

## *Advent Prophecy Box Instructions*

Many years ago our family was gifted a set of Advent Prophecy Boxes. They came as 25 separate, decorated boxes in various sizes. Each box contained a piece of paper with a scripture of prophecy from the Old Testament and the New Testament fulfillment of that prophecy. Each box also contained a simple object that represented the fulfillment of the prophecy. The point of these boxes is to teach the children that there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament which point to the coming Messiah and to His life and death. Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled every single one of them. We have found that the season of advent is a great time to teach our children of these miraculously fulfilled prophecies. We place each box under the Christmas tree on the first of December and open one each day leading up to Christmas Day.

The actual boxes can be purchased at Hobby Lobby and look similar to this:



Follow these steps to make your Advent Prophecy Boxes:

- 1) Gather 25 decorative boxes or bags and label them 1-25 for the first 25 days of December
- 2) Print out the scriptures for each day of December on pages 1-9 of this document and cut out each day's verses along the dotted line. Set these aside to be inserted along with the representing object. You may want to print these out on colored paper.
- 3) Print out pages 10-13 to use as an idea guide for the objects you will insert into each box. Look around your house to gather any materials necessary for the objects. Purchase the things you can not find or make.
- 4) Assemble your boxes with both the daily scriptures and the representing objects in each.
- 5) Set aside time each day in December to open the box with your children, read the scripture together and discuss the fulfillment and meaning of each prophecy. I recommend that you have the children look up each verse in whatever version of the Bible you prefer – using the verses printed out only as a guide.
- 6) Pray together and thank God for his faithfulness to fulfill each of his promises throughout the life of Jesus.

## **December 1----Place of birth**

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem, David's country, the runt of the litter--From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He'll be no upstart, no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished.

Matthew 2:1

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory--this was during Herod's kingship--a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East.

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## **December 2----Heir to the throne of David**

Isaiah 9:7

His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness He brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going With fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

Matthew 1:1

The family tree of Jesus Christ, David's son, Abraham's son.

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## **December 3----Born of a virgin**

Isaiah 7:14

So the master is going to give you a sign anyway. Watch for this: a girl who is presently a virgin will get pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us).

Matthew 1:18

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.)

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## **December 4----Killing of infants**

Jeremiah 31: 15

Listen to this! Laments coming out of Ramah, wild and bitter weeping. It's Rachel weeping for her children, Rachel refusing all solace. Her children are gone, gone—long gone into exile.

Matthew 2:16

Herod, when he realized that the scholars had tricked him, flew into a rage. He commanded the murder of every little boy two years old and under who lived in Bethlehem and its surrounding hills.

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## **December 5----Escape into Egypt**

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was only a child, I loved him. I called out, My son! Called him out of Egypt.

Matthew 2:14

Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight.

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## **December 6----Ministry in Galilee**

Isaiah 9:1-2

But there'll be no darkness for those who were in trouble. Earlier he did bring the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali into disrepute, but the time is coming when he'll make that whole area glorious—the road along the Sea, the country past the Jordan, international Galilee. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! Sunbursts of light!

Matthew 4:12-16

When Jesus got word that John had been arrested, he returned to Galilee. He moved from his hometown, Nazareth, to the lakeside village Capernaum, nestled at the base of the Zebulun and Naphtali hills. This move completed Isaiah's sermon:

Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, road to the sea, over Jordan, Galilee, crossroads for the nations. People sitting out their lives in the dark saw a huge light; Sitting in that dark, dark country of death, they watched the sun come up.

## **December 7----God's Prophet**

Deuteronomy 18:15

God, your God, is going to raise up a prophet for you. God will raise him up from among your kinsmen, a prophet like me. Listen obediently to him.

John 6:14

The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!

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## **December 8----His rejection by the Jews**

Isaiah 53:3

He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum.

John 1:11

He came to his own people, but they didn't want him.

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## **December 9----His characteristics**

Isaiah 11:2

The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, The spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God.

Luke 2:52

As Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

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## **December 10----His triumphal entry**

Zechariah 9:9

Shout and cheer, Daughter Zion! Raise the roof, Daughter Jerusalem! Your king is coming! A good king who makes all things right, a humble king riding a donkey, a mere colt of a donkey.

John 12:13-14

They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel! Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it:

### **December 11----Betrayed by a friend**

Psalm 41:9

Even my best friend, the one I always told everything-he ate meals at my house all the time! Has bitten my hand.

Mark 14:10

Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the cabal of high priests, determined to betray him.

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### **December 12----Silent when accused**

Isaiah 53:7

He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence.

Matthew 26:61-63

With this: "He said, 'I can tear down this Temple of God and after three days rebuild it'" The chief priest stood up and said, "what do you have to say to the accusation?" Jesus kept silent.

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### **December 13----Struck and spat on**

Isaiah 50:6

I followed orders, stood there and took it while they beat me, held steady while they pulled out my beard, didn't dodge their insults, faced them as they spit in my face.

Mark 14:65

Some of them started spitting at him. They blindfolded his eyes, then hit him, saying, "Who hit you? Prophecy! The guards, punching and slapping, took him away.

## **December 14-----Suffered vicariously**

Isaiah 53:4-5

But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed.

Matthew 8:16-17

That evening a lot of demon-afflicted people were brought to him. He relieved the inwardly tormented. He cured the bodily ill. He fulfilled Isaiah's well-known sermon: He took our illnesses, He carried our diseases.

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## **December 15-----Crucified with sinners**

Isaiah 52:12

Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly—the best of everything, the highest honors—Because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch, because he embraced the company of the lowest. He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many, he took up the cause of all the black sheep.

