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28 NOV 2026

kz

volume 137

#44

kid zone



PRINT POST APPROVED 100001475

2026 ADVENT





WIN!

13



12

EATS

10

THE SALVATION ARMY

PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES * PRIZES

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kz THIS Week...

The countdown to Christmas is on in this week's *Kidzone*! Mark off the days 'til Christmas with Oliver's awesome Advent colouring activity. Make Cheffy's gorgeous (and delicious!) gingerbread Advent calendar and find out how Faith is bursting with good ideas to celebrate Advent in this week's story! Plus, Izzy shares some fun Christmas book titles and we've got loads of jokes, puzzles and the colouring comp! Happy reading!



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You must be joking!

WHAT DOES RUDOLPH RUN TO EVERY DECEMBER MORNING UP UNTIL CHRISTMAS?

HIS ADVENT CALENDAR!

WHY DIDN'T MUM GET ANY LOLLIES TO PUT IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR?

THE SWEETS DELIVERY WAS CHOCOLATE!

WHY IS IT HARD TO BUY ADVENT CALENDARS?

THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

HOW DO YOU PICK UP A TWO-TONNE ADVENT CALENDAR?

WITH A CANDY CRANE!

WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU CROSS AN ADVENT CALENDAR WITH A SHARK?

A FIN-TASTIC COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!

WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU PUT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN A FOOD STRAINER?

AN ADVENT COLANDER!

WHAT COMES AT THE END OF CHRISTMAS DAY?

THE LETTER 'Y'!

WHAT'S THE SMARTEST TYPE OF ANIMAL AT THE NORTH POLE?

BRAINDEER!

WHICH WARRIOR COOKIE WAS FOUND IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR?

A NINJA-BREAD MAN!

HOW DID THE ELF ON THE SHELF FEEL WHEN HE COULDN'T OPEN THE ADVENT CALENDAR?

FOILED!



FESTIVAL of Mission

23–29 November 2026

The international leader of The Salvation Army is currently visiting Australia. General Lyndon Buckingham, along with his wife Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham, have travelled all the way from London to visit Aussie Salvos who have gathered in Melbourne for a special celebration called the Festival of Mission.

The Festival of Mission is a chance for Salvos to meet together to learn more about the important work The Salvation Army does caring for people and sharing the good news about Jesus in Australia, and all around the world.

There are lots of activities for adults with special guest speakers (such as General Buckingham!) from all around the world. Kids can join the fun of daily sessions called 'Mission Adventure'!

There will also be times for prayer (talking to God) and special times of music and singing (this is called 'worship') to say thanks to God for how much God loves us! Cool!

DID YOU KNOW

... While he is based at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters in London, General Buckingham is originally from New Zealand and has been General since August 2023.



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THE Exploding ADVENT calendar

BY FAYE MICHELSON



Faith put the last red balloon in place and gave a sigh of satisfaction. Finished!

She had volunteered to make this year's Advent calendar to hang in CK's tree house. It was almost December and the Kidzone gang always had an Advent calendar to count down to 25 December.

She had blown up 24 big green balloons to stick together into a pyramid to look like a Christmas tree. Then she'd blown up some little red and white balloons to stick around it to be baubles and added a star balloon on top.

"Hellooo!" Traveller, with her ginger cat Marco Polo in her arms, appeared at the top of the staircase with Oliver and Cheffy following her.

Faith pointed to her handiwork with a big smile. "All I have to do now is draw the numbers one to 24 onto the balloons and my Advent calendar is ready to go."

Oliver looked at it doubtfully. "It's awesome, Faith, but how do you use it to count down to Christmas Day?"

"It's easy!" Faith said. "We burst a balloon each day in December. This Advent calendar will go off with a real bang!"

Traveller, Oliver and Cheffy looked at each other in dismay. None of them thought this was a good idea, because none of them liked bursting balloons. Sticking a pin into a balloon and waiting for the loud noise when it popped didn't sound like fun to them. And to do it 24 times! Noooooo!

