

the season of ADVENT

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

HOPE

Matthew 1:18-23

WEEK ONE

On Sunday, we lit the hope candle. Long before Jesus came, God promised His people a Savior. They hoped, waiting expectantly, that the Savior would come. We celebrate Jesus because He is the fulfillment of that hope, the promised Savior who would take away the sins of the world.

Discussion: What do you hope for? How is that hope different from the hope we have in Jesus?

Action: Follow the links via QR code below to explore the Advent theme daily by making an Advent Paper Chain or use the Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar to spread hope, peace, joy, and love during the month of December.



PEACE

Isaiah 9:6-7

WEEK TWO

On Sunday, we lit the peace candle. Long before Jesus came, God promised that He would send the Prince of Peace. Jesus fulfilled God's promise as the ultimate source of peace, saving us from sin and offering forever life with God. We don't have to worry about sin separating us from God because Jesus is our peace.

Discussion: What do you do when you are looking for peace? Share about a time when you were worried and Jesus gave you peace.

Action: Breath Prayer. A breath prayer is a word or phrase to repeat in a single breath with one part on the inhaled and the other part on the exhaled. Breath prayers help us focus on God and His presence with us. Try this together as a family.

Inhale: Jesus, You are...

Exhale: my hope and peace.



JOY

Luke 2:15-20

WEEK THREE

On Sunday, we lit the joy candle. Jesus coming to live with us and save us is good news of great joy. He saves us from our sin and brings us closer to God. We celebrate Jesus' birth because He is our joy.

Discussion: How are joy and happiness different? Or, how did people react to the good news of Jesus' birth? How should we react to the joy we've found in Jesus?

Action: To celebrate joy as a family, try a lively dance party, a collaborative cooking session, an outdoor adventure like a nature walk, creative activities like looking through or adding to a family photo album, playing games, or simply having a special meal with your favorite foods.

LOVE

John 3:16 | 1 John 3:18

WEEK FOUR

On Sunday, we lit the love candle. We celebrate God's amazing love for us and praise Him for rescuing us and never giving up on us.

Discussion: How did God show His love through Jesus? How can we put our love into action?

Action: Make a "Family Love Tree." Decorate a branch with heart-shaped cut-outs where each family member writes something they love or appreciate about another person or create love notes! Leave surprise notes or cards for each other to find.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to Your Son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in You. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to You. We pray that this Advent may be a time marked by thankfulness, calmness and quietness as we wait in hope and wonder for Jesus, who is present in our lives now and whose future reign is coming. Amen.