

LET EVERY HOUSE PREPARE HIM ROOM

A 4-WEEK ADVENT GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

I have come as light into the world, so that
everyone who believes in me would not
remain in darkness.

JOHN 12:46

Jesus came to bring light to our world. He is our Immanuel, God with us! We celebrate this season because Jesus changes everything. Only through Him can we find hope, forgiveness, and joy! Advent is a significant season in the liturgical calendar, marking a time of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The term “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” It signifies both the remembrance of Christ’s first coming in Bethlehem and the anticipation of His second coming.

This Advent resource can help direct our hearts toward our Savior this season. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, with four candles representing each week. Each Sunday, a new candle is lit. A fifth candle, known as the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas Eve. As each candle is lit, may our homes shine brightly with God’s light. December is busy and often filled with stress and hurried schedules, so let us slow down and focus on God’s work of sending His Son. Let us prepare our hearts to receive the most wonderful gift the world will ever know: Jesus, our Salvation.“

“

Once in our world, a stable had something in
it that was bigger than our whole world.

C.S. LEWIS

WEEK 1

The Prophecy Candle: Hope

This week, we're excited to focus on the hope we have in Jesus! To help your family dive deeper, we've prepared five devotionals you can use. You will do the Advent candle lighting and devotional on Sunday and then use the rest of the week to go through the remaining 4 devotionals. You'll also find some fun activities and creative ideas designed to make this truth come alive and help your family understand what it means to place their hope in Him. We're praying these resources are a blessing to your family as you follow Jesus together!

Activity Ideas

- Write a note of encouragement to someone.
- Serve in your community.
- Go caroling in your neighborhood.
- Gather as a family to read stories or scriptures that highlight themes of hope, such as the Nativity story or passages from Isaiah that prophesy Christ's coming.
- Hope Jar: Each family member writes something they are hopeful for or a way God has shown His faithfulness in the past. Place them in the jar. Throughout the week, open it to pray over those hopes and celebrate answered prayers.
- Memorize a verse on Hope. For example, choose a key verse about hope (like Romans 15:13 or Psalm 71:5). Create simple hand motions to go with the verse. Practice all week and celebrate when kids can say it by heart!

Week 1 | Sunday

Today, we will light the first candle of Advent, the Prophecy Candle.

The Prophecy Candle represents the hope we have in Jesus. Hope is believing that something good will happen in the future. Even when we are walking through hard seasons, God's hope can give us

joy and light. The first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but also to celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. The first candle reminds us of the foretelling of the birth of Christ in the Old Testament and all of the promises God gave us that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

Light the candle and read Romans 5:5. Then close this devotional in prayer. “Thank you, God, for bringing hope through Jesus. Thank you that through our relationship with You, we can have hope in the present and future—hope for forgiveness, relationship, and eternal life! Amen!” Blow out the candle.

Week 1 | Devotional 1 | The Promise of The Messiah

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 33:14-15

In the Old Testament, God used prophets to tell His people that a Messiah would come to bring hope and light to the world. A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak His message. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave many prophets the words to share with His people. They foretold that a Savior would come—One who would be born to rescue God’s people from their sins. These promises gave people hope as they waited. Now, we know that Jesus has come! He is the fulfillment of those prophecies and the true source of our hope. Jesus is the King who rules over everything. He forgives our sins, loves us deeply, pursues us faithfully, cares for us daily, and gives us eternal life with Him.

Questions to Ask: What is a prophet, and why were they important in the Old Testament? How do you think people felt when they heard prophets talk about a coming Savior? How is Jesus the fulfillment of those promises? In what ways is Jesus our hope today? Which part of Jesus’ character (His love, forgiveness, care, pursuit, eternal life) encourages you the most right now? How can knowing that God always keeps His promises change the way we live?

Close this devotional in prayer: Have someone pray and thank God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Thank Him for the hope we have in Him.

Week 1 | Devotional 2 | The Prophet Isaiah

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah was one of the major prophets in the Old Testament. God called him to speak powerful messages to the people of Israel, urging them to turn away from sin and return to Him. Through his prophecies, Isaiah warned of God's judgment but also gave hope by pointing to God's plan of salvation. One of Isaiah's most remarkable prophecies was about the coming of the Messiah. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah foretold that a child would be given to God's people, and that He would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us". This prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to live among us, to save us from our sins, and to bring us back into relationship with God.