Traveller put Marco Polo on the couch and walked over to the balloon creation. "You've put so much work into it, Faith," she said, wondering how to suggest it might be a bit too scary for some people. "But do you think –"

She stopped mid-sentence

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because a ginger furry streak flashed past her shoulder. Marco Polo had launched himself off the back of the couch towards the balloon Christmas tree, his furry legs extended and his claws out. After that, everything seemed to happen in slow motion. As he flew through the air, Faith shrieked, Traveller tried to grab him, Cheffy gasped and Oliver covered his ears.

Marco Polo landed on the balloons, popping them with his claws. Traveller, trying to catch him, lost her balance and fell onto the few balloons the ginger cat had missed and popped the rest. For a moment no-one moved except Marco Polo, who sat in the middle of green, white and red rubber remnants and licked his paws.

Traveller stood up. "I'm so sorry Faith."

Faith looked upset, then said, "Actually, maybe a balloon Advent calendar wasn't such a great idea. They're pretty loud when they burst and might have scared Izzy. But what are we going to do for an Advent calendar now?"

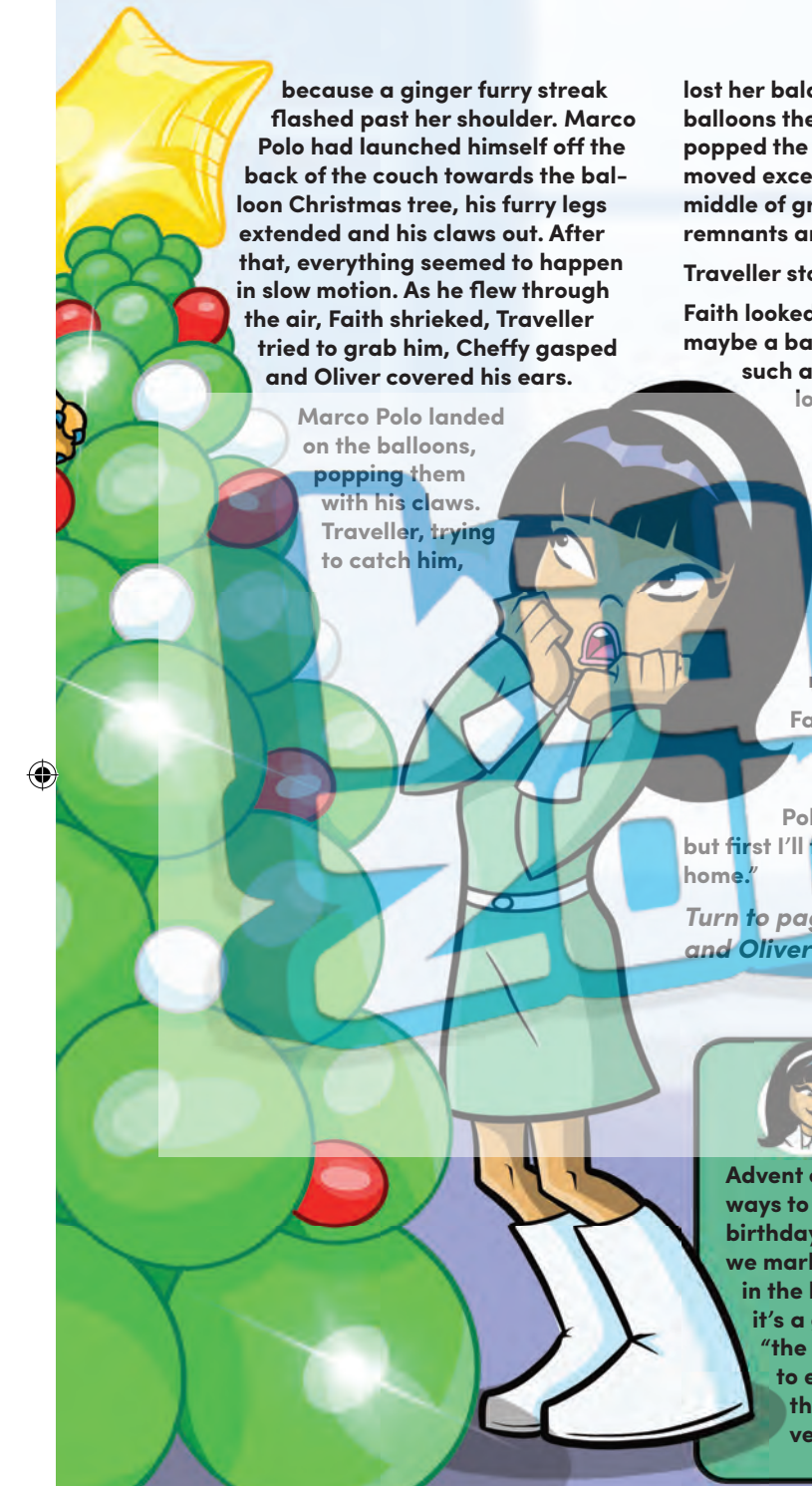
"Don't worry Faith," Oliver said. "Cheffy and I have some ideas."

