

Advent – words for the
beginning

You are a blessing

Advent

- Time to remember the birth of Jesus Christ
- Time to look forward to His Second Coming

“God doesn’t need someone great
to do something great.”

Talk to your neighbour:

What do the words 'blessing' and 'blessed' mean to you?

What do we mean by

Blessing

- benefit
- help
- service
- advantage
- kindness
- Godsend
- manna from heaven

Blessed

- favoured
- enjoying the benefits of heaven
- enjoying pleasure, contentment or protection
- granted
- holy
- sacred
- adored
- sanctified

The Birth of Jesus foretold

Luke 1: 26 - 48

- 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, **favoured woman!** The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

30 “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her,
“for you have **found favour** with God!

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

34 Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

36 What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail.”

38 Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "**God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed.** 43 Why am I so **honoured**, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? 44 When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. 45 **You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.**"

Mary's Song of Praise

46 Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

48 **For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed...”**

As we eagerly await the Second Coming of Jesus,
do you expect God to use you in His plans?

Will He call you:

Blessed?

Highly favoured?

A blessing to the nations?

Genesis 12 1 – 3:

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation.

I will bless you and make you famous, and **you will be a blessing** to others. **I will bless those who bless you** and curse those who treat you with contempt.

All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”