

# ADVENT

## Family Devotional

*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

— 1 Peter 1:8-13

## WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a season of joyful expectation. Jesus has come and is coming again, so we rejoice and we wait. “Advent” comes from the Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” During this time, we who follow Christ celebrate His humble birth while longing for and looking to His glorious promised return. So, we remember and rejoice for our Savior has come. And we watch and wait for our King is coming. May this Advent season be full of great anticipation and celebration for you and your family.

## HOW TO PREPARE

Plan to use this guide for a family devotion three times each week between November 26 and December 24. Also, join in the traditional practice of lighting a candle for each week of Advent.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Choose three times each week that your family can sit down together for 10 minutes to read, talk, and pray. Each week contains three family devotionals that relate to that particular week of Advent. The third devotion each week coincides with the 5 candles often used during the traditional practice of an advent wreath. There is more information and links to resources on our website, [www.lifepointchurch.org/advent](http://www.lifepointchurch.org/advent). Traditionally, the candles are lit on Sundays, but you and your family may choose to use this guide without a wreath and candles or to light them on a day other than Sunday. There is also a song each week from The Worship Society that goes along with the content for the week.

The final devotion is for Christmas Eve, when the final candle is lit signifying Christ, the Gospel, the good news that our Lamb has come! May God richly bless your family during this season.

# WEEK 1 :: HOPE

## November 26–December 2

Song for the Week  
[War Cry](#)



### Rescue is Coming (Day 1)

#### Get Started

##### Activity (Younger Kids)

Watch the video and listen to (and dance with your kids) the song [War Cry](#) by clicking here.

##### Questions (Older Kids & Students)

Has there ever been a time in your life when you needed to be rescued? How did you feel? Where did you look for help? Describe how you felt after you were no longer in danger.

**Parents:** In the absence of a fitting example, [here are 10 historical rescue stories.](#)

#### Open the Bible

Read Genesis 3:15

#### Talk About It

From before the time that sin entered the world, God had a plan to rescue His children. It brings great hope to those who follow Christ to remember His promise to save.

#### Pray Together

Thank God that He has promised to rescue His children, and that He has not left us without Hope.



### Expectation is Building (Day 2)

#### Get Started

##### Activity (Younger & Older Kids)

Plan a fun activity for your family after your devotion time. (Something such as going to get ice cream or watching a special show or movie and eating popcorn or a special treat that your youngest kids will love) Tell your kids the plan. After reading the verses in Isaiah 9, ask your kids: How are you feeling? Are you excited about what we're going to do? Is it hard to pay attention? Then remind them that this is how God's people felt as they waited for the arrival of Jesus.

##### Questions (Older Kids & Students)

When is the last time you were really excited about something that was going to happen in the future? What did you do to try to make time go by faster? Were you able to focus? Why is it so hard to wait when you are excited?

#### Open the Bible

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

#### Talk About It

God was reminding His children of this promise to send Jesus, who would be the Hope of all the world. Not only was Jesus promised to come, but He was promised to come as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. He was promised to come as God who could save God's people from their sin.

#### Pray Together

Thank God for a sense of expectation around the Christmas season. Ask God to help that sense of expectation be for the celebration of Jesus more than anything else.



## **Hope** (Day 3)

### **Get Started**

Ask one member of your family to light the first candle of the advent wreath.

### **Open the Bible**

Read Romans 15:12-13

### **Pray Together**

Thank the God of hope that He did what He said He would do. God sent Jesus, through a specific family, in a specific way, at a specific time, so that hope may abound.



# WEEK 2 :: PREPARATION

**December 3–December 9**

Song for the Week  
*I Heard the Bells*



## **Faith in His Word** (Day 1)

### **Get Started**

#### **Activity (Younger Kids)**

Watch the video and listen to (and dance with your kids) the song I Heard the Bells.

#### **Questions (Older Kids & Students)**

Has anyone you know ever shared with you news that was hard to believe? Did you ask them questions to learn more or did you take them at their word?

### **Open the Bible**

Read Luke 1:26-33, 38

### **Talk About It**

What the angel said to Mary was difficult to believe and her first response was to be afraid. But after reassurance that the Lord intended this for good, Mary settled in her heart, agreed with God, and said, “Let it be to me according to your word.”

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that His Word is true and can be trusted always, even when it promises things that seem impossible. Ask God to help you trust His Word.

## **Fulfillment of His Prophecy** (Day 2)

### **Get Started**

#### **Activity (Younger & Older Kids)**

Play a game of ... Promise your kids that if they complete the game, they get a prize. Play the game quickly and keep your word and give them a prize. Keep in mind that the game should be something they can win or complete. A simple prize like a piece of candy or something they need that you've already purchased (like a tooth brush) will do.

#### **Questions (Older Kids & Students)**

Has anyone you know ever broken a promise that they made with you? What does it feel like to have that happen to you?

### **Open the Bible**

Read Luke 2:1-7

### **Talk About It**

In God's higher and perfect ways, He had Joseph and Mary making their way to Bethlehem. Once there, Jesus was born, just as had been prophesied (or said would happen) in Micah 5:2. God was fulfilling His promises.

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that He always keeps His word and fulfills His promises. Ask God to help you to believe everything He has said He will do.



## **Preparation** (Day 3)

### **Get Started**

Ask one member of your family to light the second candle of the advent wreath.