Questions to Ask: What does it mean to you that Jesus is "God with us"? How does it make you feel to know that God keeps His promises? What are some ways we can remember that Jesus is with us every day?

Close this devotional in prayer: Spend time thanking God for being our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.

Week 1 | Devotional 3 | Hope

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:31; Romans 15:13; Lamentations 3:21-23; 1 Peter 1:3

Throughout Scripture, God continually points us to the hope we have in Him. If we have trusted in Jesus, we have Hope. This hope is not just a feeling—it is a confident assurance that fills our hearts with joy and peace. Because Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead, we have an eternal hope that will never fade. Our hope is not based on our circumstances, what we own, or how life is going at the moment. Instead, it is unshakable because it is rooted in the unchanging love of God. This hope reminds us that no matter what we face, God is faithful, His promises are true, and our future with Him is secure.

Questions to Ask: How does it make you feel to know that Jesus gives us hope that will never go away? Can you think of a time when you had to hope or wait for something? What are some ways we can remind ourselves of the hope we have in Jesus? Who is someone you could share God's hope with this week?

Close this devotional in prayer: Thank God for the hope we have in Him. That His Word is true and He always keeps His promises.

Week 1 | Devotional 4 | Sharing Hope with Others

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 5:14–16

God gives us hope through Jesus, but He doesn't want us to keep that hope to ourselves. The hope we have is meant to be shared with others so they can know His love too! When we tell others about Jesus, when we encourage people who are hurting, or when we serve others with kindness, we are spreading the hope of Christ. Jesus said that we are like a light shining in the darkness (Matthew 5:14–16). Just like a candle can light up a dark room, our lives can point people to the hope of Jesus. We may not always have the right words, but God can use even the smallest acts of kindness and love to show others His unshakable hope.

Questions to Ask: Why do you think God wants us to share our hope with others? Who do you know that might need to hear about the hope of Jesus? What is one simple way you can share God's love and hope this week? How does remembering that our hope is in Jesus change the way we treat other people?

Close this devotional in prayer: Pray for God to give your family boldness in sharing that hope with others. Ask Him to show you who needs encouragement this week and to give you the words and actions to point them to Him.

WEEK 2

The Bethlehem Candle: Peace and Preparation

This week, we're excited to focus on the peace we have in Jesus! To help your family dive deeper, we've prepared five devotionals you can use. You will do the Advent candle lighting and devotional on Sunday and then use the rest of the week to go through the remaining 4 devotionals. You'll also find some fun activities and creative ideas designed to make this truth come alive and help your family understand what it means to have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. We're praying these resources are a blessing to your family as you follow Jesus together!

Activity Ideas

- Take a walk to reflect on His goodness.
- Create a Christmas playlist of worship music.
- Spend longer periods of time sitting in God's Word.
- Make a list of who God is or pray together as a family.

Week 2 | Sunday

Today, we light the second candle of Advent, the Bethlehem Candle. The Bethlehem Candle represents preparation and the peace that God gives us through Jesus. It reflects on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and how they prepared for the arrival of their son, the Son of God. Everything happened just as God had planned, and the promised Messiah was born in a stable in Bethlehem. He brought peace that nothing in this world could offer. He came to save us and mend our broken relationship (broken because of sin) with God. The world can be hard and dark, but this candle reminds us that we can have peace in God, and one day He will make all things right.

Light the candle and read Isaiah 9:6. Then close this devotional in prayer. "Lord, may You prepare our hearts as we celebrate this Christmas season. May we be reminded that true peace comes only through You. The world offers temporary joy and peace, but Your peace cannot be taken away. We praise You for this, and may we trust You as we walk with You. Amen!" Blow out the candle.

Week 2 | Devotional 1 | Zachariah and Elizabeth

Scripture Reading: Luke 1

Zachariah and Elizabeth were a faithful couple who loved and served God. Elizabeth was actually Mary's cousin! One day, while Zachariah was serving in the temple, something amazing happened. The angel Gabriel appeared right in front of him! Gabriel told Zachariah that his wife would have a baby boy, and they were to name him John. This child would grow up to prepare the way for the promised Savior, Jesus. Zachariah could hardly believe what he was hearing. After all, he and Elizabeth were far too old to have a baby—at least that's what he thought. Because he doubted the angel's message, Gabriel told him that he wouldn't be able to speak until the baby was born. Just as the angel said, Elizabeth became pregnant. Later, when she went to visit her cousin Mary, something wonderful happened—the baby inside Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy! What an incredible moment for Elizabeth, knowing she was carrying the one who would prepare the world for Jesus!