Cheffy nodded. "Faith, do you think you could help me?"

Faith smiled in relief. "I'd love to."

Traveller scooped up Marco Polo. "I'll come back and help, but first I'll take the balloon wrecker home."

Turn to pages 8 to 11 to see Cheffy and Oliver's Advent calendars.





Advent calendars are awesome ways to count down to the greatest birthday of all – Jesus' birthday! As we mark off each day in December in the lead-up to Christmas Day, it's a great reminder that Jesus, "the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John chapter one, verse nine[+]).

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

SAT 28
Ayla Bull (12),
Heidi Pravednikov (8),
India Kuipers (12)

SUN 29
Dion Petruzzella (14),
Micah Evans (9),
Lindy Wang (7),
Linzy Wang (7)

MON 30
Peter Smith (8),
Sarita Ah-ta (8),
Lian Van Biak (7),
Zayden Fonoti (14)

DECEMBER

TUE 01
MJ Towke (12),
Enaya Hussain (11),
Grace Major (10)

THU 03
Henry Ditchburn (14),
Fern Grljusich (7)

FRI 04
Bridgitte A (13),
Ellie Webb (14),
Eliza Johnson (8)

Please put my name on the **BIRTHDAY LIST**

Full Name .....
Age Now ..... Birth Date ...../...../.....
Parent's signature .....

☒ If you are aged between five and 14 and would like your birthday/letter printed in *Kidzone*, fill in the coupon and send it to: Cousin Koala™, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or head to https://www.kidzonemag.com.au/cktreehouse.
Include a letter in your own handwriting and permission (signature) from your parent to have it printed.



CK'S TREEHOUSE

Dear Kidzoners, Thanks for all your letters, photos and drawings – I love collecting them, so keep sending them to me so I can hang them up in my tree house. I can't wait to hear from you!

–Cousin Koala (CK)

Send your letters to:
Cousin Koala, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn Vic. 3130

Message: kidzonemag.com.au/cktreehouse

EMAIL

Hi CK,
Are you a real koala 🐨🐨🐨🐨😍 By the way I love koalas. I love *Princess Diaries*, the movie. What's your favourite movie? Bye 👋 Johanna

G'day Johanna,
It's so great to receive an email from you. I can see you love koalas by the cute emojis you did! I love koalas and love being a koala, too. The *Princess Diaries* is such a fun movie, isn't it? I really enjoy watching it, too. I have lots of favourite movies. *Hoppers* is one of my faves – it's really funny. Have you seen it? Email me again soon! Bear hugs, CK.



Dear Traveller,
I like you cause you have a ginger cat 🐱
I like you cause you are a cat superhero.
From Rebekah

Hi there Rebekah!
I made sure to pass on your letter to D-Jayn and she says hi! She was so excited to hear from you and is pumped that you like cats just as much as her! She loves an opportunity to slip into Cat Girl mode. If you could be any superhero who would you be?
Bear hugs, CK.

