

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Print & Color or Print on color paper

2 Cut the hanger and all 25 paper chain strips along the lines.

3 Prepare the Hanger

Punch a small hole at the top for hanging and thread a ribbon or twine loop.

Locate the horizontal line near the bottom and cut to make a slit—you'll use this to attach your chain.

4 Make the Chain starting with the Dec 25 strip

Slip the Dec 25 strip through the slit in the hanger from front to back.

Form it into a loop below the hanger and glue, staple or tape the ends together.

This becomes the top link of your countdown chain.

5 Add the Next Links

Slide the Dec 24 strip through the Dec 25 loop and secure the ends to make the next loop.

Continue linking each strip in order until Dec 1 is last - the first link that you'll tear off.

6 Display & Countdown

Hang your chain where everyone can see!

Each day, tear off one link, read the nativity story and verse together.

On Christmas Day, read Isaiah 9:6 and celebrate the birth of Jesus!

ANOTHER COUNTDOWN OPTION: Assemble the chain day by day

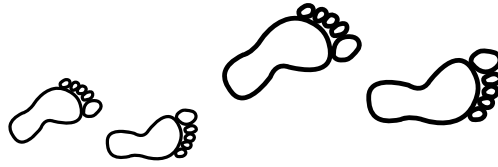
From Dec 1 to Dec 25, cut out the day's strip, color, read the story and verse. Create the day's loop and link the loops day by day.

On Christmas Day, create the last loop to complete the chain and attach it to the hanger for display!



DAY 1

A New Beginning



**Lent begins as we choose
to walk with Jesus.**

Matthew 4:19

Draw a cross or heart and say "Amen."



DAY 2

God's Great Love



God loves us!

John 3:16

Thank God for three good things today.



DAY 3

Turning Our Hearts



**We say sorry and try
to make better choices.**

Psalms 51:10

Say sorry to God for one thing.



DAY 4

Learning to Pray



Jesus teaches us to talk to God.

Matthew 6:9

Read the Lord's Prayer aloud.



DAY 5

Jesus Cares for Us



Jesus cares about our worries.

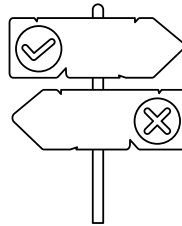
1 Peter 5:7

Tell God one thing that worries you.



DAY 6

Choosing What Is Right



**Jesus helps us choose good
even when it's hard.**

Galatians 6:9

Try not to complain for the rest of the day.



DAY 7

Jesus Invites Everyone



Jesus calls all people to come to Him.

Matthew 11:28

Invite someone to play or sit with you.



DAY 8

Helping Others



Jesus helps people in need.

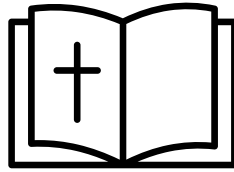
Matthew 14:14

Carry, clean or pick up something for someone.



DAY 9

Sharing God's Word



Jesus teaches us to share God's Word.

Matthew 28:20

Tell someone your favorite Bible story.



DAY 10

Loving Everyone



Jesus reminds us to show love to all the people around us every day

Matthew 22:39

Say something kind to a classmate you don't usually talk to.



DAY 11

Listening to Jesus



Jesus teaches us to listen

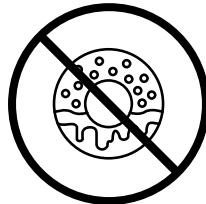
James 1:19

Listen quietly while someone else speaks.



DAY 12

Learning to Give Things Up



Jesus teaches us to give something up to grow closer to God.

Luke 9:23

Give up dessert or a favorite snack today.



DAY 13

Being Thankful



Jesus reminds us to thank God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Say grace before a meal.



DAY 14

Helping Without Being Seen



Jesus teaches us to help others quietly and with love.

Matthew 6:4

Secretly tidy a shared space today.



DAY 15

Showing Kindness



Jesus shows kindness through His actions.

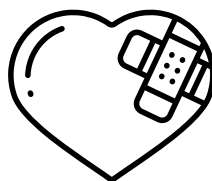
Ephesians 4:32

Hold the door open for someone.



DAY 16

Forgiving Others



Jesus teaches us to forgive.

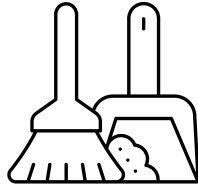
Matthew 18:21-22

Say "I forgive you" (out loud or in your heart) to someone who had upset you.



DAY 17

Serving with Joy



Jesus teaches us to serve with joy.

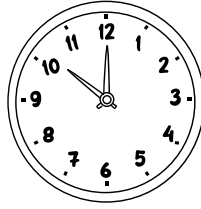
Colossians 3:23

Help with one chore without being reminded.



DAY 18

Learning to be Patient



Jesus teaches patience.