Questions to Ask: What does this story teach us about trusting God, even when something seems impossible? Why do you think Zachariah struggled to believe God's promise? How can we trust God when things don't make sense to us? John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. How can we help others learn about Jesus today?

Close this devotional in prayer: Pray and thank God for always keeping His promises. Just like He gave Zachariah and Elizabeth a son named John to prepare the way for Jesus, He has a plan and purpose for each of us too. Pray and ask God to help us to trust Him even when things seem impossible. And thank Him for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for filling our hearts with joy and hope.

Week 2 | Devotional 2 | Mary and Joseph

Scripture Reading: Luke 1

Mary and Joseph were a young couple who loved God and planned to get married soon. One day, something incredible happened—an angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary! Gabriel told her that she had been chosen for a very special purpose: she would become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Mary was surprised and a little afraid, but she trusted God completely. She said, "I am the Lord's

servant,” and she felt honored and blessed to carry God’s Son. When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he wasn’t sure what to do. But one night, while he was sleeping, an angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife because the baby was from God’s Holy Spirit. The angel said the baby should be named Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. Joseph obeyed God, married Mary, and together they waited for the day Jesus—the Savior of the world—would be born.

Questions to Ask: What can we learn from Joseph’s obedience to God’s message? What does this story show us about God’s plan for our lives? How can we say “yes” to God like Mary did?

Close this devotional in prayer: Pray and ask God to help us to trust Him, even when things are surprising or hard to understand. Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for showing us how much He loves us. Ask God to help us to listen, obey, and say “yes” to what He calls us to do.

Week 2 | Devotional 3 | The Birth of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:15; Luke 2:1-7

Everything happened just as God had promised long ago. On a night in Bethlehem, Jesus was born! Because there was no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn, baby Jesus was born in a simple stable. Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger—a feeding trough for animals. This tiny baby wasn’t just any baby—He was God’s Son, the Savior of the world! Jesus’ birth changed everything. God had sent His Son to earth to live a perfect life, to die on the cross for our sins, and to rise again, defeating sin and death forever. God’s plan to rescue us wasn’t something new—it had been in motion since the very beginning of creation. From the first moment of the world, God knew we would need a Savior, and He had already prepared the way. His plan of rescue came through one person—Jesus!

Questions to Ask: How does Jesus’ birth show God’s love for us? Why do you think God chose for Jesus to be born in such a humble place? What are some ways we can celebrate Jesus, not just at Christmas, but all year long?

Close this devotional in prayer: Thank God for keeping His promises and sending Jesus into the world. Ask Him to help us remember that Christmas is all about Jesus and the hope He brings.

Week 2 | Devotional 4 | The Shepherds

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

That same night, out in the quiet fields near Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were watching over their sheep. It was an ordinary night—until suddenly, the sky lit up with a bright light! An angel of the Lord appeared, and the shepherds were terrified. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you—He is Christ the Lord!” The angel told them they would find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. Then, in an instant, the night sky filled with countless angels singing and praising God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased!” The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus—just as the angel had said. Their hearts were filled with joy and wonder. They couldn’t keep the good news to themselves, so they went out and told everyone what they had seen. The shepherds praised God for all He had done, and the good news of Jesus began to spread! What a wonderful sight to think about!

Questions to Ask: How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the angels and then found Jesus? What are some ways we can “spread the good news” about Jesus today? How does this story remind us that Jesus came for everyone, no matter who they are?

Close this devotional in prayer: Pray and thank God for sending Jesus. Pray and ask Jesus to give you boldness and sharing Christ with those who don’t know Him in your life.