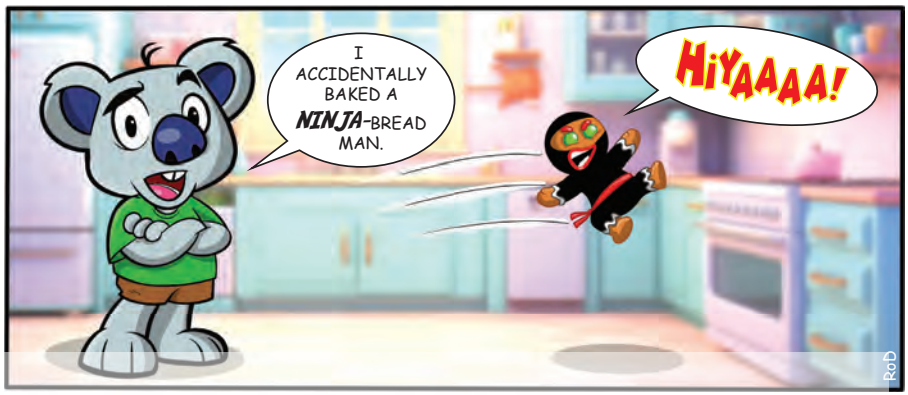
I love to play hide-and-seek. Can you find me on one of this week's *Kidzone* pages?



EMAIL

Hi C
It's Ju
tio
lin
en
the Ki
a cart
Kidzo
make
or ska
I also
baske
sports
From J

COUSIN KOALA



EMAIL

Hey Cousin Koala,
My name is Maybelle and alongside my brother Harrison, on the 30th of August this year I got enrolled as a Junior Soldier at the Devonport Salvation Army in Tasmania. Since then, we have both been to Salvo camps, with my brother going to kids camp and myself going to youth camp. The thing I like most about being a Junior Soldier is participating in group activities and singing and dancing during praise. A fun fact is that Harrison was born on my 5th birthday, and I was wondering if you could put my brother on the list for next year for the 3rd of March turning 9 as well as me on the 3rd of March turning 14.
From one of your biggest fans, Maybelle

G'day Maybelle,
I'm so excited to read that you and Harrison have been enrolled as Junior Soldiers! I saw a photo of you both being enrolled at Devonport Salvation Army and receiving your certificates and Bibles. It was great to see you wearing your cool Salvation Army KIDS T-shirts, too! Being a Junior Soldier is the best! I love singing and dancing during praise, too. Do you have a fave song? It's awesome to hear that you've gone on camps, too, because they're so much fun. I wonder what your fave things to do on camp were? What a cool fun fact that Harrison was born on your birthday – the best birthday present ever! You're both on my birthday list for next year, so keep an eye out for your names, won't you?
Have a great week,
Bear hugs, CK

EMAIL

Hi CK,
It's Juno here again! I've got a few questions for you. Are you and Izzy siblings and if so who are your parents? Can you show me a picture of the Kidzone gang in real life not like in a cartoon? How old is everyone in the Kidzone gang including you? Can you make a magazine about roller-skating or skate boarding? I love those sports. I also do Brazilian jiujitsu, swimming, basketball and soccer. What are the sports that you play and enjoy?
From Juno

G'day Juno,
It's always so awesome to hear from you!
Izzy is my younger cousin. We get to hang out when we visit Granny and Poppy K and I don't have a photo of the whole Kidzone gang - sorry!
I'm not great with birthdays and ages – that's why I need to keep a list! But I know Izzy is the youngest and Sam and D-Jyan are the oldest!
It's been a long time since we've done a skateboarding edition so I think that's a fab idea! I'll look into it.
I like playing basketball but I'm not that good at it. I think my lay-ups are too slow and I take one too many steps. But I am working on it! I love footy and cricket. Cricket is great because it can be super slow just like koalas!
Bear hugs, CK

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ADVEN

1 T	2 O	3 Y	4 
8 	9 H	10 O	11 P
15 	16 	17 P	18 E
22 	23 	24 	25

Colour in each numbered square on your advent calendar to l

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IT 2026



to help count down the days until Christmas Day - 25 December!

