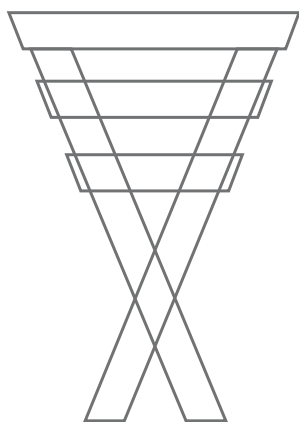
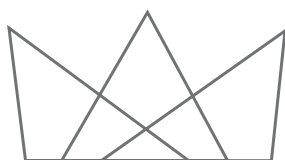




ADVENT CHRISTMAS GUIDE



WHY

Why We Do Advent as a Church

Advent is a season of preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. For generations, God's people waited for the Savior He had promised. When Jesus was born, every promise was fulfilled in Him. Today, we also wait—with faith and hope—for the day when Jesus will come again.

As a church family, we celebrate Advent to keep our eyes on Jesus in the middle of a busy season. Advent helps us slow down, open God's Word, and grow together in hope, peace, joy, love, and the truth that God is with us. By reading Scripture, asking questions, and practicing faith as families, we remind each other that Christmas is not just about a holiday—it's about a Savior who changes our lives forever.

PRAYER

Prayer for Our Families

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us this season of Advent to remember Jesus. Help us pause, slow down, and make room for You in our hearts. As we read Your Word, give us hope, fill us with peace, stir our joy, and teach us to love like Jesus. Remind us that You are always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



HOPE

WEEK 1 - HOPE

Hope is the first theme of Advent because it reminds us that God always keeps His promises. From the very beginning, when sin entered the world, God promised a Savior who would crush the serpent and bring life. The people of Israel held onto that hope for centuries, waiting for the Messiah who would save them from sin and make things right again. For families today, hope means trusting that God is working even when life feels hard or uncertain. Just as God kept His word by sending Jesus the first time, we can trust He will keep His promise that Jesus is coming again. Advent hope teaches us to look back with gratitude at Jesus's first coming and to look forward with expectation to His return.

HOPE-CHAIN

Family Activity: Hope Chain

Supplies Needed:

- Paper cut into 2–3 inch strips - Markers, crayons, or pens
- Tape or stapler

Gather your family and remind them: "Hope reminds us that God always keeps His promises." Ask, "What are some things you are hoping for this Christmas?" Encourage answers beyond presents—like snow, healing, friendships, or school challenges. Younger kids can draw their hopes. Write each hope on a strip of paper and connect them into a "Hope Chain." Hang it where everyone will see it—on the tree, mantle, or kitchen—to remind your family that we can hope and trust in God.

If your family needs supplies for this activity, call the church office at 405-390-9002, and we will provide them.



WEEK 1

DECEMBER 1-3

Mon, Dec 1 – Genesis 3:8-15

Context & Summary: When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised a Rescuer who would defeat the serpent. From the very beginning, God gave His people hope through His plan for Jesus.

Family Question: How does it make you feel knowing God always has a plan, even when people sin?

Truth to Remember: Our sin cannot stop God's promises.

Tue, Dec 2 – Genesis 15:1-6

Context & Summary: God promised Abraham a family as numerous as the stars. Abraham believed, and God counted it as righteousness. Jesus is the final fulfillment of that promise, bringing hope to all people.

Family Question: When is it hard to trust God's promises?

Truth to Remember: God never breaks His promises.

Wed, Dec 3 – Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Context & Summary: Moses told the people God would send a prophet greater than him. Jesus is that prophet, speaking God's truth and leading us into hope and life.

Family Question: Why is it important to listen to people who speak God's truth?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is the prophet who gives us God's truth.



WEEK 1

DECEMBER 4-5

Thu, Dec 4 – Psalm 89:1-4

Context & Summary: God promised David that his throne would last forever. That promise points to Jesus, the forever King whose love never ends.

Family Question: What does it mean that God's love never ends?

Truth to Remember: God's love never ends and never fails.