WEEK 3

The Shepherds Candle: Joy

This week, we're excited to focus on the Joy we have in Jesus! To help your family dive deeper, we've prepared five devotionals you can use. You will do the Advent candle lighting and devotional on Sunday and then use the rest of the week to go through the remaining 4 devotionals. You'll also find some fun activities and creative ideas designed to make this truth come alive and help your family understand what it means to have true joy in Jesus. We're praying these resources are a blessing to your family as you follow Jesus together!

Activity Ideas

- This week, focus on the joy that Christ brings. Here are some great ideas on how to do that:
- Go ice skating with friends.
- Worship together.
- Look at Christmas lights and talk about all the blessings God has given you.
- Host a family game night.
- Share your favorite Christmas memory.

Week 3 | Sunday

Today, we light the third candle of Advent, the Shepherds Candle. This candle represents joy! The shepherds experienced great joy with the birth of Jesus. They were the first to hear the great news that a Savior had been born. Joy is more than just a feeling. We can have joy, even in hard times, because God is always with us. He promises to never leave us, and through Jesus, we have salvation! We can have joy no matter what because He is our joy! One day, we will be with God forever, and there will be no pain and peace that never ends! Light the candle and read Philippians 4:4. Then close this devotional in prayer. "Thank you, God, that we can have joy no matter what we are facing. We love You and worship You because You are God." Blow out the candle.

Week 3 | Devotional 1 | Joy in Every Circumstance

Scripture Reading: Phil 4:4; James 1:2-4

Joy isn't something we have only when everything is going our way. True joy stays with us no matter what is happening around us. It's choosing to trust God in every circumstance and leaning on Him through both the good and the hard moments. We can have joy because God never changes. He promises to be with us through it all. Even in our trials and tough seasons, God is at work—shaping our hearts, building our faith, and making us more like Jesus.

This kind of joy doesn't mean we ignore pain or pretend everything is fine. It means we look at life through a different lens—knowing that God uses challenges to strengthen our faith and remind us that we are never alone. The Bible says that through these moments, God makes us “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” So even when life feels heavy, we can hold on to joy—because we know that every moment, God is working for our good and for His glory.

Questions to Ask: What's something hard you're going through right now? How can you still find joy in God? What are some things that make you joyful because of who God is? Can you think of a time God used something hard in your life for good?

Week 3 | Devotional 2 | Joy in God's Presence

Scripture Reading: Psalm 16:11

Ultimate joy isn't found in things—it's found in God's presence. We might feel happy for a little while because of something new or exciting, but that kind of happiness doesn't last. True and lasting joy comes only from being close to God. Nothing in this world can fill our hearts the way God can. When we draw near Him, we experience the abundant life He has promised—one filled with peace, purpose, and joy that never fades. So how do we stay close to God? By living a life that's rooted in Him. We spend time in His presence through worship, prayer, reading His Word, being part of a community of believers, and practicing habits that help our faith grow stronger. The closer we walk with God, the more we discover that He alone is our greatest joy.

Questions to Ask: What does it mean that real joy is found in God's presence? Which of these helps

you feel close to God—worship, prayer, or reading His Word? Why? How can you stay rooted in God when life gets busy or hard?

Close this devotional in prayer: Pray and thank God for being our source of Joy. Thank Him for giving us the gift of His presence. That we can have a relationship with Him. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit living inside of us!

Week 3 | Devotional 3 | Joy for All People

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6, John 3:16

He came to bring hope to the hopeless, peace to the weary, and joy that never ends. Jesus offers the greatest gift we could ever receive—salvation and a relationship with our Heavenly Father. Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we can have eternal life with God. The Bible reminds us that “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) What an incredible gift. The joy of Christmas is meant to be shared—with our family, our friends, and everyone around us. Jesus is the reason we celebrate, and He is the source of joy that lasts forever.

Questions to Ask: How can your family spread joy to those around you this Christmas season?

Close this devotional in prayer: Thank God for the gift of Jesus and that He invites us all to be a part of His family.

Week 3 | Devotional 4 | Joy in Sharing the Good News

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:17-18, Matthew 22:36-39

The shepherds couldn't keep quiet—they had to tell everyone about Jesus! After seeing the Savior lying in the manger, their hearts were overflowing with joy. They ran to share the good news with everyone they met, praising God for all they had heard and seen. The message of Jesus' birth was simply too wonderful to keep to themselves! When we experience the joy of knowing Jesus, we should want to share it too. Telling others about Jesus brings joy not only to them, but to us as well. It reminds us how amazing God's love truly is and how deeply He cares for every person. Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love others. One of the best ways we can love others is by helping them know the hope and peace that come from Jesus. We are called to be His witnesses—to shine His light and speak of His love to those who don't yet know Him. Just like the shepherds, we can share the joy of Jesus with our words, our kindness, and our actions. When we do, the joy of Christmas keeps spreading—heart to heart, home to home, and generation to generation.