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EATS

GINGERBREAD ADVENT CALENDAR



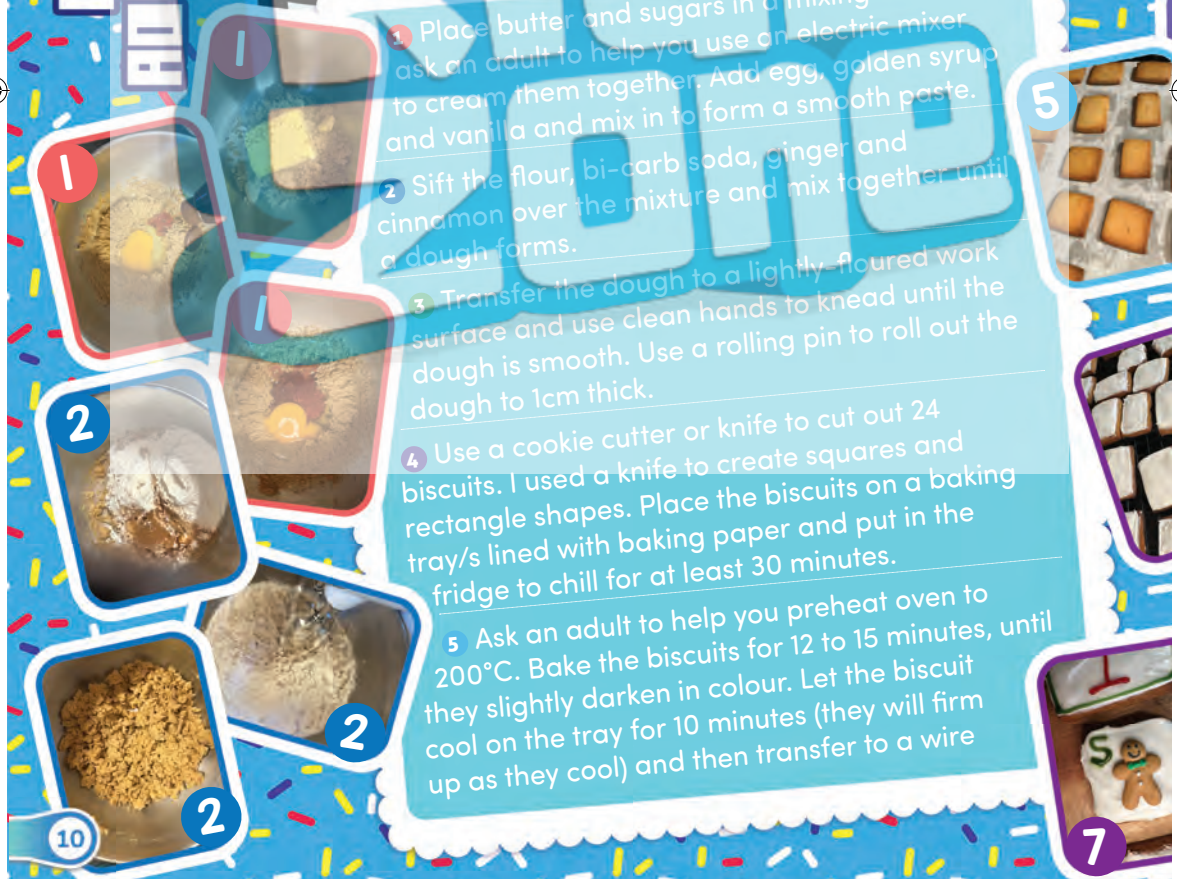
what you need:

For the gingerbread: an adult's help, 120g unsalted butter (softened or at room temperature), ⅓ cup brown sugar, ⅓ cup dark brown sugar, 1 egg, 2 tablespoons golden syrup, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 300g plain flour, 1 teaspoon bi-carb soda, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, icing pens, various 'Christmassy' cake decorations or sprinkles

