

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.