Questions to Ask: How are you loving God and loving others? What are some ways your family can share His love and joy with others? Who can you share the love of Jesus with this week?

Close this devotional in prayer: Talk about who you know in your life who needs to hear about God's love for them. Spend time praying for them. Then pray for those who don't know Him that are in your neighborhood, schools, workplaces. Pray that God would give you boldness and opportunity to share His love with them!

WEEK 4

The Angel Candle: Love

It's Christmas week! May we take time to slow down and sit with the gravity of what this means for us. That Jesus would come to earth in human form, be born in a manger, live a perfect life, die for our sins, and be raised to life. Oh, what a great love He has for us!

Activity Ideas

This week, focus on sharing Christ's love with others. Here are some ideas on how to do that:

- Invite neighbors over for dinner.
- Make Christmas cards for friends or family.
- Donate items to a food pantry.
- Serve in your community.
- Bake cookies for a neighbor.

Week 4 | Sunday

Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Angel Candle. This candle represents love. God is love, and it reflects on the message of God's love announced by angels at Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-15). It serves as a reminder of the boundless and endless love that God has for us. In fact, while we were still sinners, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us (Romans 5:8). God's love will never run out or be extinguished. May this candle shine brightly in your home and encourage us to share God's love with others.

Light the candle and read Ephesians 2:4-5. Then close this devotional in prayer. "God, thank You for sending Jesus to this earth to take on the punishment for my sin, to live the perfect life, die on the cross, and rise from the dead, defeating sin and death. Thank You for Your endless love. Help us be agents of His love to those around us. Amen!" Blow out the candle.

Week 4 | Devotional 1 | Let Your Light Shine

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

When we know God's love, it changes the way we live. His love shines through us like a light in the darkness. Every act of kindness, forgiveness, and care points others to Jesus—the true Light of the world. The Bible tells us we are to be lights to the world and shine for others. We are to be set apart, pointing others to His grace and mercy.

Questions to Ask: Who is someone in your life who shines brightly for Jesus? How can you be a light to those around you?

Close this devotional in prayer: Thank God for using us to be lights for Him. Pray that we would seek Him and love others the way He does. Ask for boldness, strength, wisdom, and compassion.

Week 4 | Devotional 2 | God Loves Us

Scripture Reading: John 3:16

Love gives. God showed the greatest act of love by giving us His Son, Jesus. Real love isn't just about saying words—it's about giving, serving, and putting others first. When we love others like Jesus, we reflect the heart of God. May we be reflections of God's love. This season is a perfect time to love others. May it go beyond the Christmas season and may it be a part of our daily life.

Questions to Ask: What is one way you can “give love” to someone in your family, school, or church?

Close this devotional in prayer: Thank God for Salvation. Pray that those around you will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Christ Candle

Activity Ideas

It's Christmas Eve, and tomorrow we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Here are some great ideas on how to celebrate tonight:

- Bake a birthday cake for Jesus.
- If you have young kids in your home, sing "Happy Birthday" to our Savior.
- Spend time telling God what you are grateful for and praising Him for sending Jesus to save us.
- Attend a Christmas Eve service.

It's Christmas Eve! Today, we light the last candle, the Christ Candle. This candle represents the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, died a painful death, and rose in victory. Tomorrow, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. A long time ago, Jesus was born, wrapped in cloth, and placed in a manger. God used prophets, angels, events, and people to point to His Son. And He has come! He is Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. So come, let us adore Him!

Light the candle and read the Christmas story in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (Matthew 1 & 2; Luke 2). Then pray and blow out the candle. Worship Him for the gift of salvation and thank Him for bringing light into this world.

Thank you for participating in this Advent season. All these candles remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love we have in Christ. He came to give us life and life abundant. This season is all about Him. Continue to let the light of Christ burn from your homes all year long. Merry Christmas!

