



**A Family Guide To Celebrating
the Birth of Jesus**

What is Advent?

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation as we look to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Take time as a family to read through the story of Jesus coming and birth.

We celebrate this time with anticipation, hope, and joy.

An Advent wreath is a great centerpiece to gather around as you read through the weekly devotional.

The four outer candles represent hope, love, joy, and peace.

Gather the supplies from around your house or head to your local craft store and create your wreath on day one of Advent.



Week 1

Promised Hope | Isaiah 9:6

The word “hope” is used in many ways, it can be an expectation or desire, a time of waiting, or a name, but one thing is true, everyone hopes for something. Maybe you hope to get a new bike, the best video game, or a new doll, whatever it is we should remember that those things are all fun and good, but they are not promised. Christmas is a celebration of a promised hope, but what are we hoping for? Why do we need this “hope”?

When God created the world, it was perfect. When he created man and woman they had a perfect relationship with God. But when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world. Sin broke our relationship with God and in his love for us, He made a way to fix it. Jesus, the Messiah, our promised Savior, has been our true hope since the Garden of Eden. In fact, the first mention of a savior is found in Genesis just after Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and he continued to be promised throughout the Old Testament. Isaiah 9:6 says, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* This was written well after creation and 700 years before Jesus was born! Sometimes waiting for something seems to take forever, but the people held onto the promised hope for thousands of years before the Savior came, and he was worth the wait.

Christmas shows us that hope is not receiving something, it is receiving someone. Hope is why the angels sang; it is why the shepherds and wisemen traveled so far. Hope was lying in a manger and hope is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

1. Why is Christmas so special?
2. What are some ways we can celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for our promised hope, Jesus. Help us to celebrate Christmas by remembering your love for us and sharing that love with our friends, family, and those around us. Amen.*

Week 2

Tiny Love | John 3:16

Have you ever noticed how we throw around the word “love”? “I love chocolate milk,” or “I love going to the park,” “I love candy,” “I love_____” (fill in the blank); we all “love” something. A very popular burger restaurant’s whole slogan is about “lovin’ it.” Can you guess which one? I am sure you knew it right away. So, what do we do when we love something? We share it! We want others to experience the same feeling we have when we encounter the things we love.

The love we talk about at Christmas came in the smallest package; it wasn’t wrapped in a box with pretty paper and a bow on top. This love entered the world as a baby, so tiny yet bringing with him the biggest love. Jesus, God’s Son, the Savior, had come to take away the sins of the world, not as a powerful warrior, or a crowned king, but as a baby completely dependent on his earthly parents and his Heavenly Father.

God loved the whole world and sent Jesus. Sharing what you know about God and his immeasurable love for everyone is the best gift you could ever give someone. So, the next time you are “lovin’ it,” remember how much the gift of Jesus and his love means to this world.

1. What are some things you love?
2. How can knowing Jesus loves you change you?
3. Why should we tell others about God’s love?

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the tiniest gift that showed the biggest love. Help us to remember how much your love can change us and those around us. Amen.*

The Promise of Jesus

1

Galatians 4:4-5
Romans 1:1-4

Family Activity:

Assemble your Advent Wreath.

Jesus' Family

2

Matthew 1:1-17

Family Activity:

Make a Christmas playlist.

Jesus' Family

3

Luke 2:23-38

Family Activity:

Start a Christmas collection.

Zachariah's Reaction

7

Luke 1:18-25

Family Activity:

Luke 1:18-25

The Coming of the King

8

Luke 1:26-33
Daniel 7:13-14, 18

Family Activity:

Make a gingerbread house.

Mary's Reaction

9

Luke 1:34-35

Family Activity:

Leave a note inviting your delivery driver and mail carrier to a Christmas Eve Service.

Zechariah's Prophecy

13

Luke 1:67-80 | Isaiah 60:1-3

Family Activity:

Attend our Christmas Movie Night at the Littleton or Castle Rock Campus.

The Birth of Jesus

14

Luke 2:1-7 | Micah 5:2

Family Activity:

Make Christmas cards for your teachers. Include a Christmas Eve Service invite.

Angels' Announcement

15

Luke 2:8-14
Isaiah 9:6-7

Family Activity:

Read your favorite Christmas books.

Wise Men and Jesus

19

Matthew 2:10-12

Family Activity:

Have a gift wrap race!

Fleeing to Israel

20

Matthew 2:12-15

Family Activity:

Make a Christmas themed Breakfast!

Herod's Great Sin

21

Matthew 2:16-18
Jeremiah 31:15

Family Activity:

Family game night!