Fri, Dec 5 – Isaiah 9:2-6

Context & Summary: Isaiah spoke of a great light shining in the darkness. Jesus is that light who brings hope, peace, and joy into our world.

Family Question: Where do you need God's light in your life today?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is the light that shines in the dark.





Week 2 – Peace

Peace is at the heart of the Christmas story. When Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah to save the world, he called Him the 'Prince of Peace.' Peace isn't the absence of war or chaos, but the presence of Jesus.

Families can experience this peace even in busy or stressful times. By making time to pray, to worship, and to remember who Jesus is, God fills our hearts with a calm, confident peace. It's a peace that lasts forever and will one day cover the whole earth when Jesus returns.



Family Activity: Peace Place

Supplies Needed:

- A space in your house
- Items to make that space comfortable - A piece of paper
- Crayons, markers, etc.

Have your family gather items to make a cozy "Peace Place." Create a sign together. This is your intentional space for prayer, worship, and remembering Jesus. Spend time here reading the Advent calendar and remembering Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

If your family does not have the means to complete this activity, please contact the church by calling 405-390-9002 and we will give you what you need!



WEEK 2

DECEMBER 8-10

Mon, Dec 8 – Isaiah 11:1-10

Context & Summary: Isaiah described a coming King from David's family who would rule with wisdom and fairness. He would bring peace so complete that even animals who are enemies would live together in harmony. Jesus is that King who brings us peace with God.

Family Question: What does peace look like in your family?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is the Prince of Peace who makes us right with God.

Tue, Dec 9 – Isaiah 12:2-6

Context & Summary: Isaiah sang a song of praise because God saves His people and gives them joy. When we trust in Jesus, we can live with peace in our hearts and sing with joy no matter what is happening.

Family Question: How do you feel when you sing or pray to God?

Truth to Remember: God gives us strength, so we can sing with peace and joy.

Wed, Dec 10 – Micah 5:2-3

Context & Summary: Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, a small town in Judah. Even from a humble place, God brought the One who would bring peace to the world — Jesus.

Family Question: How does it make you feel to know that Jesus came to bring peace to the world — and to your heart?

Truth to Remember: God brings peace in surprising ways, and Jesus is our Prince of Peace.



WEEK 2

DECEMBER 11-12

Thu, Dec 11 – Isaiah 40:1-5

Context & Summary: God told His people to be comforted because He was coming to rescue them. This was a promise of peace — that one day, Jesus would come to defeat sin and bring lasting hope.

Family Question: How can you help prepare your heart for Jesus this Christmas?

Truth to Remember: God promised a Savior, and Jesus brings peace that lasts forever.

Fri, Dec 12 – Isaiah 40:9-11

Context & Summary: Isaiah painted a picture of God coming as both a strong King and a gentle Shepherd. Jesus is powerful to save and gentle to care for us, bringing peace that calms our fears.

Family Question: What could you do this week to make more room for Jesus?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is our strong Shepherd who carries us close to His heart and fills us with peace.



JOY

Week 3 – Joy

Joy is more than happiness — it's the deep gladness that comes from knowing God loves us and sent His Son to save us. When the angels announced the birth of Jesus, they said it was 'good news of great joy for all the people.' Joy is at the heart of the Gospel, because the good news of Jesus changes everything.

As families, we celebrate joy during Advent not because life is perfect, but because Jesus came. Joy gives us strength when we are tired and helps us see God's goodness even in small things. Just as the shepherds rejoiced after seeing Jesus, we are called to live as joyful people who share the good news with others.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Family Activity: Happy Birthday Jesus!

Supplies Needed: - Cake pan

- Boxed cake mix - Can of Sprite
- Tub of frosting
- Sprinkles
- Birthday candles (optional)

One evening this week, bake a birthday cake for Jesus as a family. Let kids help mix, pour, and decorate. Play Christmas music, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and celebrate with joy. Make it a party—look at Christmas lights, watch a movie, or share a family dinner. Remind everyone of the joy Christmas brings.

If your family needs supplies for this activity, please contact the church by calling 405-390-9002 and we will provide them.



