



With US

AN ADVENT GUIDE THROUGH ISAIAH

ADVENT

The word “Advent” means “to come” or “to arrive.” For centuries, followers of Jesus have celebrated His arrival by participating in various traditions or Scripture reading that begin four Sundays before Christmas and span the month of December.

This Advent Guide will pair with our December series, "With Us", and will discuss several passages from the book of Isaiah. It is intended to help you remember and reflect on the arrival of Jesus in a way that stirs your heart and quiets your soul during this busy season.

Each week will begin with Scripture and thoughts to consider. There will be four days following where you'll be prompted to re-read Day 1, and answer one reflection question. The end of each week will pose a Family Challenge - something fun and intentional to do as a family, couple, or community group.

The goal is not to check a box each day, or to spend hours going through it, but rather to take a few intentional minutes to soak in the Scripture for the week and reflect on how God has been working in your life. You can get out your journal and dig in deep each day, or you can simply talk over the day's reflection question at the beginning of dinner as a family. Remember, reflect, and rest in Him this season.



WEEK 1
OUR PRESENT KING

DAY 1

From the very beginning, God has desired to dwell among his people. When the prophet Isaiah told of a coming Savior, he predicted that his name would be "Immanuel," which literally means "God with us."

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: see, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. - Isaiah 7:14

For centuries God's people longed for the arrival, of this great Messiah who would come to restore and fulfill God's promises and inaugurate God's Kingdom. They were told this Messiah would reign on God's throne, establish God's loving rule, and bring about an everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

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. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the Lord of armies will accomplish this. - Isaiah 9:6-7

These promises made to the people of God centuries ago have been fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus. He is the presence of God in human form, sent on a mission to rescue our souls from the deafening cries of brokenness. He is the king who has come to reign over our lives with justice and love. In Jesus, we see God's heart to dwell among his people as our Present-King.

G O D
WITH US

DAY 2

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT GOD
LONGS TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE?**

DAY 3

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU LONGED FOR GOD'S
PRESENCE THIS YEAR?**



DAY 4

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT
JESUS REIGNS OVER US WITH BOTH LOVE
AND JUSTICE?**

DAY 5

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**HOW CAN YOU TRUST JESUS AS YOUR PRESENT KING
IN THIS SEASON?**

PRAYER: ASK JESUS TO HELP YOU TRUST HIM
AS YOUR PRESENT-KING IN THIS SEASON.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1

INVITE SOMEONE TO:

CHRISTMAS

AT STONEGATE

12.11 & 12.12 • MIDLAND CAMPUS
5:30-9:00 • FREE!

WEEK 2

OUR SUFFERING
SERVANT

DAY 1

One of the most difficult experiences in life is the shame and guilt that comes from sin. The history of mankind is, in many ways, a long story of people searching to find solutions to this very problem. Tragically, every religion throughout history has taught that we must fix ourselves; through good works, spiritual enlightenment, or some other means. This is exhausting and provides no real assurance of rest.

In Jesus, we see a different picture. Centuries before Jesus was born, Isaiah predicted that God would send a servant to suffer and die in our place. This servant would bear the weight of our sin and absorb the wrath we deserve to receive. This servant would willingly give up his life, take our place of punishment, and set us free from the guilt and shame that comes from sin. This is exactly what Jesus did for us, because Jesus, and only Jesus, is our suffering-servant.

But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth. He was taken away because of oppression and judgment, and who considered his fate? For he was cut off from the land of the living; he was struck because of my people's rebellion.
- Isaiah 53:5-8

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. - Isaiah 53:10-11

BY HIS
WOUNDS
WE ARE HEALED

DAY 2

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU'VE SEEN PEOPLE (EVEN YOURSELF) TRY TO DEAL WITH SHAME AND GUILT?

DAY 3

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED IN YOUR PLACE?



DAY 4

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IS THERE UNCONFESSSED SIN IN YOUR HEART THAT IS
WEIGHING YOU DOWN? WILL YOU SURRENDER
THAT TO JESUS?**

DAY 5

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**HOW CAN YOU RESPOND TO JESUS, YOUR
SUFFERING SERVANT?**

PRAYER: ASK JESUS TO HELP YOU REMEMBER HIS SACRIFICE,
THAT FREED YOU FROM GUILT AND SHAME.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

2

DING-DONG DASH!