<p>Jesus' Royalty 4</p> <p>Genesis 49:10 Numbers 24:17 Jeremiah 23:5-6 Galatians 3:16</p> <p>Family Activity: Give an unexpected gift.</p>	<p>Zechariah 5</p> <p>Luke 1:5-10</p> <p>Family Activity: Write a letter to a soldier.</p>	<p>The Angel Gabriel 6</p> <p>Luke 1:11-17 Malachi 3:1</p> <p>Family Activity: Sledding, tubing, ice skating, family walk. Get outside and enjoy God's creation.</p>
<p>Joseph and the Angel 10</p> <p>Matthew 1:18-25 Isaiah 7:14</p> <p>Family Activity: Christmas Karaoke</p>	<p>Mary Praises God 11</p> <p>Luke 1:45-56</p> <p>Family Activity: Get creative and make an ornament out of things you find around the house.</p>	<p>John the Baptist 12</p> <p>Luke 1:57-66</p> <p>Family Activity: Bake a new Christmas dessert.</p>
<p>Shepherds Worship Jesus 16</p> <p>Luke 2:15-21</p> <p>Family Activity: Make a Christmas Scavenger hunt to do at the mall or a park. Take pictures!</p>	<p>Jesus at the Temple 17</p> <p>Luke 2:22-38</p> <p>Family Activity: Build a snowman. No snow? Get creative with things around the yard or in your house.</p>	<p>Wisemen and King Herod 18</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-9</p> <p>Family Activity: Build gingerbread houses.</p>
<p>Jesus in Nazareth 22</p> <p>Luke 2:39-40</p> <p>Family Activity: Build a fort or cozy place to sleep around the Christmas Tree.</p>	<p>God's Great Plan 23</p> <p>Isaiah 53</p> <p>Family Activity: Grab Hot Chocolate and drive around looking at lights.</p>	<p>Jesus, the Lamb of God 24</p> <p>John 1:29-30</p> <p>Family Activity: Make a birthday cake for Jesus.</p>

Week 3

Good News, Great Joy | Luke 2:8-20

“Extra, extra read all about it!” This is the way the news was announced starting way back in the 1890’s, but what did it look like when the news of Jesus was announced? Was there running in the streets, parties, chants of excitement? Not quite. Jesus left the most wonderful, beautiful, glorious place, heaven, to be born in a stable? Make no mistake, God was in control of every detail of Jesus birth, including who his parents were, where he would be born, and how the announcement to those who had been waiting would go.

I am not sure what could be more amazing and terrifying than angels, lighting up the night sky, singing songs of joy to announce the birth of King Jesus, but this is exactly what happened. Luke 2:8-20 describes a scene of such immense celebration by a great multitude of angels as they were signing “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all men”. What an unexpected moment for the shepherds no wonder they were “terrified”, angels appear, and the Glory of the Lord lit up the night sky, that must have been a very bright light! But the angel quickly calmed their fear, specifically telling them “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy to all people”, and what is the shepherds response? Did they wait until morning to go see the baby? Casually walk to town? No! It says they “hurried” off to see Jesus, and after they had seen him they returned to their field and continued to glorify and praise God because it was exactly what was told to them, our Savior, the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem.

This good news that brings great joy is meant to be celebrated. So how will you celebrate this good news? What does the joy that it brought to all people look like? And how will we continue to share that good news so that people can be filled with the joy that Jesus gives? Take the time to read through this familiar passage, it is the best birth announcement ever and it changed the world forever.

1. What does joy mean to you?
2. Would you have been afraid if you were one of the shepherds?
3. How can you continue to celebrate Jesus, even after Christmas?

PRAYER: *Dear God, thank you for the joy we can have through the good news of Jesus. Help us to be the shining light in the dark world as we share your good news with others. Amen.*

Week 4

Peace Filled Presence | Luke 2:14

Can peace and chaos exist at the same moment? Well, from our view of the events of Jesus birth, we might think that it was complete chaos. Mary and Joseph had travelled over 100 miles away from home to Bethlehem and when they arrived, most likely tired, dirty, and hungry, they are told, "Sorry, we have no room for you." Mary is clearly about to have a baby, and she is met with the reality that her baby, the Son of God, was about to be born in a stable. This does not seem to be the peaceful place for a baby to spend his first moments of life, and yet Mary was filled with a peace that only her unwavering trust in what God was doing could give.

The angels were singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill to men," they knew the gift that Jesus was to this world, he was hope, love, joy, and peace. Having peace doesn't mean we have to like whatever we are troubled with, but it does mean that we can have the confidence that God will lead us through it. Peace isn't found in the absence of troubles, but in the presence of Jesus.

When others see the peace we have, it will stir their curiosity to know more about Jesus.

1. What do you think the stable was like?
2. Where can we find peace?
3. Why is Jesus called the "Prince of Peace"?

PRAYER: *Dear God, thank you for being our Prince of Peace. Help us to remember that even in tough times, we don't have to be afraid, you will be with us and give us peace. Amen.*

Upcoming Kids Ministry Events

LITTLETON CAMPUS

DISCOVERING JESUS FOR KIDS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

9:15 - 10:15 AM

3RD AVE. CLASSROOM

KIDS MINISTRY DRIVE THRU

Open House Event to explore serving

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:15 - 9:45 AM

2ND - 5TH GRADE AREA

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

6 - 8 PM | THE GARAGE

CHILD DEDICATION

SATURDAY, MAY 10 | 10 - 11 AM

THE GROVE

SPORTS CAMP REGISTRATION LITTLETON

ONLINE REGISTRATION
OPENS MARCH 3 AT 7 AM

SPORTS CAMP LITTLETON CAMPUS

JUNE 2 - 5

CASTLE ROCK CAMPUS

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

4:30 - 7:00 PM | OFFICE

ALL NEW EVENT! SPORTS CAMP AT THE CASTLE ROCK CAMPUS

WATCH FOR DATES AND
ONLINE REGISTRATION.

NORTH LITTLETON CAMPUS

JESUS BIRTHDAY BASH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:15 AM



SCAN THE
QR CODE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT KIDS
EVENTS.