

DAILY ADVENT DEVOTION

Do Not Be Afraid

Read together: Every day in Advent, read a passage in the Bible where someone says “Do not be afraid” or something similar. Here’s a suggested list (starting December 1). Need other ideas? Go to biblegateway.com and type “afraid” and/or “fear” in the search bar to get started.

- ✦ **Dec 1:** Luke 1:5-25
- ✦ **Dec 2:** 1 Kings 19:1-13
- ✦ **Dec 3:** Psalm 46
- ✦ **Dec 4:** Joshua 1:1-9
- ✦ **Dec 5:** Luke 1:26-38
- ✦ **Dec 6:** Genesis 15:1-6
- ✦ **Dec 7:** Acts 18:8-10
- ✦ **Dec 8:** John 14:25-31
- ✦ **Dec 9:** Isaiah 43:1-7
- ✦ **Dec 10:** Psalm 56
- ✦ **Dec 11:** Matthew 28:16-20
- ✦ **Dec 12:** Jeremiah 1:4-10
- ✦ **Dec 13:** Romans 8:35-39
- ✦ **Dec 14:** Luke 8:40-56
- ✦ **Dec 15:** Revelation 1:17-18
- ✦ **Dec 16:** Isaiah 41:8-20
- ✦ **Dec 17:** Genesis 21:8-21
- ✦ **Dec 18:** Matthew 17:1-8
- ✦ **Dec 19:** Exodus 14:10-30
- ✦ **Dec 20:** Isaiah 12:1-3
- ✦ **Dec 21:** Psalm 27
- ✦ **Dec 22:** Zechariah 8:14-16
- ✦ **Dec 23:** Matthew 1:18-25

Talk about it: What is happening in the story that someone needs to be told, “Do not fear” (or something like it)? How is this passage or story similar to others you have read that include the phrase *do not fear*? How is it different? How does this passage speak to you today?

CHRISTMAS EVE DEVOTION

Read together: Luke 2:8-14

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Reflection: God chose shepherds to be the very first people to hear the good news about the birth of baby Jesus. The shepherds were watching their sheep and protecting them from danger, just like they did on any other night. All of a sudden, they heard a message from angels telling them not to be afraid, and giving them instructions for seeing the baby Jesus. They followed the directions and went to meet the baby. What an amazing night that must have been. The story of the shepherds reminds us that God can surprise us and meet us anytime with good news.

Talk about it: What do you think it felt like to receive such an exciting message and good news? Why do you think the angel said, "Do not be afraid"?

From Faithful Families for Advent & Christmas by Traci Smith

