

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

What is the Christian calendar?

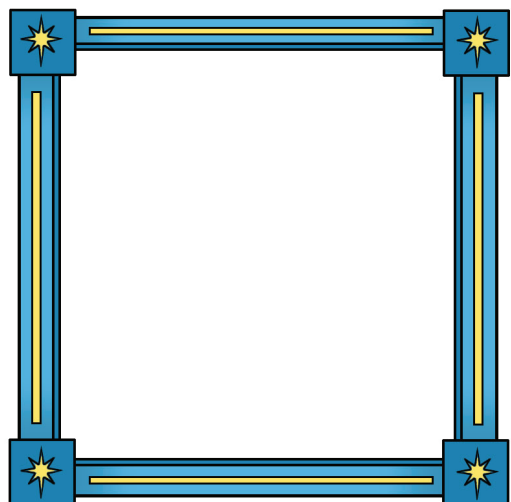
The Christian calendar is how Christians keep track of days, weeks, months, and years. It is a way for God's people to keep track of time and to remember the story of Jesus all year round. The Christian calendar is full of special days and seasons that point us to Jesus. Our world has been changed by Jesus' life. The Christian calendar helps us to live as people who are a part of God's story, to walk in the light of Jesus Christ all year long.

What is Advent?

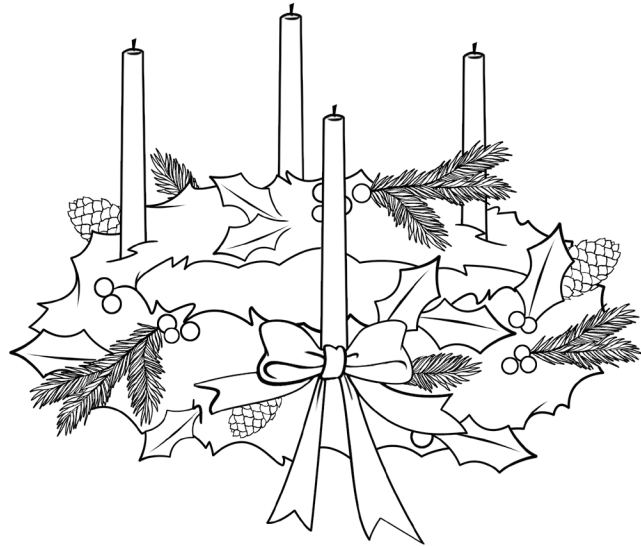
Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. It is the time to get ready for the wonder of Christmas. The color for Advent is sometimes blue and sometimes purple. These colors tell us that we should slow down and pay attention.

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something?

Draw a picture of yourself waiting for something very special.

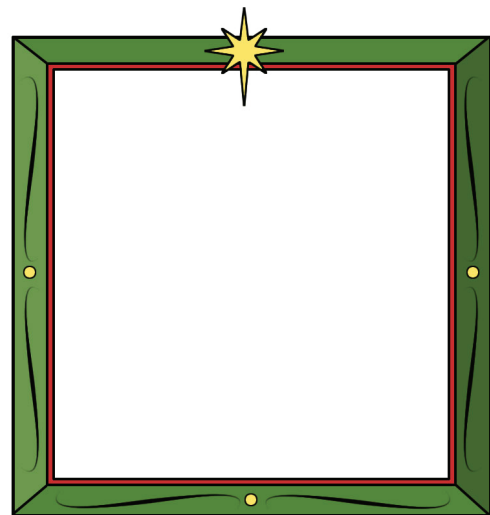


During Advent, we remember and we wait. We remember how God's people waited a long time for Jesus to come as a baby. We remember that God always keeps his promises. And we wait for Jesus to keep his promise to come again. It is hard to wait! It is very hard to wait when we are waiting for something good. Advent teaches us that God is with us in our waiting.



Color the Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath helps us wait for Jesus during Advent. Maybe you have seen an Advent wreath in the worship space of your church. Maybe you have one in your home. Each week, as we get closer to Christmas, the light gets brighter and brighter as more candles are lit. Pay attention to each candle as it is lit. Can you figure out what each one means?



Draw a picture of what it was like when the waiting was finally over.



What is Christmas?

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth. The color of Christmas is white or gold because it is a time for joy and parties. You have probably heard the story of Christmas many times. Christmas is a wonderful gift because it is the beginning of the best part of God's story. When Jesus came as a little baby, the whole world changed, and it will never be the same again. This is why we celebrate with special songs and services. This is why we give gifts to one another—because in Jesus, we have been given life with God. It's the only gift we'll ever need!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

We celebrate on Christmas Day, but Christmas is also a season that lasts for twelve days! Each day during the season of Christmas, read a Scripture passage and color a star to remember to celebrate all season long!

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Titus 2:11-14
- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Titus 3:4-7
- Psalm 98:4-8
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Hebrews 1:1-4
- John 1:1-5
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Psalm 148:9-13
- John 1:12
- Revelation 21:3-5

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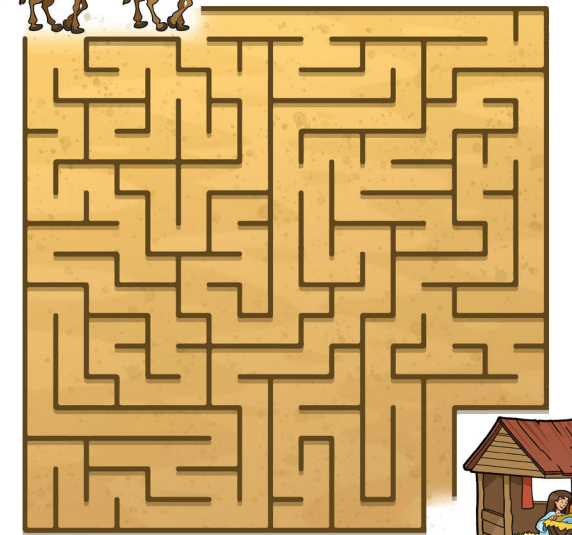
What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a word that means *Oh, I get it!* It is also the name of one of the first Sundays of the new year, when we celebrate the Magi, the astronomers that followed a star to find Jesus. Some churches talk about the season of Epiphany, which goes all the way until the beginning of Lent. The color of Epiphany is white because it is a celebration. We all are invited to come and see Jesus, learn about him, and tell others too! Then we all get to say "Oh, I get it!" That is a reason to celebrate!

Many people in the Bible knew Jesus but didn't really know he was God until he rose from the dead. I wonder if you ever have a hard time remembering who Jesus is. We all need the Holy Spirit to show us who Jesus is. We need the Holy Spirit to help us say, "Oh, I get it!"

Help the Magi find Jesus

Instructions: Can you trace the path from the wise men to Mary, Joseph, and the young Jesus?



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