For the icing: 1 egg white, ½ teaspoon lemon juice, 1 ½ cups pure icing sugar

directions:

1. Place butter and sugars in a mixing bowl and ask an adult to help you use an electric mixer to cream them together. Add egg, golden syrup and vanilla and mix in to form a smooth paste.
2. Sift the flour, bi-carb soda, ginger and cinnamon over the mixture and mix together until a dough forms.
3. Transfer the dough to a lightly-floured work surface and use clean hands to knead until the dough is smooth. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to 1cm thick.
4. Use a cookie cutter or knife to cut out 24 biscuits. I used a knife to create squares and rectangle shapes. Place the biscuits on a baking tray/s lined with baking paper and put in the fridge to chill for at least 30 minutes.
5. Ask an adult to help you preheat oven to 200°C. Bake the biscuits for 12 to 15 minutes, until they slightly darken in colour. Let the biscuit cool on the tray for 10 minutes (they will firm up as they cool) and then transfer to a wire



KIDDO



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How To Wait For Christmas

written by R.A. Stephens; illustrated by Novia Heroanto

📖 **What it's about:** Jemma can't wait for Christmas, especially the presents. But there are lots of sleeps to go! With Mum, Dad and her brother Luke, Jemma counts down the days with carols, baking, cards, paper decorations and giving gifts.
Maybe Christmas isn't just one exciting morning. Maybe it's a whole season filled with joy, kindness and wonderful waiting.

❤️ **What we like:** This is a gorgeous contemporary picture book, celebrating Christmas traditions, family fun, Advent and the joy of waiting for Christmas. For every child counting down to Christmas Day.

For Kidzoners 4 to 7.



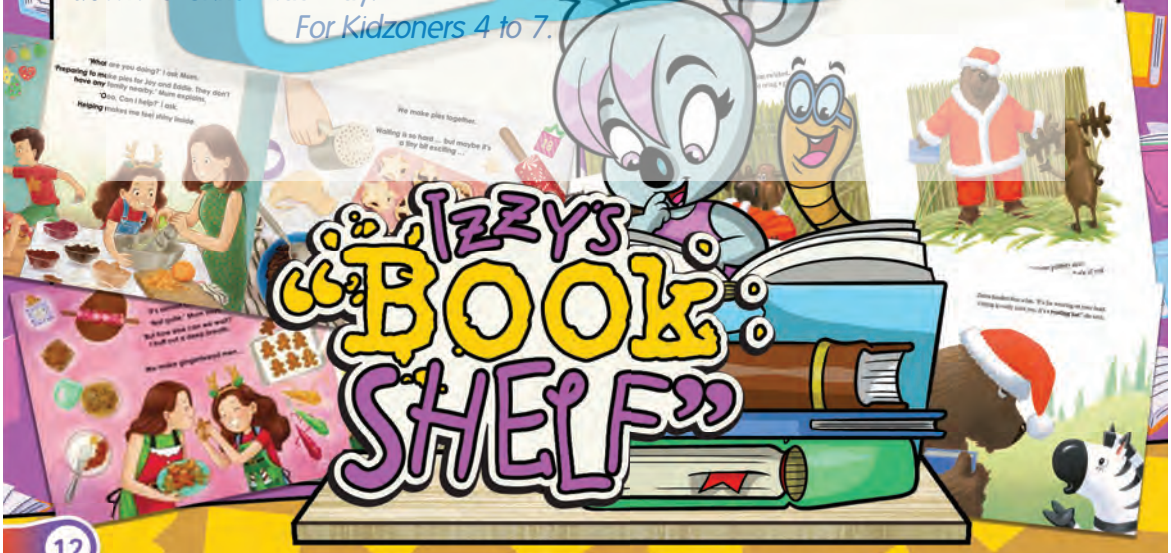
A Very Cranky Christmas

written & illustrated by Nick Bland

📖 **What it's about:** In the Jingle Jangle Jungle, there were bells in all the trees. They jingled, and they jangled as they dangled in the breeze ... But all the Very Cranky Bear wants is a quiet place to read! Can Bear's friends help him have a very merry Christmas?