SURPRISE A NEIGHBOR (OR 2) WITH A SWEET
CHRISTMAS TREAT ON THEIR FRONT PORCH!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
SGKIDS

PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW YOUR SGKID HAS BEEN WORKING HARD
TO MEMORIZE THEIR DECEMBER VERSE? HELP THEM PRACTICE!

JOHN 3:16 (PRE-K) · LUKE 2:11 (ELEMENTARY)

WEEK 3
OUR EMPOWERING
PRESENCE

DAY 1

Throughout the Bible, we see a clear picture of God's heart to dwell with his people. He establishes a beautiful Garden, sends his holy Word, and at times reveals himself through powerful miracles of nature. But we also see a glimpse of God's desire to dwell in his people, empowering them to love and obey him with joy. When Jesus began his ministry, he read the prophetic words from the ancient Isaiah scroll:

The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify him. - Isaiah 61:1-3

Upon reading these words, Luke tells that Jesus sat down in the temple and then declared, **"He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He began by saying to them, 'Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled'" (Luke 4:20-21).**

Today, Jesus is no longer walking on Earth, but he is still living among his people through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus actually said that it is to our benefit that he ascend to the Father and send the Spirit to live within us (John 16:7). The same Spirit who empowered Jesus on Earth is the Spirit who empowers us today. Through the Spirit we see God's heart to dwell within his people as our Empowering Presence.

HIS SPIRIT EMPOWERS US

DAY 2

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**AS YOU READ ISAIAH 61:1-3, CAN YOU RECALL A TIME
IN YOUR LIFE WHEN JESUS BROUGHT "GOOD NEWS" TO
YOUR LIFE OR CIRCUMSTANCES?**

DAY 3

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**HOW DO YOU FEEL KNOWING THAT GOD'S SPIRIT
LIVES WITHIN YOU?**



DAY 4

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**NAME A TIME WHERE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED GOD'S
EMPOWERING PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE.**

DAY 5

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WANT TO ASK GOD TO
EMPOWER YOU FOR DURING THIS SEASON?**

PRAYER: ASK GOD TO HELP YOU TRUST HIS
EMPOWERING SPIRIT

FAMILY CHALLENGE

3

SPECIAL DELIVERY

WRITE CHRISTMAS CARDS AS A FAMILY
AND DELIVER THEM TO NEIGHBORS
OR LOCAL NURSING HOMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

SGY

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA TIME, SEE HOW CREATIVE YOU
CAN BE, MAKING THE CARDS YOURSELVES!

WEEK 4

WHO IS THIS KING?

DAY 1

He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. — Isaiah 9:6b

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior this season, one of the things we celebrate is that our God came to us; he didn't require us to earn our salvation or figure out life on our own. Instead, our God took on human flesh and entered into this broken world in order meet us where we are.

Even though you read this prophecy in week 1, it's important to see exactly how God meets us where we are in the person of Jesus. Isaiah says that Jesus is our:

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

He gives us the guidance and counsel we need for the storms of life

MIGHTY GOD

He alone is powerful to save and deliver us from sin and condemnation

ETERNAL FATHER

He alone is the perfect representation of the Father's character of love

PRINCE OF PEACE

He alone can quiet our hearts during seasons of adversity

IMMANUEL

WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR

MIGHTY
GOD

EVERLASTING
FATHER

PRINCE OF
PEACE

DAY 2

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IN WHAT WAY(S) DO YOU NEED THE WONDERFUL
COUNSEL OF GOD DURING THIS SEASON?**

DAY 3

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE THE
SAVING POWER OF OUR MIGHTY GOD THIS SEASON?**



DAY 4

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE THE
ETERNAL LOVE OF THE FATHER THIS SEASON?**

DAY 5

READ BACK OVER DAY 1

**IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE THE PEACE
OF JESUS THIS SEASON?**

PRAYER: THANK JESUS FOR BEING YOUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER, AND PRINCE OF PEACE