

December 1 – Advent begins



Just a few days after Thanksgiving, Charlie's cousins, his aunt, and his grandparents left after staying with them for the long weekend. It was fun to have them around. But it was also fun to have all his toys back to himself. Well, not quite. He needed to share a little with his sister Isabelle. But she was only one, so pretty much a baby. Charlie was already six.

"Hey, Charlie," his dad called, "Do you want to go down to the basement with me and get the Christmas tree?"

Charlie's eyes lit up. "Is it Christmas, yet?" he asked.

His dad laughed. "Not quite. But tomorrow begins the season of Advent and I would like to start decorating the house."

Charlie kicked one of his Legos. The block hit the pile of toys in the middle of the play room. "Advent is stupid," Charlie mumbled. He pulled out his self-destructing tank from the toy pile and tried to find the missing parts to assemble it.

His dad sighed. "Well, if you change your mind, you know where you can find me."

Charlie pretended to be busy with his tank.

One hour later, the tree was set up. His mom took ornaments out of boxes while his dad assembled a little stable for the nativity scene. Isabelle was playing with Baby Jesus. Charlie looked at all the decorations. It looked pretty. Oh, he so wished it would be Christmas right now! But even the chocolate Advent calendars that his grandpa dropped off for Charlie and Isabelle couldn't lift Charlie's mood.

"At Christmas," he thought, "there will be much more chocolate!"

Charlie went back to the living room after dinner. All the boxes were put away and his mom had even put a few presents under the tree. Charlie was trying to figure out which one was for him. He picked each one up, shook it, and tried to read the name tags when he noticed a little plush donkey sitting under the tree next to the presents. The donkey seemed to look at him. Charlie put the present quickly back under the tree. "What was going on?" he thought.

Family talk – December 1

1. What does Advent mean? What does it mean to you and your family?
 - Noun
 - The arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.
 - The first season of the church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.
 - Synonyms
 - Coming
 - Arrival
 - Appearance
2. Why is it so hard to wait sometimes?
3. Further things to do: Make an Advent wreath or Advent craft
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/mini-advent-wreath-craft>