

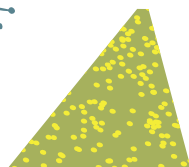


FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE 2021

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 2:

PEACE

DISCUSS

What are some words that come to mind when you think about angels? Where do you think those ideas came from?

Explain that the Bible gives us many examples of angels. Throughout the entire Bible, angels were God's special messengers.

Lead your family to review where they have learned about angels so far during their Advent Bible readings. Remind kids that last week, they read about the host of angels who appeared in the sky and glorified God, saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!" (Luke 2:14).

READ

Read Luke 1:26-33.

EXPLAIN

In the Christmas story, angels played a very special role in announcing the birth of Jesus. When the angel appeared to Mary to tell her she would be Jesus' earthly mother, he told her not to be afraid. He brought a message of peace to Mary. He wanted her to know she was called by God to be the mother of Jesus.

Peace is an important part of Christmas. The Bible verse we studied from week one explained that Jesus would be the Prince of Peace. (See Isaiah 9:6.) Jesus is our peace, and He came to bring us the gift of peace. Because of our sin, the Bible says we are separated from God (Romans 3:23). But God sent Jesus to provide the way for us to be brought back to Him by receiving God's love. Then we will be at peace with Him (Romans 5:1). It was God's love that brought Jesus into the world as a baby. Just like the angels, it is important that we worship Jesus and tell others about His birth and the peace He offers.

PRAY

Thank God for the gift of peace. Praise Him for sending Jesus so that we can have peace with God when we trust in Him. Ask God to use your family to point others to the peace of God this Advent season.

SING OF HOPE

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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

More Bible verses about peace:

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



CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

You will need:

- Decorative box or basket
- Christmas cards

Directions:

- Gather the Christmas cards your family has received so far this season and put them in a basket (or decorate a box). For the next several weeks, pull out a Christmas card and pray for the person or family who sent it to you. Pray that they will feel the peace and joy of Jesus' coming throughout the year.



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

