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The word “Advent” means c_____ or a_____ and the season is marked by expectation, waiting, anticipation, and longing.

Advent is a season that links the past, present and future.

When Jesus came into our world as a baby, He was the human embodiment of the gift of God’s love.

Mary and Joseph...a love story.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^l: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^l did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^l because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

A Hallmark Original...

The Jewish marriage customs of the day were quite different from ours.

3 stages: the c_____, the c_____, and the c_____.

God's Love Is S_____

Luke 1:26-38; 1 John 4:16-19

The nature of our God= Love in its p_____ f_____.

God's Love Is U_____

Luke 1:42-45

God's Love Is A C_____

God's Love Can F_____ Through Us