

WICKED: GOSPEL FOR GOOD ADVENT CALENDAR

The Gospel, and especially the Christmas story, defines "good" in a world obsessed by appearances (and in the church obsessed with being "good people"). Turns out the performative goodness we've absorbed from culture and upbringing is far from the Christ-shaped goodness at the heart of the incarnation and that which God longs for us. Join the Kingstowne Communion on the *Wicked Advent* journey, as we contrast our definition of good with God's, and face evil together, not as a label for "them" (whoever them is), but as something God overcomes in us and our systems through Jesus.

1ST WEEK OF ADVENT (Beginning Sun, Nov.30) *Who Mourns the Wicked?: Advent Hope for the Misnamed*

Advent hope begins with God overturning false stories about who is "good" and who is "wicked." The gospel always brings good news to outsiders and those misnamed by fear.

Scriptures for Reflection
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 1:1-6; Luke 1:26-38; Psalm 34:17-22; Psalm 146

Advent Confession
I (We) have believed or told false stories about others.
I (We) have feared or rushed to judge others. Forgive me (us), Lord.

Advent Lighting Prayer
(Read both parts together if household of one.)
Family Leader: We light the candle of Hope, trusting the one who sees beyond labels.
All: Come, Lord Jesus. Rewrite our stories with your hope.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- When have you felt mislabeled? How did God meet you there?
- Who gets "othered" in our community? What would hopeful presence look like?
- Where do you need to hear Isaiah's vision this Advent?

Advent Practice(s)
Make a pointed effort to listen; seek a conversation with someone you'd usually overlook and ask their story; pray Isaiah 11 daily.



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2ND WEEK OF ADVENT (Sun, Dec. 7) *Popular or Peace: Shalom Beyond Appearances*

True peace is not image management or false harmony; it's the costly work of telling truth and protecting the vulnerable.

Scriptures for Reflection
Isaiah 2:1-5; Micah 4:1-4; Matthew 5:9-12; James 3:13-18

Advent Confession
I (We) have preferred being liked to making peace;
I (We) have kept quiet when truth was needed. Forgive me (us), Lord.

Advent Lighting Prayer
Family Leader: We light the candle of Peace, rejecting false peace that hides harm.
All: Prince of Peace, make us peacemakers.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- Where do you see "false peace" at work in your life or in the world?
- What is one concrete peace-making step you can take this week?
- Which relationships in your life need truth-telling and repair?

Advent Practice(s)
Make peace and apologize where needed in your life; write a letter on behalf of a vulnerable group; convert one hour of social-scrolling into prayer for enemies near or far.

ADVENT BLESSING
Go in hope that rewrites lies, in peace that tells the truth, in joy that resists despair, and in love that changes us for good. Christ is with you.

4TH WEEK OF ADVENT (Sun, Dec. 21) *For Good: Love That Changes Us*

God's love in Christ doesn't just feel - it acts, reconciles, and changes us and our world "for good."

Scriptures for Reflection
1 John 4:7-16; John 1:14-16; Romans 5:8, 12:21; John 13:34-25

Advent Confession
Use 1 John 4 as inspiration for your own prayer of confession.
Forgive me (us), Lord.

Advent Lighting Prayer
Family Leader: We light the candle of Love, for Love has come near.
All: Christ with us, change us for good.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- Where have you seen love change someone (including you)?
- What curtain needs pulling back in your life so Love can do its work?
- What "for good" action will you take this Christmas?

Advent Practice(s)
Make one phone call/visit to mend a relationship; prepare a tangible gift for someone in need.

3RD WEEK OF ADVENT (Sun, Dec. 14) *Defying Gravity: Joy that Rises in Resistance*

Gospel joy is not cheerfulness-on-demand. It's the resilient delight of those who trust God while resisting evil.

Scriptures for Reflection
Luke 1:46-55; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Philippians 4:4-7

Advent Confession (None. Its JOY week, so bask in the JOY.)

Advent Lighting Prayer
Family Leader: We light the candle of Joy, trusting God, who lifts the lowly.
All: Restore to us the joy of our salvation.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- What helps you rejoice "in the Lord" when life is heavy?
- Where do you need courage to choose joy over cynicism?
- How does Mary's song shape your view of power and privilege?

Advent Practice(s)
Journal your joy this week: each day note a moment of grace and an act of generosity you offered or received.