❤️ **What we like:** Roar, roar, roar! It's Christmas time in the Jingle Jangle Jungle! A brand-new, joyous story in the beloved *The Very Cranky Bear* series, perfect for the Christmas season by internationally best-selling, award-winning author and illustrator, Nick Bland.

For Kidzoners 3+



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*Entries will be judged on artistic merit.



Colouring Competition

Kidzone has three advent packs including Disney book Advent calendar and a paint-your-own Nativity kit to give away!



SEND YOUR ENTRY (BY FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026) TO:
Kidzone's Colouring Competition, 95–99 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC., 3130
OR HEAD TO kidzonemag.com.au/competition **TO UPLOAD YOUR ENTRY.**

Full Name ..... Age .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Parent's signature .....

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SAMUEL'S MEGA BIBLE PUZZLE!

The lead-up to Christmas Day is awesome! So many fun things happen, like carol singing, decorating trees and wrapping presents. Our family's Advent calendar is something I look forward to each year, too. 'Advent' is a word that means 'coming' – the coming of the birth of Jesus – and Advent calendars are a super-fun way to help us prepare for Jesus' birthday. Advent calendars start on 1 December, with something to open every day right up to 25 December. Some Advent calendars have little windows or doors you open, some have pockets, some have envelopes – there are all kinds of Advent calendars, with each day containing a chocolate, treat, Bible verse or other way to remind us of the meaning of Christmas. What a cool way to get ready for the greatest birthday of all!

Use the first letter of each picture to decode the rest of the Bible verse below!



example:
= C for carrot

"Today in Bethlehem ...



... (Luke chapter two, verse 11*).

JESUS LOVES YOU! & wants to be your friend!

If you would like to know more about prayer and how to read the Bible fill in the coupon below and send it to us. We'll send you some cool info!

Name: ..... Age: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Parent's Permission: .....

95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or email: kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au



ANSWERS CK: page 2.
Grid it: a:e6, b:d1, c:e3, d:c4, e:f2, f:c3. Word square: Christmas.
Pages: 1-6, 2-12, 3-11, 4-3, 5-4, 6-7.

Spot the diff:



Sam's Mega Puzzle: ... someone special was born. He is the one who will save you ... he is the Lord.

Competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



KINGSLEY R
(9 - QLD)

SCARLETT C
(7 - NSW)

LEILA A
(8 - NSW)

EVA W
(VIC.)

MARA B
(VIC.)

YOU HAVE WON

... a *Game of Pets* book and stickers.



NEXT WEEK IN kidzone

Nativity Diorama!

Fold here ▼

COLLECTOR CARDS

Collect a new card every week!

1. Carefully cut along the dotted line to remove your card from the magazine.
2. Fold in half.
3. Now stick together and you're done!



Answers on page 14

word square

H	T	S
R	i	S
A	M	C

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the square?

Each letter may be used only once per word and each word must contain the middle letter. There is one nine-letter word.

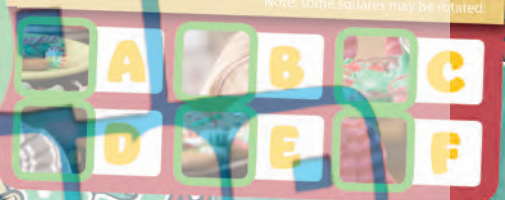
Clue: Advent.

grid it

Can you work out the coordinates of the small squares which are taken from the big picture?



Note: some squares may be rotated.



Pages

Can you find where each of these pictures came from in this week's *Kidzone*?



spot the diff

Can you find the eight differences between these two pics?



Kid Zone
The Salvation Army in Australia.

International Headquarters: 101 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4EH. General Lyndon Buckingham.

Australia Territory: 95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn 3130. Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander.

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