Romans 12:12

Wait patiently without rushing today.



DAY 19

Walking in Peace



Jesus brings peace to our hearts.

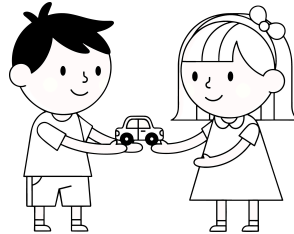
John 14:27

Sit quietly for one full minute.



DAY 20

Learning to Share



Jesus teaches us to share what we have with others.

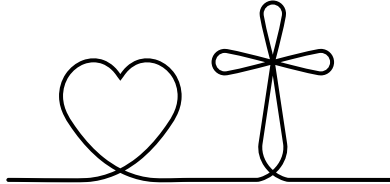
Hebrews 13:16

Share a toy, book, or snack.



DAY 21

Loving God



Jesus shows us how to love God.

Mark 12:30

Tell God one thing you love about Him.



DAY 22

God's Mercy



Jesus shows mercy and compassion.

Luke 6:36

Be kind if someone makes a mistake today.
Do not tease or laugh at them.



DAY 23

Loving Our Neighbors



Jesus teaches us to care for people who need help like neighbors in need.

Luke 10:33-34

Pray for the homeless or someone who is sick.



DAY 24

Being Humble



Jesus shows humility.

Philippians 2:3

Let someone else choose first.
(for example seat, snack or during a game)



DAY 25

Following God's Way



Jesus calls us to obey.

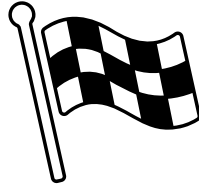
John 14:15

Follow a parent's or teacher's instructions the first time you are asked.



DAY 26

Staying Faithful



Jesus stays faithful to God's mission.

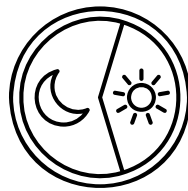
Hebrews 12:2

Finish a task even when it feels hard.



DAY 27

Trusting God Each Day



**We can trust God
with everything that happened today**

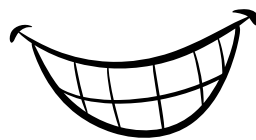
Psalms 4:8

Tell God about your day in a bedtime prayer.



DAY 28

Being Joyful



Jesus brings joy.

John 15:11

Greet someone with a smile today.



DAY 29

Serving at Home



Jesus teaches us to serve at home.

Mark 10:45

Help set the table or clean up after a meal.



DAY 30

Encouraging Others



**Jesus teaches us
to speak words that build others up.**

Ephesians 4:29

Say something kind to a friend, or family member today.



DAY 31

Praying Together



**When we pray together,
Jesus is right here with us!**

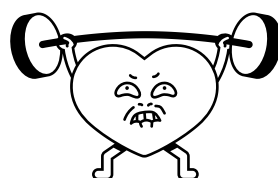
Matthew 18:20

Pray out loud with a grown-up.



DAY 32

Loving Even When It's Hard



Jesus loves others no matter what.

John 15:13

Choose kind words even when you feel upset.



DAY 33

Making Room for God



**Jesus teaches us to give up distractions
so we can focus on God.**

Matthew 16:24

Turn off screens and read instead.



DAY 34

God Is With Us



Even in sadness, God is near.

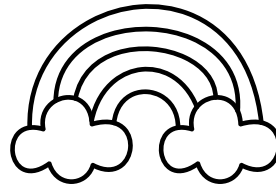
Psalms 34:18

Give a hug or comforting pat to someone.



DAY 35

God Keeps His Promises



**God always keeps His promises to us,
even when we have to wait.**

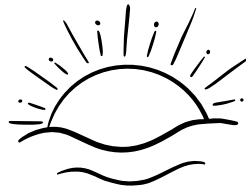
Deuteronomy 7:9

Thank God for His promises.



DAY 36

Jesus Brings Hope



Jesus gives us hope and fills our hearts.

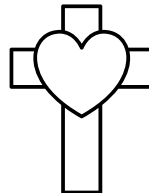
Romans 15:13

Make a cross craft with paper or sticks.



DAY 37

Jesus Shows His Love



Jesus shows love through actions.

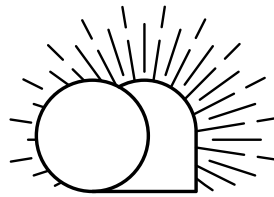
1 John 3:18

Do something nice for a family member.



DAY 38

Jesus Is Alive



Jesus rises with new life.

Matthew 28:6

Sing a song about Easter.



DAY 39

Joyful News



Jesus sends us to share joy.

Matthew 28:19

Make an Easter card for someone.



DAY 40

Celebrating New Life



Jesus gives us new life.

John 11:25

Say "Happy Easter" and thank God for Jesus!