### **Open the Bible**

Read Luke 3:4-6

### **Pray Together**

Thank God for those He used to prepare the way for Jesus. Ask God to help you prepare room in your heart for Him to work this Advent season.



# WEEK 3 :: JOY

**December 10–December 16**

Song for the Week  
*Joy to the World*



## Go into the World (Day 1)

### Get Started

#### Activity (Younger Kids)

Watch the video and listen to (and dance with your kids) the song Joy to the World.

#### Questions (Older Kids & Students)

What is your favorite thing to do? What would you do if someone came to you while you were doing your favorite thing and told you to stop what you are doing and go to a place you've never been to see someone you don't even know? Would it be hard for you to drop everything? What if that message came from some stranger you've never seen?

### Open the Bible

Read Luke 2:8-16

### Talk About It

The shepherds were caught off guard as they watched their sheep in the dark of night and an angel appeared to them to share this good news. You can only imagine how surprised they were, yet immediately after hearing about the news of Christ's birth and where they would find him, they left their most valuable possession and began the journey to the manger.

### Pray Together

Thank God for showing us what it means to obey immediately. Ask God to help you go wherever He says to go, whenever He says to go there.

## Tell of the Good News (Day 2)

### Get Started

#### Activity (Younger Kids)

Play a game of telephone. Whisper into the ear of the person on your right, so that only they can hear you. Say, "Jesus is good news." Then have that person whisper to the next person, until everyone has heard the message. Then ask the last person to say it out loud. Feel free to come up with other funny things for your kids to say too, they'll enjoy saying silly things to you or their siblings.

#### Questions (Older Kids & Students)

What is something that you have to do everyday? What is something that you want to be able to do everyday? Which one do you get more excited about? What are some reasons we don't like to do things that other people ask us to do?

### Open the Bible

Read Romans 10:13-17

### Talk About It

Paul reminds readers of the expectation that God has for his people to telling the world about the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, died to take the punishment that we deserve, and rose again to prove that He is truly God. Who will you tell this good news of great joy to this Advent Season?

### Pray Together

Thank God for sending Jesus to save and giving us the chance to be a part of His mission in the world. Ask God to give you boldness to tell the world of the good news of Jesus Christ.



## **Joy** (Day 3)

### **Get Started**

Ask one member of your family to light the third candle of the advent wreath.

### **Open the Bible**

Read Luke 1:46-49

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that he has given us hope in Jesus, a reason to sing and celebrate. Ask God to help you always be hopeful, even when life is difficult or God wants you to do something difficult.



# WEEK 4 :: LOVE

**December 17–December 23**

Song for the Week  
[Hark the Herald](#)



## **Promise Keeper** (Day 1)

### **Get Started**

#### **Activity (Younger Kids)**

Watch the video and listen to (and dance with your kids) the song Hark the Herald Angels Sing by clicking [here](#).

#### **Questions (Older Kids & Students)**

What is a promise? Why are promises so important to keep? Who are you willing to make promises to? What are some reasons you are willing to make promises to them?

### **Open the Bible**

Read 2 Peter 3:8-10

### **Talk About It**

The Lord always keeps His promises. Not once has God failed to do what He says He will do. Though at times we find ourselves wishing that He would do something different, or wanting Him to fulfill His promise sooner, He will always come through. Just as He promised to send a Savior and did, everything else He promises will happen, therefore we can trust Him.

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that He has never broken a promise and never will. Ask God to remind us that this is true, even when we want something different than what He wants or want something sooner than He does it.

## **Peace Maker** (Day 2)

### **Get Started**

#### **Activity (Younger Kids)**

Get two towels and a chair. Lay out the two towels on the floor end to end and put the chair at the far end. Have the kids line up at the end opposite the chair. Tell them to go sit on the chair (one at a time) without stepping off the towels. Then line them back up and separate the towels (so far they can't jump across), and ask them to do the same thing. They won't be able to. Explain, after reading Ephesians 2:11-22, that God made a way to get us to God, by sending Jesus to die in our place. Carry them across the gap to the chair to demonstrate that it is only Jesus that gets us to God.

#### **Questions (Older Kids & Students)**

What is something that you and a friend or a sibling argue about? How do you feel about that person when you are in an argument with them? How do you feel when that argument has been resolved/fixed? What are some reasons we feel upset, angry, mad when there is a divide between us and another person?

### **Open the Bible**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

### **Talk About It**

Because of sin, there is a divide between man and God. But God, in His grace, sent Jesus in order to fulfill the law and bring peace with God to His children. This peace with God that Jesus brings leads to peace among His people. As you consider peace this Advent season, be reminded of the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

### **Pray Together**

Thank God for bring peace with Him through Jesus. Ask God to help you demonstrate that peace in your relationships with others.



## **Love** (Day 3)

### **Get Started**

Ask one member of your family to light the fourth candle of the advent wreath.

### **Open the Bible**

Read John 1:1-18

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that, in love, He sent Jesus to live among and die for us. Ask God to help you celebrate His love shown in Jesus this Advent season.



# CHRISTMAS EVE :: CHRIST

**December 24**

Song for the Day  
*Joy to the World*



## **Christ**

### **Get Started**

Ask one member of your family to light the fifth and final candle of the advent wreath.

### **Open the Bible**

Read John 1:29

### **Pray Together**

Thank God that He sent Jesus as a baby to live perfectly and die in our place. Ask God to help you to celebrate Christ together this Christmas.



