



Advent

UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF PEACE. HOPE. JOY AND LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS



Happy Advent, Wellspring!

This Christmas, we invite you and your family to anticipate and receive the true gifts of Jesus—His peace, hope, joy, and love. Advent means “an arrival,” and for four weeks leading up to Christmas, it is a season of reflecting and celebrating Christ's birth and return.

Each Sunday, light the Advent candles and watch the video provided as you make space to welcome God into your home. Each day includes a card with a Scripture reading, a short devotional, and simple questions for you and your family to discuss together.

The Advent Candles

Participants—whether churches, families, or individuals—set aside time each Sunday in Advent to reflect on that week's theme and light a candle. One new candle is lit each week, so that by the fourth Sunday all four candles are glowing, symbolizing the peace, hope, joy, and love we anticipate in the coming Messiah. Gather 4 candles. On the first week, light one candle. On the second, light two. And so on until all four weeks have passed.

Traditionally purple and pink, the first 2 purple candles represent the royalty of King Jesus, the pink candle represents rejoicing on Gaudete Sunday, and the final purple candle represents God's love made manifest in His son Jesus.



Peace

WEEK 1

As you begin the first week of Advent take a moment to watch the video below, light the first purple candle, and pray together with your families as you invite God into your home.



Scan here to
watch the video

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLE

*"God of peace, as we light the first Advent candle of peace, may your peace fill our hearts and our world. Help us to be peacemakers in our relationships and communities.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

Day 1

READ ISAIAH 11:1-10

Jesus is the King Isaiah describes. But this kingdom would be different than anything they, or we, have ever known. This King would ask people to follow Him, not demand obedience from them. He would draw people to Himself through love, not fear. Following THIS King would lead to more peace than anyone knew was possible.

Connection Question:

How has following Jesus given you peace? How can you claim back your peace this season?



Day 2

READ PSALM 95:1-7

There's something beautiful about coming together and worshipping Jesus. Psalm 95 is an invitation to corporately worship God. In a world where our attention spans are limited and our time is pulled in dozens of directions, Psalms reminds us to focus our attention and adoration on the One who deserves it most: Christ. Let's not let the season of Advent pass us by without taking time to adore Jesus.

Connection Question:

How can you practically make time to worship God this Advent?



Day 3

READ ISAIAH 61:1-9, LUKE 4:18-21

The sound of a Salvation Army bell ringing, a child's written wish hung on a Christmas tree, hot meals served to strangers on a cold day. The holidays bring many opportunities to serve others. When Jesus returned to heaven, His mission "to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives" became ours to continue! We bless others because Jesus blesses us. As we do, His goodness becomes known among the nations.

Connection Question:

What is one way you can be generous to those in need?



Day 4

READ MATT 5:14, EPH 5:8, THES 5:5-8

Each year we gather to celebrate Christmas and then quickly resume our normal lives. But the birth of Jesus was just the beginning. He lived a sinless life, spread the light of the Gospel and exposed the darkness. He gave His life so that we could have eternal life with God. So this Christmas, we pause to honor His birth. But when Christmas passes we get to walk as Jesus walked, with our eyes set on eternity.

Connection Question:

In the coming new year, how is God inviting you to follow Him more fully?



Day 5

READ ISAIAH 60:19, REVELATION 22:5

There are still prophecies about Jesus that are yet to be fulfilled! One day, Jesus will come again to fully restore and redeem the earth. This is the "second Advent," and it's what we eagerly await every day. God will destroy Satan forever and darkness will be no more. Just as God fulfills His promises regarding His son, He will fulfill His promise to remain faithful to you.

Connection Question:

How can the hope of the second Advent bring you peace today?



Day 6

READ JOHN 15:9-11

Christmas Day is about so much more than the miraculous birth of Christ. It's a celebration that God has been and will always be faithful to every single one of His promises. The sun rose this morning just like it did the day Jesus was born, and the sun will set in the same way. In this steady rhythm of God's grace, we have hope and live as a people who are eternally secure in Christ's work.

Connection Question:

Jesus is with us! Take time to praise your Savior, the dawn of redeeming grace!



Day 7

READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

Advent reminds us that God has a grand plan for History and while we have a part to play, we are not the center of the story. It's GOD'S story. And He is the best story writer to ever exist. This season, don't allow the busyness and noise surrounding to cause you to miss the bigger thing God is doing. Advent can build our confidence in the promises of God. And when we fully know what He did during the first advent, we can live in confident hope until his second advent.

Connection Question:

Having confidence in who God is, matters. What are you learning about the character of God that fills you with confidence?



Hope

WEEK 2

As you begin the second week of Advent take a moment to watch the video below, light two purple candles, and pray together with your families as you invite God into your homes.



