Family Advent Guide



Advent • Week 1

HOPE

The first week of Advent is the week of Hope. Hope is looking forward to something, waiting with expectation for something yet to come. The story of Jesus's birth actually began thousands of years before He was born. God promised His people that He would provide a Messiah—a Savior—to save them from their sins. For centuries, the people of Israel waited with great hope for the Messiah, God's special Savior, to come. When Jesus was born, He brought hope to a dark, lost, hopeless world.

READ

Isaiah 7:14 • Micah 5:2-5 • Matthew 1:18-25 • Matthew 2:1-6

DISCUSS

What is something you are hoping for this Christmas?

What is the hardest part about waiting until Christmas?

What did God's people hope for? Why?

How can we, as a family, share hope with others?

ACTIVITY

Decorate Christmas cookies.

LISTEN

O Holy Night

Advent • Week 2

PEACE

The second week of Advent is the week of Peace. The word "peace" is the Hebrew word "shalom", which means "completeness" or "well-being." When Jesus was born, He did not come into a world with shalom/ peace—it has a lot of problems! Some problems even include wars, sickness, and conflict. Jesus didn't come just to end these things. Instead, He first came to make us all "complete," to have shalom/peace, by saving us from our worst problem: sinfulness. By His good life, death, and resurrection from the dead, He defeated sin and death! So, all we have to do is trust in Jesus as the Son of God, who did these things for us, and we will have the true peace/shalom of God. This week, we are reminded that Jesus brings the promise of peace to our lives.

READ

Isaiah 9:6-7 • Luke 2:4-14 • Romans 5:1-9

DISCUSS

What are some areas where we don't always have peace in our lives? (Getting along with others, schedule, finances, etc.)

What are some things that disrupt our peace with God?

How can we have the true peace/shalom of God?

ACTIVITY

Make Christmas cards or ornaments for family and friends.

LISTEN

Silent Night

Advent • Week 3

JOY

The third week of Advent is Joy. Joy is great happiness or delight and a deep sense of well-being that goes beyond our circumstances. Joy comes from the Lord in good times and bad. The angels describe Jesus's birth as "good news of great joy" because He came to be our Savior! The Bible tells us that right after they announced this news to the shepherds, thousands of angels appeared and sang glory to God because Jesus had been born. This week, we are reminded of the joy of salvation in Jesus—the most incredible gift that was given to a lost and broken world.

READ

Psalm 20:5-8 • Psalm 67:1-5 • Isaiah 12:1-6 • Luke 2:8-21

1 Peter 1:8-12

DISCUSS

What are some things that bring us joy at Christmas?

Why did the angels say that the news of Jesus's birth is great joy? (Because He came to be the Savior of all people.)

How can we share His joy with others during this Christmas season?

ACTIVITY

Go look at Christmas lights or go caroling in your neighborhood.

LISTEN

Joy to the World

Advent • Week 4

LOVE

The fourth week of Advent is the week of Love. God loves us so much that He sent His only son to be born like us, live the sinless life we couldn't, and die in our place for our sin. But Jesus did not stay dead. He rose from the grave to prove that He is the Son of God and that His offer for us to have eternal life is true. We can spend eternity with Him! All we have to do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who truly came to save us, and trust Him as our Lord and Savior. God's great love for us is displayed in the gift of love through His Son, Jesus Christ, so that we can share love with others. We are loved and can love one another because God loved us first, and He loves us more than we will ever know.

READ

Exodus 34:6-7 • Lamentations 3:22-24 • John 3:16-17

1 John 4:7-11

DISCUSS

Who are the people you love the most?

What is God's biggest act of love for us?

How much do you think God had to love us in order to give His Son for us?

How can we share and show God's love to others?

ACTIVITY

Give a gift to those in need (i.e., a charitable organization, a neighbor in need, a grieving friend, etc.).

LISTEN

Away in a Manger

Advent • Christmas Day

BORN

Today, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He was born just like us so that God the Son would become just like us, except He lived without sin. Jesus perfectly reveals God to us, and by knowing Jesus, we know God. He is grace, truth, love, and mercy for everyone who has faith in His work for their salvation and who repents of their sin that caused Him to die and rise again for them. These words were written so that we may believe that Jesus is who He said He is, the Son of God, and that by believing we have life in His name. So, this Christmas Day, let's celebrate the best gift God could possibly give us: Jesus's life, death, and resurrection for us. Then, let's do what John the Baptist did: tell each other and everyone about God's best gift for us!

READ

John 1:1-34 • John 20:30-31

DISCUSS

What about Christmas makes you so excited that you want to tell everyone you see? (Favorite gift, house with the most lights, trip you took, etc.)

Why did John the Baptist want to tell everyone about Jesus? (He witnessed for Jesus, Jesus came before him, grace and truth come from him, unworthy to untie Jesus's sandals, Jesus is He who takes away the sin of the world, He's the Son of God)

Who are some people with whom you could share the story of Jesus coming to be our Savior?

ACTIVITY

Pray together as a family for who you can share the story of Jesus coming to be our Savior.

LISTEN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing