



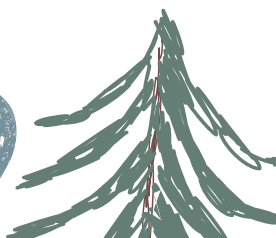
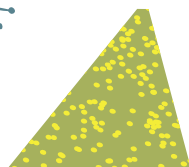
# FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE 2021

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Hope, love, joy, and peace are a few of the good gifts God has given us. During Advent, we celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a baby, making the way for these gifts to be experienced. Our prayer is that your family can use this guide to remember and celebrate Jesus' birth and the hope and joy He offers.

Each weekly devotion is designed to lead your family to open their Bibles, discuss the Bible passage, pray together, and create special memories that strengthen your hope, joy, love, and peace with God and with others. Make your family's Advent time even more meaningful by using the weekly Family Connection Cards. Go deeper in family conversations and search out additional Scripture verses, or utilize the extra verses throughout the week at daily family prayer times.

Use these devotions, activities, and worship songs to help your family worship Jesus this Christmas. He is the gift we proclaim. Let's celebrate!



# Week 1:

# HOPE

## DISCUSS

What comes to your mind when you think about the word *hope*?

When we think about hope, we might say, "I hope to get a new video game for Christmas" or "I hope it snows this year on Christmas Eve." In those cases, we don't know if what we are hoping for will really happen. We have no control over the outcome. But when the Bible talks about hope, there is a certainty, not because of what we hope for, but because of Who we hope in. The Bible teaches us that we can hope in God.

The Old Testament tells us many of God's promises from prophets (special messengers) who often told about God's promises. There is a special word we use for God's plans and promises that are told to us in the Bible. Do you know what that word is? (Allow time for responses.) Prophecy. God used prophecy, like the verses we are about to read, to share His plans and promises to give people hope. God wanted His people to know that He was in control, He had a plan, and He was with them.

## READ

Read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6.

## EXPLAIN

Throughout all of history, God has never left His people hopeless. God promised to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and make a way for us to be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! When we read through the prophecies of the Old Testament and then see how God kept His promises when we read the New Testament, we know we can trust God to keep all of His promises. Jesus promised that He would return one day and we would be with Him forever (John 14:1-3). We live in hope today as we eagerly await Jesus' return to make all things new.

## PRAY

Thank God for sharing His plans and promises in the Bible to give us hope. Praise God for sending Jesus to be with us. Thank Him for the gift of hope through Jesus this Christmas.

## SING OF HOPE

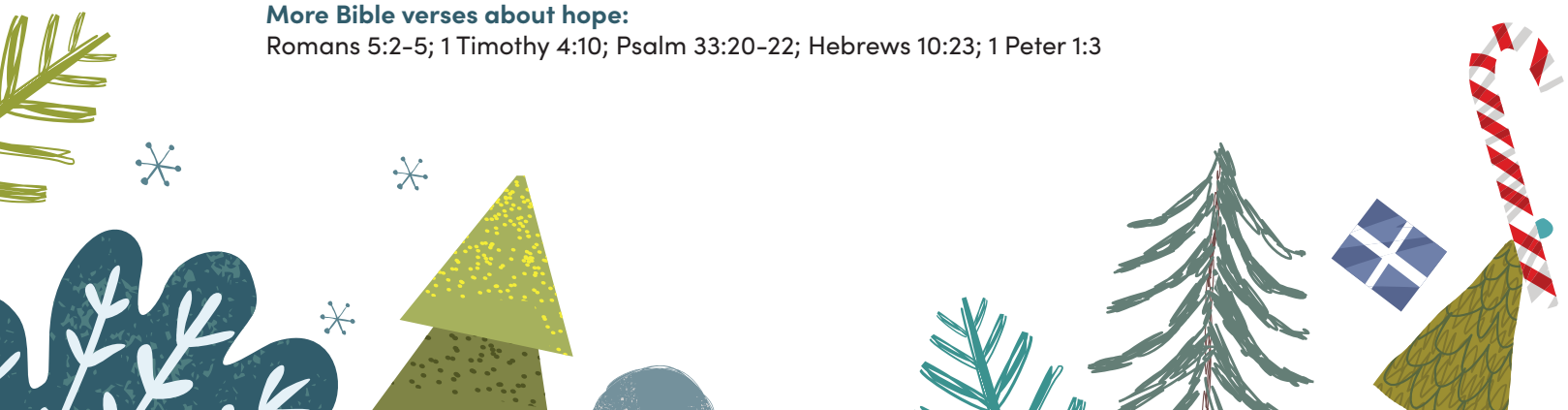
Look up one of the following Christmas carols or choose your favorite song to sing together as a family.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"The First Noel"

## More Bible verses about hope:

Romans 5:2-5; 1 Timothy 4:10; Psalm 33:20-22; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 1:3



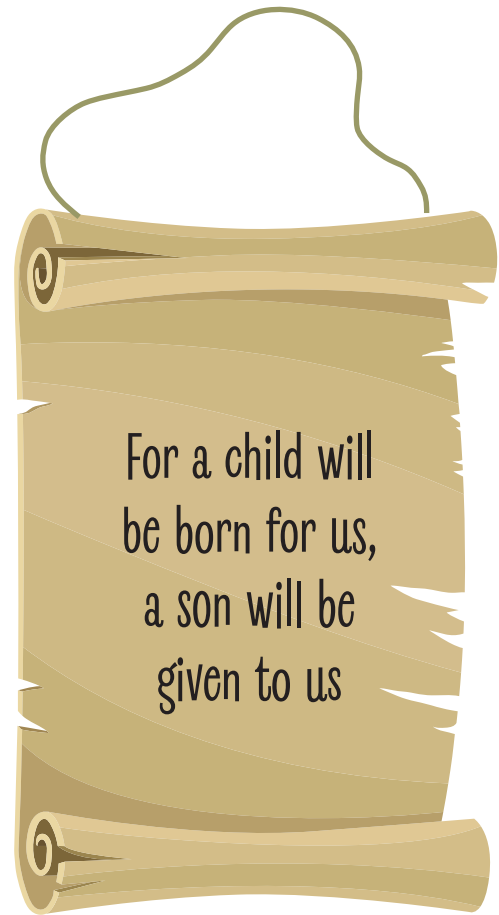
## SCROLL ORNAMENT

### You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Tan crayon
- Glue
- Pen or marker
- Twine
- Dowel rods ( $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch diameter)

### Directions:

- Cut paper into a small rectangle, approximately 3 inches wide and 6 inches long. Crumple the paper. Then, smooth it out and rub one side with a tan crayon to “age” the scroll.
- Read Isaiah 9:6. Write the first part of the verse on the scroll. (*For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us*)
- Cut the dowel rods into 3-inch pieces. Glue each short end of the paper strip around the stick. Tie twine to each end of the top stick.
- Hang the ornament in your home to remind your family that God fulfilled His promise when Jesus was born.



# Family Connection Cards:

## Week 1: Hope

*Rejoice in hope. Romans 12:12a*

### DISCUSS

Did everything God said about Jesus' birth come true?  
How does Jesus give us hope?  
What are some reasons it might be hard to trust and hope in God?

### More Bible verses about hope:

Romans 5:2-5; 1 Timothy 4:10; Psalm 33:20-22;  
Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 1:3



## Week 3: Love

*We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19*

### DISCUSS

Why is it important to think about love at Christmastime?  
How have we seen God love our family?  
Who is someone we can show love to during Christmas?  
How?

### More Bible verses about love:

John 3:16-17; John 13:34; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:38-39;  
1 Corinthians 13:4-7



## Week 4: Joy

*Sing for joy to God our strength. Psalm 81:1a*

### DISCUSS

What is something that brings you joy at Christmastime?  
How does joy help us worship God?  
What can our family do this Christmas to share the big announcement of Jesus with others, like the shepherds did?

### More Bible verses about joy:

Luke 15:1-7; Romans 15:13; Psalm 16:11; John 15:9-11;  
1 Peter 1:8-9



## Week 2: Peace

*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. John 14:27a*

### DISCUSS

What does it mean to have peace?  
Why is it important to believe that Jesus gives us peace?  
What can we remember is true about Jesus when we feel afraid?

### More Bible verses about peace:

Isaiah 53:5; Colossians 3:12-15; Philippians 4:4-8;  
John 14:27



## Christmas Day: Jesus

*I am the light of the world. John 8:12b*

### DISCUSS

Why is it important that we celebrate the birth of Jesus?  
Why does the Bible call Jesus "the light of the world?"  
How can our family share the good news about Jesus with others?

### More Bible verses about Jesus:

Matthew 4:16; John 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6;  
John 1:1-5

