



A Christmas Devotional

1. **READ:** *The Christmas Story* included in your bag.
2. **GO:** to the Revision website (revisiondsm.org) and click on the Christmas in a Bag tab or go to the Revision YouTube Channel. Click the video link, and watch it.
3. **READ:** the following verses from the Bible (you can look them up, find them on the YouVersion Bible App, or read them from the back of this sheet if you don't have a Bible handy): *Matthew 2:1-2 // Luke 2:1-2*
4. **THINK:** Sometimes it's easy in the craziness of the Christmas season to get so busy that we forget to stop and marvel at the story. And it's easy to be so familiar with the narrative that we forget to stop and be overwhelmed by the fact that the entire story of humanity on this planet was a roadmap leading to the moment when God stepped in, when he came for us.

God became man! Eternity crashed into history. But Jesus didn't come as an adult or as a strong warrior or as a fabulously wealthy king. He wasn't born in splendor and his birth wasn't announced to the rich and famous "important" people. He came humbly. As an infant. In a barn. He emptied himself so that he could fill humanity up. And then he told the nobodies – the shepherds – that he came with good news for everybody!

His birth, often referred to as his "advent", is the hinge of history. The entire story of the human race on this planet revolves around this moment when Jesus stepped into human flesh. The Bible clues us into that fact in the Christmas stories in both Matthew & Luke. Matthew tells us about how the stars in the sky totally shifted because this baby was born – and a new star indicated to anyone around the world who was paying attention that the King had appeared. And the first 2 verses in Luke 2 serve as a reminder that, before Jesus, it was awkward to try to put a date on world events. Ancient people tried to mark history by talking about which king was in power. But now, it's not awkward. We have a number. We measure history by its proximity to the moment God burst into our world that first Christmas.

It's the moment the world had been waiting for ever since brokenness entered into the Garden. It is the arrival of the one who sets all things right and makes all things new. The arrival of light in the darkness. It was a huge deal! Christmas changes everything for us by giving us a new identity, a new purpose, and a real and lasting hope that God has reconciled us to himself and one day he will set all things right and make all things new!

5. **ASK:** - How does it make you feel to know that God said the message of Christmas was good news for everybody, and that God loved you enough to come for you?

- The birth of Jesus is the hinge of human history – the moment that changed everything. How does it fill you with hope – in the middle of a scary, broken world – to remember that Jesus came to conquer the darkness and he is coming again to set all things right and make all things new? *Follow-up:* With whom do you need to share that hope this Christmas?

6. **PRAY:** Thank God today! Let the enormity of the incarnation – God taking on human flesh – humble you and make you feel small. And then thank him for loving someone like you enough to come and ultimately die so you could be forgiven and reconciled to God and you could find real hope in an often hopeless world!

