
ADV
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HOPE

A Promise Given

WEEK 1:
HOPE - A Promise Given

READ - Genesis 3:1-15

As we begin this Advent guide, we must first learn what the word “advent” means. Simply put, advent means “coming” or “arrival”. When we use the word advent, we are referring to Jesus’ first coming as a baby in Bethlehem. This is the Christmas story we are all familiar with. But contrary to what most people think, the story of Christmas does not begin in a manger but in a garden, where God created humanity to live in fellowship with Him.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world, bringing brokenness and separation from the Creator. Yet even in the midst of their sin and the consequences that come with it, God gave them a promise. In Genesis 3:15, He declared that one day a descendant of Eve would crush the serpent’s head. This is the first glimpse of God’s plan to defeat Satan, sin, and death through Jesus.

Although humanity had turned away from God, He had not abandoned His creation. From the very beginning, God had a promised plan to save His people. We celebrate Christmas because God kept that promise by sending Jesus to be the Savior we desperately needed in a lost and weary world.

ASK -

- Have you ever tied the Christmas story to Adam and Eve in the garden?

- What are some other stories in the Old Testament that point to Jesus as the promised Savior?

PRAYER - A.C.T.S.

- Adoration: Praise God for His faithfulness and for having a plan to save His people from sin from the very beginning.

- Confession: Confess the times that you, like Adam and Eve, have rebelled against God or doubted His promises.

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for the promise He gave in the beginning and the hope we get to have in the Savior who defeated sin and Satan.

- Supplication: Ask God to help you hold on to His promises and worship Him alone. Ask Him for the courage to share the hope of Jesus with those around you.

SONG - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee.

CRAFT IDEA - A covenant was often symbolized by a sign as a reminder of the promise that was made. Today we see this with wedding rings to symbolize the marriage covenant promise. Make a Christmas wreath that symbolizes the covenant promise God made to Adam and Eve.

FAITH

A Promise Kept

WEEK 2:
FAITH - A Promise Kept

READ - Luke 1:26–38; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–7

For generations, God's people waited for the Savior He had promised. When the time came, Mary and Joseph both faced uncertainty when angels appeared to them. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with an incredible message: that she would give birth to a son named Jesus, and He was the promised Son who would establish an everlasting Kingdom of righteousness and peace! Joseph responded in faith and obeyed God, taking Mary as his wife, knowing the adversity they would face and how this birth would "look" to a watching world. How scared they both must have been with the uncertainty they would face...and yet, they still chose to obey God.

Later, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because of a census. While they were there, Jesus was born and laid in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. The long awaited Savior had finally come! God had faithfully kept His promise. The birth of Jesus reminds us that we can trust God and keep our faith in Him, even when we cannot see how His plans will unfold.

ASK -

- Do you struggle with trusting God and remaining obedient in the face of adversity and obstacles?

- How could you look to your church family for encouragement during difficult times?

PRAYER - A.C.T.S.

- Adoration: Praise God for faithfully keeping His promises and for His wisdom in carrying out His plan of salvation.

- Confession: Confess the times you've struggled to trust God or doubted His word.

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for providing a Savior who perfectly trusted God and died for our faithlessness so that we could be saved.

- Supplication: Ask God to strengthen your faith and give you the will to obey Him even when you do not understand His plans.

SONG - O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

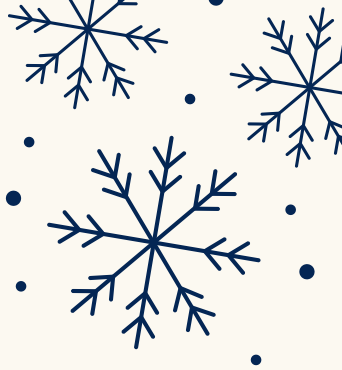
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Yea Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing

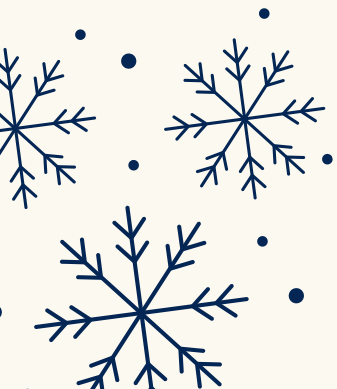
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

CRAFT IDEA - Make some ornaments to hang on your Christmas tree that remind you of who and what we celebrate this season.



JOY

A Promise Told



WEEK 3:
JOY - A Promise Told

READ - Luke 2:8–20; Matthew 2:1–12

When God sent His Son into the world, the good news of Jesus' birth was meant to be shared. The announcement first came to shepherds, reminding us that the good news is for all people, even the ordinary. Later, wise men traveled from far away to worship Jesus, showing that the Savior had come, not for one nation alone, but for people from every nation.

Both the shepherds and the wise men responded with joy because they had encountered the promised King and Savior. Their stories remind us that Jesus is worthy of our worship and that the good news of His coming is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. God had not forgotten His promise to rescue His people. Jesus came to fulfill that promise by defeating sin through His life, death, and resurrection.