Scan here to
watch the video

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLE

"Loving God, as we light the second Advent candle of hope, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of Christ's coming bring light to our darkness and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Day 8

READ LUKE 2:1-7, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-7

The long road to Bethlehem would have been difficult for Mary who was due any day. But this road trip was a part of Joseph & Mary's faith journey. It's the place where they learned to walk by faith and not by sight. All of us will face moments when the road seems too long and the cost too high. Faith is believing God's sight is better than ours. It's trusting that all things - even a long, arduous journey - are for His glory and our good.

Connection Question:

What are you hoping for in the coming year? How is God asking you to have faith?

Day 9

READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

Israel, God's original and chosen people, were in grim circumstances. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to tell Israel a Messiah is coming who will redeem everything. A Savior. Jesus. Isaiah uses four titles to describe Jesus' role and character: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. As they wait God asks them (and us) to trust in who He says He is.

Connection Question:

Of the four names Isaiah uses to describe Jesus, which one gives you the most hope today? Why?



Day 10

READ LUKE 1:57-80

God had a special purpose for John's life. John was filled with the Holy Spirit so he could preach repentance and help prepare people's hearts to hear from Jesus. John's role wasn't always the most glamorous (Matthew 3:4 says he wore animal skins & ate bugs). But without John's preparation, the world wouldn't have been ready for the message Jesus came to share. The same way John prepared people to hear Jesus' message, Advent prepares our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Connection Question:

How can you make room to become more aware of His peaceful presence with you?



Day 11

READ LUKE 1:26-38

Big news was the angel Gabriel's business. He had been tasked by God to deliver important messages and this message was perhaps the biggest news yet. Mary would give birth to a baby boy, the long-promised Messiah. The moment that generations had waited for was finally here: The Lord was coming to save His people. Gabriel knew that she'd have questions, but even through her questions Mary resolved to trust.

Connection Question:

Every family faces events that redirect plans. How can you have Mary's response, to hope & trust that God will be with you?



Day 12

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

Like Joseph, we will face decisions that challenge our faith. We'll find ourselves in situations where obeying God will make us look crazy. What's easy is not always right. And what's right is not always easy. When we ask God to show us the way, He does. Sometimes he affirms what we're already thinking. But other times, as He did with Joseph, God leads us to a faith-filled option we never knew was possible.

Connection Question:

What decisions are you facing this week that will require greater faith? Take some time to pray and ask God what He would have you do.



Day 13

READ LUKE 1:39-45

Through Elizabeth, God reassured Mary that her radical faith was in the right place. If your circumstances are less than merry this Christmas, remember Mary's story. Remember that God is always at work, and His plan for you is good. No matter how bleak your circumstances, God has not deserted you. He is bigger than our understanding, and He loves us more than we can fathom (Isaiah 55:9). That truth alone gives us a reason to celebrate.

Connection Question:

What is one practical way you can remind yourself of God's love and hope for your future?



Day 14

READ JOHN 1:1-5,14

When John writes about "The Word," he is getting ready to tell the amazing story of Jesus. Jesus, the all-powerful God, became flesh and came to dwell with us. The word "dwelt" means to pitch a tent. In the Old Testament, God's presence stayed in a physical tent called the "tent of meeting" but now He was going to dwell with His people as an actual human. Before returning back to Heaven, He promises us in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always." God still dwells with us even today.

Connection Question:

How does Jesus coming to earth show his love for his people?



Joy

WEEK 3

As you begin the third week of Advent take a moment to watch the video below, light three candles, two purple one pink, and pray together with your families as you invite God into your homes.



Scan here to
watch the video

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLE

*"Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."*

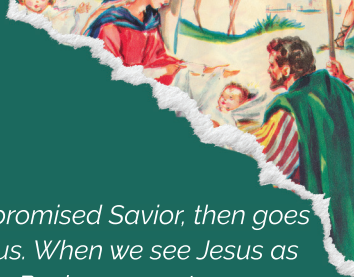
Day 15

READ LUKE 2:25-38

Simeon praised God for allowing him to see the promised Savior, then goes on to tell who this child is and how He will affect us. When we see Jesus as our savior, our perspective on Christmas changes. Buying presents becomes a reminder of God's blessing instead of a burden. The hustle and bustle around Christmas make it easy to forget why we're celebrating. But when Jesus is at the center of our lives, everything becomes an act of worship.

Connection Question:

What's one area you can change your perspective from burden, to worship and gratitude?



Day 16

READ ISAIAH 52:7-10, ROMANS 10:8-15

In Isaiah's day, messengers carried news from town to town. You can imagine the anticipation and excitement building as the messenger gets closer. What will he say? When we share the good news of the Gospel, we are like that messenger. We aren't asking people to give more or do more. We get to be the ones delivering the news, "Salvation is here!". What better time than now, during the celebration of His birth, to share the hope Jesus brings.

Connection Question:

What about the good news of Jesus brings you joy? How can you share that joy?



