

# Advent Devotional

A four week guide for walking  
through Advent and anticipating  
the celebration of Christ's birth.





# What is Advent?



Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Our short guide will walk you through four weeks focused on Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and ultimately Christ, helping you center your heart on the true meaning of Christmas.



Visit ***[emmauschurch.com/advent](https://emmauschurch.com/advent)*** for more information.

# Week 1 Hope — *Light a purple candle for hope.*



## EXPLAIN

On this first Sunday of Advent, we pause to remember the hope Jesus brings to a world darkened by sin. God created a perfect world for us to know and enjoy Him in forever, but because of sin, man is left separated from God and deserving of judgment. On our own, we cannot solve this sin problem.

Apart from Christ, we are without God and without hope. Jesus came to bring us hope like light shining in a dark room. Through His perfect life and sacrificial death, He offers salvation to all who believe, giving hope of reconciliation to God now and eternal life with Him forever.

## READ

Isaiah 9:2    Ephesians 2:12-13

## DISCUSS

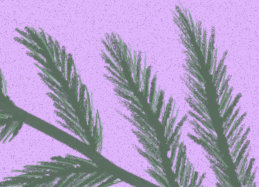
What is hope? What are some things that you hope for? How does Jesus give you hope? How can you give hope to others?

## SING

Worship Jesus by singing “Prince of Heaven” in response to what we have learned about hope!

## PRAY

God, thank you for not leaving us in the darkness of our sin but for sending your light into the world instead. Help us to shine your light in the dark places of the world. Help us to keep our hope in you as we wait for you to come again. We love you. Amen.





# Week 2 Peace—

*Relight the candle for hope.  
Now, light a purple candle  
for peace.*



On this second Sunday of Advent, we pause to remember the peace with God that is given to us freely by Jesus. We live in a world filled with fighting and hostility that makes us think peace is just not having conflict, like darkness is the absence of light.

## EXPLAIN

But in the Bible, God's peace is so much more! It is the fullness of a relationship in complete love and joy without even a hint of sadness. This peace with God is what Jesus gives us through his grace and forgiveness. By coming to save us, he mends what has been broken by sin to restore perfect peace with God.

## READ

Isaiah 9:6-7    Ephesians 2:13-14

## DISCUSS

What is peace? What are some things that steal our peace? Why can it be hard to "keep peace" with others? What are some ways we can be peacemakers?

## SING

Worship Jesus by singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in response to what we have learned about peace!

## PRAY

God, thank you for sending Jesus to make everything right between us. Help us to rest in your peace and to be peacemakers in this world broken by sin and strife. We love you. Amen.





# Joy

Week 3

*Relight the candles for hope  
and peace. Now, light the pink  
candle for joy.*



## EXPLAIN

On this third Sunday of Advent, we pause to remember the joy that Jesus has given to the world by coming to bring us salvation. Joy is bigger than just feeling happy - it's knowing deep in our hearts that no matter what happens, Jesus loves us, cares for us, and will be with us forever.

God never promises that life will be easy - sometimes, He leads us down hard roads with difficulty and pain. But because of Jesus, we can know that He is with us every step of the way. This is what leads to lasting joy, allowing us to rejoice in every circumstance no matter what comes. Jesus came to solve our problem with sin and give us joy in Him forever.

## READ

Isaiah 9:3-4    John 15:11

## DISCUSS

What is joy? What are some things that bring you joy? What are some ways that we can bring joy to others?

## SING

Worship Jesus by singing "Joy to the world" in response to what we have learned about joy!

## PRAY

God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring us salvation and restore our joy. We rejoice because He came to live with us and solve our problem of sin. May the good news of great joy of Jesus' coming always be on our lips. We love you. Amen.





# Week 4 Love —

*Relight the candles for hope,  
peace, and joy. Now, light a  
purple candle for love.*



## EXPLAIN

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we pause to remember the love that God has given to us through His Son Jesus. Love is caring about someone deeply - putting them first, sacrificing for them, and giving them your best. No one has ever loved anyone better than God loves us!

The Bible tells us that God is love - it's His very nature, and He loves us to the core. God showed His love for us by sending His Only Son Jesus from Heaven to live a perfect life for us and die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus sacrificed himself so that we could enjoy His love forever. Jesus came to show us and give us His love!

## READ

John 3:16-17    Ephesians 2:4-5

## DISCUSS

What is love? Do you love anyone enough to die for them? What are some ways that you can show others that you love them? How has God shown us that He loves us?

## SING

Worship Jesus by singing "O Holy Night" in response to what we have learned about God's love!

## PRAY

God, thank you for your perfect, steadfast, unfailing love. Help us always remember the great love that you have shown us through Jesus. Help us to love you with our whole hearts and to love others in our life just like you love us. We love you. Amen.





# Christ

*Relight the candles for hope,  
peace, joy and love. Now, light  
the white candle for Christ.*



## EXPLAIN

On this Christmas Eve, we pause to remember the reason that we celebrate Christmas at all - it's all about Jesus! Jesus is the Light of the Word, the Prince of Peace, the Joy of our Salvation, and the perfect demonstration of God's Love. He left Heaven to enter our broken world so that He could fix the problem of sin and restore us to life with Him forever.

It was His love that made Him come for us, and because He came, we can have hope of joy now and forever. Jesus deserves our deepest adoration, honor, and worship!

## READ

Luke 2:1-20 (reread verses 13-14 aloud)

## DISCUSS

Why did Jesus come down from Heaven? How can we show Jesus how much we adore Him? What are some ways we can remember and celebrate the reason for Christmas all year long?

## SING

Worship Jesus by singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" as you celebrate His coming together.

## PRAY

God, thank you for sending Jesus for us. He is the perfect gift that solves our greatest problem and we are so grateful for your great love for us, Lord. May we carry your hope, peace, joy, and love with us every day as we wait for Jesus to come again. We love you. Amen.