The joy of Christmas is about more than a baby being born. Because of Jesus, we have the hope of forgiveness and eternal life with God. Like the shepherds, we should share this good news with others, and like the wise men, we respond to Jesus with worship and gratitude.

ASK -

- What are some things you can do in your daily life to show gratitude for the birth of Jesus Christ?

- Name one person in your life right now that you know needs Jesus. Write their name down and commit to praying for them every day in the coming year!

PRAYER - A.C.T.S.

- Adoration: Praise God for sending Jesus, our Savior and King, to the world to bring lasting joy. Praise Him for revealing His glory through His Son!

- Confession: Confess the times we look for joy in temporary circumstances or things rather than in God, who is the only one that provides everlasting joy.

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for the good news of Jesus' birth and for the salvation we can receive through Him.

- Supplication: Ask God to fill our hearts with His joy. Pray for God to give you the courage, by His Spirit, to proclaim the hope, joy, and peace that people can find in Christ Jesus.

SONG - Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

CRAFT IDEA - Jesus was born! Make a nativity scene out of paper, clay, a drawing, or some other ways you can think of to symbolize the shepherds and wise men that came to worship Jesus.

PEACE

A Promise For All People

WEEK 4:

PEACE - A Promise For All People

READ - Luke 23:44–49; Luke 24:1–12

Jesus came into the world to fulfill God's promise of salvation, but His mission would lead Him to the cross. Although Jesus had done nothing wrong, He was arrested, beaten, and crucified. He took the punishment for sin that we could never pay ourselves. His death was not the end of the story, though. On the third day, He rose again, defeating the power of sin and death!

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God. Romans 5:1 tells us that "since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ". The assurance that our sins are forgiven gives us lasting peace.

God's promise of salvation is for people from every nation and background who place their faith in Him. At Christmas, we celebrate the arrival of the Savior, but we also remember why He came. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have peace with God and we look forward to eternal life with Him.

ASK -

- How does this devotion impact you view of Jesus? Knowing exactly what He would have to go through in His life on this earth, He still chose to do it *for You!*

- Have you ever considered how difficult it must have been for Jesus to know what He would eventually have to endure on the cross?

- Why did it have to be Jesus who died for us? Why couldn't it have been someone else?

PRAYER - A.C.T.S.

- Adoration: Praise God for His great love in sending His Son to live among us and save humanity from our broken and sinful nature.

- Confession: Confess the times you have failed to love others as God has loved you or the times you have neglected an opportunity to share God's love with others.

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gift of Jesus and for the salvation and peace we can find in Him alone.

- Supplication: Ask God to help you reflect the love of Jesus in your home, church, and community, showing kindness and grace to everyone you meet.

SONG - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled

Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king
Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of Righteousness

Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king

CRAFT IDEA - As we near the end of this advent season, make your own advent candles by decorating some candles or cutting out paper candles. We will light the fourth and final candle this week at church!

ADVENT

The Promise Returns

WEEK 5:

ADVENT - The Promise Returns

READ - Titus 2:11–14; Revelation 21:1–5

As we close out this guide, let's remember that advent is a season of waiting and expectation. We celebrate Jesus' first coming at Christmas but we also remember that He has promised to come again. Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promise to send a Savior, and His death and resurrection secured the victory over sin and death. But we still live in a world affected by sin, suffering, and brokenness. There is pain, injustice, and loss all around us, and we long for the day when everything will be made right.

The Bible promises that Jesus will return. When He does, He will judge evil and bring His people into the fullness of His kingdom. Revelation 21 describes a new heaven and a new earth, where God will dwell with His people. He will wipe away every tear, and there will be no more death, mourning, or pain. God will make all things new!

As we await His return, we are called to live with hope, faith, joy, and peace. Advent reminds us that Christmas is not the end of the story. We celebrate the Savior who came and we look forward with hope to the King who will come again to redeem His creation and dwell with His people forever. Until then, we wait with hope and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ASK -

- What are some ways we can “wait” expectantly for Jesus’ return?

- Is it possible to experience joy on this earth while also longing for Jesus' return? What are some ways we can demonstrate this to the watching world?

PRAYER - A.C.T.S.

- Adoration: Praise God for His faithfulness and for the promise that Jesus will return to make all things new.

- Confession: Confess the times we become distracted by the things of this world and lose sight of the hope we have in Christ.

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for the promise of Jesus' return and the assurance that sin, suffering, and death will come to an end for those who believe in Him.

- Supplication: Ask God to help us live faithfully as we await Jesus' return, sharing the gospel with others and growing to be more like Him.

SONG - O come, O come Emmanuel

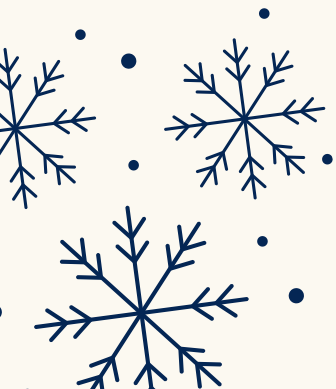
O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Thy spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

CRAFT IDEA - God promises that one day He will make all things new. Draw a picture of what you think the new heaven and new earth will look like and display it somewhere as a reminder of the hope we have in His return.

2026 ADVENT GUIDE



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