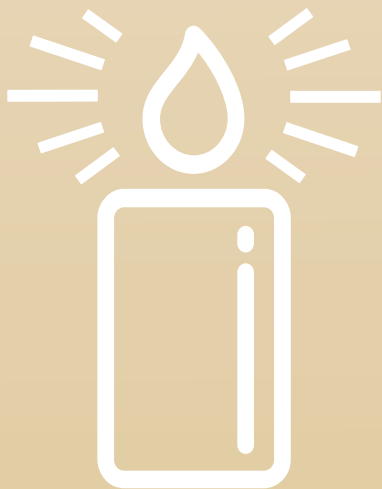




CHRISTMAS *ADVENT*

WHAT IS **ADVENT**? The word “Advent” comes from a word in Latin that means “to come” or “to arrive.” For many centuries, followers of Jesus have celebrated His arrival by participating in various traditions that begin four Sundays before Christmas and/or that span the whole month of December. You may currently have traditions you celebrate or you may not. Either way, what you’ll read in this advent guide is intended to help you remember and reflect on the arrival of Jesus.



WEEK 1 | HOPE

Luke 2:25–35 CSB

“There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel’s consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, ‘Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.’ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary: ‘Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed— and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”



HOPE REFLECTED

*Have you ever waited a long time
for something?*

*Describe the feeling when you
received something you had
hoped for or anticipated.*

*Have you ever looked back and
seen how something you hoped
for turned out better than you
thought it would?*

*How can you bring hope to
someone while they wait?*

HOPE APPLIED

*Pray for those who
have lost hope or
who did not receive
the answer they had
anticipated.*

*Visit someone you
know who is lonely
during the holidays.*

*Donate pajamas to
foster children or
adoption agencies.*

*Donate food or
clothes to the local
Baptist crisis center.*







WEEK 2 | LOVE

Matthew 1:18–25 CSB

“The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.”



LOVE REFLECTED

Do you remember a time when you didn't feel like loving someone you were supposed to love?

What makes it difficult to love others?

Is it difficult to love God in certain circumstances? Why?

What are some ways you can choose to love others?

LOVE APPLIED

Pray for those who you find difficult to love.

Send a card or note of encouragement to someone you have struggled to love.

Send love to your neighbors. Make them cookies!



Handwriting practice paper with horizontal lines.





WEEK 3 | JOY

Luke 2:8-20 CSB

“In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!’

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.”



JOY REFLECTED

How has the Good News of Jesus brought joy to your life?

What are some ways you choose joy in your everyday?

How can you help bring joy to others this holiday season?

JOY APPLIED

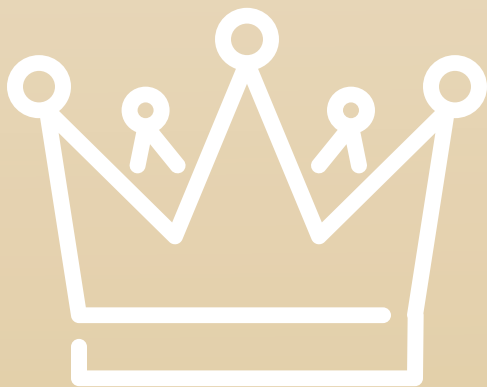
Pray for those who may find it difficult to find joy this holiday season.

Sing Carols. Map out some homes of people you know and challenge them to join you as you go.

Go on a Christmas light scavenger hunt.







WEEK 4 | PEACE

Isaiah 9:1-6 CSB

“Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future he will bring honor to the way of the sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.

You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have rejoiced before you as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils. For you have shattered their oppressive yoke and the rod on their shoulders, the staff of their oppressor, just as you did on the day of Midian.

For every trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”



PEACE REFLECTED

When have you experienced peace that you can only credit to our Prince of Peace?

What are some areas in our world, country, region, state, or city that need peace?

How can you help bring God's peace to others this holiday Season?

PEACE APPLIED

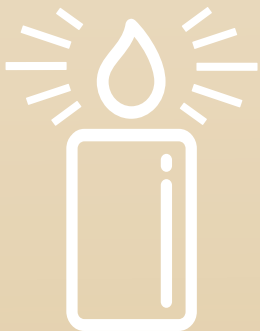
Pray for peace over the people in your life who can use peace right now.

Pray for peace over our world, country, region, state and city.



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EXTRA RESOURCES

Week 1 Additional Reading

- *Isaiah 42:1-7, Psalm 42, Romans 5:1-5*

Week 2 Additional Reading

- *Jeremiah 31:1-6, Isaiah 7:14, 1 John 5:2-3*

Week 3 Additional Reading

- *Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 51:11, Psalm 51:12-13*

Week 4 Additional Reading

- *Psalm 119:165, Luke 1:67-78,
Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:4-8*

O Come Let us Adore Him by Paul David Tripp

The Jesus Storybook Bible (Pg. 176-207) by Sally Lloyd-Jones