Matthew 27:38

Along with him, they also crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left.

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## **December 16-----Hands and feet pierced**

Psalms 22:16

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

John 20:27

He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

## **December 17-----Mocked and insulted**

Psalm 22:6-8

And here I am, a nothing—an earthworm, something to step on, to squash. Everyone pokes fun at me; they make faces at me, they shake their heads: “Let’s see how God handles this one; since God likes him so much, let him help him!”

Matthew 27:39-40

People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: “You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you’re really God’s Son, come down from that cross!”

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## **December 18-----Prays for his enemies**

Psalm 109:4

I loved them and now they slander me—yes, me! And treat my prayer like a crime;

Luke 23:34

Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.” Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them.

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## **December 19-----His side to be pierced**

Zechariah 12:10

“Next I’ll deal with the family of David and those who live in Jerusalem. I’ll pour a spirit of grace and prayer over them. They’ll then be able to recognize me as the One they so grievously wounded—that piercing spear-thrust! And they’ll weep—oh, how they’ll weep! Deep mourning as a parent grieving the loss of the firstborn child.

John 19:34

One of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with his spear. Blood and water gushed out.

## **December 20----Soldiers cast lots for clothes**

Psalm 22:18

They take my wallet and the shirt of my back, and then throw dice for my clothes.

Mark 15:24

And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them.

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## **December 21----Not a bone broken**

Psalm 34:20

He's your bodyguard, shielding every bone; not even a finger gets broken.

John 19:33

When they got to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs.

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## **December 22-----To be buried with the rich**

Isaiah 53:9

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man, Even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one that wasn't true.

Matthew 27:57-60

Late in the afternoon a wealthy man from Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus, arrived. His name was Joseph. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus body. Pilate granted his request. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in clean linens, put on in his own tomb, a new tomb only recently cut into the rock, and rolled a large stone across the entrance. Then he went off.

### **December 23-----His resurrection**

Psalm 16:10

You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Matthew 28:9

Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him.

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### **December 24-----His ascension**

Psalm 68:18

When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious—that you, O Lord God, might dwell there.

Luke 24:50-51

He then led them out of the city over to Bethany. Raising his hands he blessed them, and while blessing them, and while blessing them, took his leave, being carried up to heaven.

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### **December 25-----His second coming**

Acts 1:11

They said, "You Galileans! –why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly –and mysteriously—as he left."

Hebrews 9:28

Christ's death was also a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever. And so, when he next appears, the outcome for those eager to greet him is, precisely, salvation.

## Prophecy Box Objects

Label your boxes 1-25 and gather objects based on the suggestions below to serve as an object lesson for each days devotional.

**Day 1 ::** Place of birth, Bethlehem

Nativity, small globe, small nativity book

**Day 2 ::** Heir to the throne of David

Crown – Can be made of Tin Foil

**Day 3 ::** Virgin Birth

Baby Jesus – find or make a tiny baby doll (perhaps out of clay), wrap in a cloth

**Day 4 ::** Herod's killing of infants

Draw a picture of a very sad face and put it in the box to represent the terribleness of what happened

**Day 5 ::** Escape into Egypt

Pyramid – Make some type of cardboard pyramid and cover with glues and sand if possible

**Day 6 ::** His ministry in Galilee

Jesus came to be the light of the world

Lights---Purchase a mini set of battery operated Christmas lights. This one you need to do in advance without the kids knowing.

Turn the light on by pushing the small lever down to the midpoint of the batteries. Then close the box and wait for the kids to open it.

**Day 7 :: God's Prophet**

A prophet listens to God the Father and speaks what the Father is speaking

Print out a picture of an Ear and a mouth to represent the speaking and hearing

**Day 8 ::** His rejection by the Jews

Make a card with the word "NO" on it representing the rejection of Jesus by his own people

**Day 9 ::** His characteristics

Puzzle with words

Make a simple puzzle out of cardboard and write words on it. The words on the puzzle are all in the Isaiah verse—Fear of God, Understanding, Direction, power, knowledge and wisdom. Let the children put the puzzle together.

**Day 10 ::** His triumphal entry

Plastic or homemade palm branches one for everyone in the family to play act waving.

**Day 11 ::** Betrayed by a friend

Small bag of coins

**Day 12 ::** Silent when accused

Print out or draw a picture of a sheep—"as a sheep before shearers is silent"

**Day 13 :: Struck and Spat on**

Blindfold---you can take turns wearing the blindfold and imagine how awful and scary it would be to experience what Jesus went through

**Day 14 :: Suffered vicariously**

Band-Aids---because of his stripes we are healed

**Day 15 :: Crucified with sinners**

Any type of cross

**Day 16 :: Hands and feet pierced**

Nails

**Day 17 :: Mocked and insulted**

Paper and crayons---write words or draw pictures of how teasing and mean words hurt

**Day 18 :: Prays for enemies**

Print out or draw a picture of praying hands

**Day 19 :: His side to be pierced**

Make a mini spear out of clay and a toothpick

**Day 20 :: Soldiers cast lots for clothes**

Dice

**Day 21 :: Not a bone broken**

Any type of bone

**Day 22:: Tomb**

To be buried with the rich

Make a cardboard tomb with "dead" Jesus and stone to put in front of tomb

**Day 23 :: His resurrection**

Reuse tomb with Jesus not in there and the stone rolled away

**Day 24 :: His ascension**

Helium Balloon---this will need to be bought earlier in the day and hidden until you're ready to open the boxes.

**Day 25:: His second coming**

White horse-he will return on a white horse.

Other thought you could use are, a watch, no one knows the time, and eyes we have to keep watching.