



## Family Advent Guide

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. This year Advent begins on December 2, 2018. By tradition five candles are used during Advent. There is one candle for each Sunday; four purple candles the color of royalty, and one candle at the center called the Christ candle for Christmas, white the color of purity and light. Advent candles are often placed in an evergreen wreath. The circle of the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of God and the evergreen represents the everlasting life found in Christ. Each week in Advent carries its own theme to consider.

Each Sunday during Advent gather as a family and read the short teaching, light the candle(s), read the week's scripture, and pray. Complete the other activities throughout the week as you are able.



# Advent – A Christmas Experience

Sunday, December 9th

The Second Candle: meditate on **faith**

Teaching: ANNUNCIATION

Hundreds of years went by. God's people waited faithfully, and sometimes not so faithfully, for the special man who would come to save them from their enemies and bring them into the place where they could enjoy peace and an abundant life. Miracle of miracles the time finally came for God's promise to be fulfilled. It was very, very Good News! News worth shouting about!

But that special man didn't start life all grown up. Just like you and me, he started as a baby. God chose to use Mary, a young innocent girl to bring God's greatest gift, Jesus, into the world. All she had to do was to say yes. She was willing to be used by God. Saying yes to God is not always easy. It takes a FAITH that comes from knowing and trusting God.

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 37-38 "For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1: 22-23 "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" which means, God with us.

## ACTIVITIES

### Activity For Kids: Make Beaded Candy Canes

Candy canes are more than just a delicious, minty treat. Candy canes are a symbol of Jesus, who he is and what he did. The white reminds us that Jesus was sinless and his love for us is pure. The red of the candy cane represents his blood. We find life and hope in the blood of Jesus given up for us. When you look at the candy cane one direction it is in the shape of a "J", for Jesus. If you turn the candy cane around it looks like a shepherd's crook. We can trust that Jesus is a good shepherd, and he will keep us safe and lead us into an abundant life filled with love, joy, and peace.

What you need:

- Red and white beads from the craft store
- Green pipe cleaners

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use wire cutters or old scissors to cut the pipe cleaners in half.
2. Slide one bead to the end of a pipe cleaner, turning the end around the bead to keep it in place. Alternate red and white beads until the pipe cleaner is full.
3. Turn the end around the last bead. Bend into a candy cane shape

Hang your candy canes on your Christmas tree or tie them on the presents underneath the tree as a reminder that the real gift of Christmas was Jesus, himself.

### Activity For The Family: Share Christmas "J"oy with Strangers

Buy some candy canes and take them with you when you go shopping. You can simply hand out the candy canes and wish people a Merry Christmas. You may choose to print out a message and tie it to the candy cane. [Candy Cane Legend](#)

#### **Example:**

This little cane of red and white

Proclaims the sweet love story

Born on Christmas night.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

#### **Example:**

Look at the candy cane, what do you see?

Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me.

White for our Savior who's sinless and pure.

J is for Jesus, our Lord, that's for sure!

Turn it around and a staff you will see.

Jesus, my shepherd, born for you and for me!

## PRAYER AND DEVOTION

### Prayer and Devotion: For Kids

Week Two: Pray for your Loved Ones, Family and Friends

Take your prayer hand and write the words "Loved Ones" on the ring finger.

Sometimes we forget that the people we love the most need our prayers too. We all struggle. We all need forgiveness. We all need support. Think about the people you love. Where do they need God's help?

Touch your ring finger and pray for the people you love. Do this every day.

### Prayer and Devotion: For Parents

You don't have to be special to be used by God in a special way. All you need is a little faith, a willingness to say yes, so you can step out boldly wherever God may lead you.

1. Take a deep breath. Quiet your heart. Check your body. Do you feel open and ready to receive?

2. Pray and ask God to be present with you. Invite the Holy Spirit to come to teach and guide you into truth.

3. Read a short section of scripture. Read the passage again slowly.

what phrase or word(s) caught your attention?

\*circle or underline that word or phrase.

reread the passage do you notice anything?

\*what are you feeling? \*what thoughts are forming?

4. Meditate on what God is showing you: How is God inviting you to become like Christ?

5. Pray: respond to God's invitation - honestly, openly. Will you accept, reject, or postpone your response... how can he help you?

6. Contemplate: Sit with God, feel his presence, let the Holy Spirit guide and direct you into truth in the presence of God's light.

You may choose to begin with the following prayer.

"I know God that you are here present. Take any stray thoughts from my mind. Help me to understand the truths that you wish to teach me in our time together. Help me, merciful God, to do what you ask and go where you lead me, and not merely hear and thereby deceive myself. Speak, dear Lord, to my soul

## DAILY PRAYER

Monday December 10: **Hebrews 1: 1** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

Tuesday December 11: **Chronicles 7: 14** “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Wednesday December 12: **Ephesians 2: 6-7** “for it is by grace you have been saved and that is not of yourself, it is a gift of God. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Thursday December 13: **Proverbs 3: 3-4** “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.”

Friday December 14: **Acts 1: 7-8** “He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth’.”

Saturday December 15: Revisit the scripture that was the most meaningful to you. Commit it to memory.