Day 17

READ PSALM 19:1-6

Do you ever notice how the light of the sun brings you joy? Just as God's mercies are new every morning, every day the sun rises around the world like clockwork. Day after day the light of the sun and skies proclaim God's glory and faithfulness. And just as the sun rises, bringing us joy, may we celebrate Christmas as a reminder that the Light of the world has come to us to rescue us from the darkness of sin.

Connection Question:

While darkness may fill this world, we are not of this world. How can you confidently walk in God's light today?



Day 18

READ JOB 1:20-22, 38:1-13

In one dreadful day, Job loses everything and wrestles with the question “why?”. This is what suffering often does; it covers the light that gives vibrance and meaning to our lives. And yet even in the darkness of our trials, God is faithful and the sun does rise again on the life of the believer. Both the dark and the dawn are under His mighty hand. God redeems all things for His glory. And the sun still rises because God is still doing the work of redemption.

Connection Question:

How does Job's redemption in Job 42:10-17 give you renewed joy?



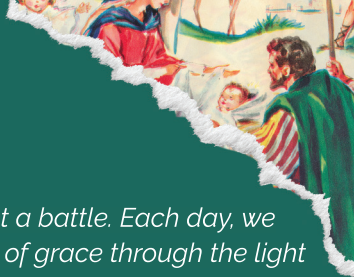
Day 19

READ COLOSSIANS 1:11-14

There isn't a moment in history when God has lost a battle. Each day, we have a physical reminder of God's steady rhythm of grace through the light of the day and the darkness of night. Both point us to God's sure presence and faithful deliverance. He never leaves us alone to fight our battles in our own strength. Jesus is the Light that dawns after the dark and He is our hope and everlasting peace!

Connection Question:

Remember God's faithfulness. How has He fought your battles before?



Day 20

READ TITUS 2:11-14

This passage describes the first Advent of Jesus Christ. The word for "appeared" is epiphaino, meaning a "shining forth." It can also be written, "The grace of God has dawned upon the world." Jesus' birth was the dawning of the grace of God, the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our Savior! Praise the Lord for His arrival after years of anticipation and waiting. He is faithful!

Connection Question:

What have you been waiting and praying for? How has God shown up in the midst of your waiting?



Love

WEEK 4

As you begin the fourth week of Advent take a moment to watch the video below, light all four candles, and pray together with your families as you invite God into your homes.



Scan here to
watch the video

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLE

"Heavenly Father, as we light the fourth Advent candle of love, may your love inspire us to love one another as you have loved us. Let your love guide our actions and words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Day 21

READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

The extravagant gifts from the wise men would have helped Joseph & Mary to provide food & other necessities for their family. However, the gift that God delighted in most was not the gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but their gift of genuine, humble worship. Seeing these dignitaries fall on their knees to worship Jesus must have been a remarkable sight for Mary and Joseph. They were in awe and immediately began worshipping the King of Kings, the King of the Jews!

Connection Question:

How can you genuinely worship Jesus this Christmas instead of focusing on gifts?



Day 22

READ ISAIAH 7:10-14, MATTHEW 1:23

Jesus is "Immanuel" or "God with us." Reminders of Jesus' birth are everywhere this time of year - in Christmas carols, church nativities, TV specials, and family traditions. But did you wake up today with confidence that God was with you? You can never be separated from His love. You can live with joy and peace, and without fear, worry, and dissatisfaction. This is the power of Immanuel.

Connection Question:

How will you approach this Christmas differently, knowing God is with you?



Day 23

READ LUKE 2:8-15

Why a dramatic visit from angelic messengers? Because the people of Israel in those days had not heard a prophetic voice for hundreds of years. But the time had come! Jesus, the promised rescuer, had arrived. The fact that the angel delivered this news to a group of shepherds shows the kind of King Jesus would be. His kingdom wasn't reserved for the wealthy or religious elite. His kingdom is open to anyone humble enough to submit themselves to Him.

Connection Question:

Like the Shepherds, who can you share the Good News with this Christmas?



Day 24

READ LUKE 2:16-21

From the many prophecies to Israel, to the promise made to Mary & Joseph and even to the shepherds in the field, God kept every promise, and the glorious night was finally here. Christ was born! But it happened on an ordinary night, in less than desirable circumstances. A poor family, a dirty manger. Yet everyone was in awe. The circumstances faded away as they realized that God Himself had come to them right where they were.

Connection Question:

What do you think Mary and the shepherds were thinking in their hearts as Christ was finally born, right in their midst?



Day 25

READ MATTHEW 2:13-15

Joseph's obedience to God saved Jesus' life from King Herod. God had every detail worked out to bring His son into the world so that He could live among us and restore our relationship with God. And He had asked Joseph & Mary to trust those details even when they seemed impossible or scary. Joseph had learned to trust God and from his trust - came His obedience.

Connection Question:

What is God asking you to obey Him in? Why can you trust Him?

