. Write them on the paper heart.

12/11



N

is for NOEL. "Noel" symbolizes Christmas as it comes from the Latin word meaning "birthday". Read Luke 2:12-14. An angel told the shepherd where to find baby Jesus. Then other angels appeared to sing praises to God. We can sing praises to God also. Sing "Noel" or make up a song and sing it to God.

12/13



O

is for OVERJOYED. Read Matthew 2:10. Sing “Joy to the World” and talk about what brings you joy.

12/14



Q

is for QUIET. Read Psalm 23:2. It was a quiet night when Jesus was born. Quietly sing “Silent Night”.

12/16



S

is for STAR. Read Matthew 2:1-11. If it is a clear night, go outside and look up at the stars. Talk about how there was a special star over the place where Jesus lay. It guided the wise men and helped them to find baby Jesus. How bright do you think the star was? How Big?

12/18



U

is for US. Jesus was born on Christmas Day for us. Read Romans 3:23-26. Make a cross with your fingers. Remember that Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross to take away our sins. Let’s pray to Him and thank Him.

12/20



W

is for WONDERFUL, because Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor. Read Isaiah 9:6. Take a piece of paper and let each person in your family list a way in which they think Jesus is wonderful! Read the entire list together when you are finished.

12/22



Y

is for YULETIDE. A time for praise and worship. Read Psalms 100:1-2. Yuletide means Christmas time. Sing or listen to Yuletide carols with your family and friends.

12/24

Tip: You can laminate these sheets before cutting them out to create a sturdy set of links that can be reused from year to year. Then use tape to make your laminated links and it will peel right off when you or your child takes off the link.



P

is for PEACE. Read Luke 2:14. Peace on earth good will toward men. Talk about what you can do to help bring peace on earth.

12/15



R

is for REJOICE. Rejoice is when your heart is glad and full of joy. This is the way we feel when we think of how God loved us so much that He sent His son, who was born on Christmas Day. Read Psalm 105:1-3. Sing a praise song to God or make a musical instrument to rejoice in the Lord.

12/17



T

is for TRUST. Read Proverbs 3:5. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Jesus is our foundation for Trust and He is the meaning of Christmas. Play the "Trust" game. Blindfold your child and lead him around the house allowing him to feel "trust" in his parent.

12/19



V

is for VOICE. Read Luke 2:9-12. The shepherds heard the voice of the angel of the Lord, proclaiming the birth of Jesus. Pretend that you are that angel. Use your own voice to tell someone you love about the birth of Jesus.

12/21



X

is for is for EXTRA. Read Luke 2:8-11. Shepherds watching over their sheep were used by the angels to proclaim to the world that there is "extra" good news today because God's son is born!! This is the best news that we have ever heard!! Shout out loudly together that you have "extra" good news – God's son is born!!

12/23



Z

is for ZERO!! There are zero days left until Christmas!! Read Luke 2:10-16 and sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus!" Celebrate this very special day together remembering the wonderful Christmas story.

12/25

We'd like to thank the following people for creating the original version of this Advent chain; Roberta Meier, Lora Bostick, Jaye Prentice, Ava Dahl, Kelly Ann Bonnell, Jim VanHovel, Julie Newbury, Heidi Kooistra, Donna Goff, Randa Thompson, Marty Thompson, Pam Engle, Sue Kuwitzky, Tracy Scherkenback, Valerie Koenig, Barb Nelle, Tracy Griffin, the Chance One Another Group and Carol Walker. We'd also like to thank Amy Sites, Liz Kelley, and Lenka Mans for this revised edition.