WEEK 3

DECEMBER 15-17

Mon, Dec 15 – Isaiah 40:9-11

Context & Summary: Isaiah announced good news — God is coming with power as a King and tenderness as a Shepherd. Jesus brings joy because He rules with strength and carries us close to His heart.

Family Question: How does it make you feel to know Jesus carries you like a shepherd carries sheep?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is both strong and gentle, and He brings joy to His people.

Tue, Dec 16 – Isaiah 52:7-9

Context & Summary: Isaiah celebrated the beautiful feet of those who bring good news — that God reigns and saves His people. Jesus is the good news who gives us true joy and peace.

Family Question: What good news about Jesus brings you joy?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is the Good News — and He fills our lives with joy.

Wed, Dec 17 – Zechariah 6:12-13

Context & Summary: God promised a King-Priest called 'the Branch' who would build His temple and rule with peace. Jesus is that King who includes us in His family and gives us joy in belonging to Him.

Family Question: What does it mean to you to be part of God's family?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is our King and Priest, and it is a joy to belong to Him.



WEEK 3

DECEMBER 18-19

Thu, Dec 18 – Malachi 3:1-6

Context & Summary: Malachi said God would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. God never changes, and His promises bring joy that lasts.

Family Question: Why is it good that God never changes?

Truth to Remember: God never changes, and His unchanging love gives us joy.

Fri, Dec 19 – Mark 1:1-3

Context & Summary: Mark began his Gospel with John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. This was the joyful announcement that God's Savior had finally come.

Family Question: How can you share the good news of Jesus with someone?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is the Savior we've been waiting for, and sharing Him brings joy.



LOVE

Week 4 – Love

Love is the reason for Christmas, Scripture says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." When we celebrate God's love during Advent, we remember that His plan of salvation was not just an idea but a demonstration of His great love for people. Jesus coming to earth shows us what real love looks like — a love that sacrifices, serves, and never gives up.

For families, Advent is a time to reflect on how we can love like Jesus. This means being patient, showing kindness, and serving others in practical ways. God's love changes our homes and teaches us to see people the way He does. Christmas is the ultimate reminder that love came down to us in Jesus.

SERVICES

Family Activity: Candlelight Services

1. Share our Christmas Candlelight services information online.
2. Invite your friends and family to gather at one of our Christmas Candlelight services.
3. Attend one of our Christmas Candlelight services on Dec 22 or 23 at 6:30 or 7:30 PM.



WEEK 4

DECEMBER 22-24

Mon, Dec 22 – John 1:1-18

Context & Summary: John tells us that Jesus is the eternal Word of God who became flesh and lived among us. God's incredible love is shown in that He didn't stay far away but came near to us.

Family Question: What does it mean that Jesus is God with us?

Truth to Remember: Jesus is God's love in person, living with us.

Tue, Dec 23 – Luke 1:5-13

Context & Summary: An angel told Zechariah that his prayers were heard and his son John would prepare the way for Jesus. God's love listens, answers, and acts at the right time.

Family Question: How do you feel knowing God listens to your prayers?

Truth to Remember: God's love hears us when we pray.

Wed, Dec 24 – Luke 1:26-38

Context & Summary: The angel Gabriel told Mary she would carry God's Son. God showed His love by choosing an ordinary young woman to bring the Savior into the world.

Family Question: Why do you think God chose Mary for such a big job?

Truth to Remember: God's love works through ordinary people to do extraordinary things.



WEEK 4

DECEMBER 25-26

Thu, Dec 25 – Luke 1:46-55

Context & Summary: Mary sang a song of praise, celebrating God's mercy and love. On Christmas, we join her in rejoicing that God's love came to us through Jesus.

Family Question: What is something you want to thank God for this Christmas?

Truth to Remember: God's love deserves our praise.

Fri, Dec 26 – Matthew 1:18-24

Context & Summary: An angel told Joseph to name Mary's baby "Jesus," which means "the Lord saves." God's love is shown in sending His Son to save His people from their sins.

Family Question: Why is Jesus' name so important?

Truth to Remember: God's love gave us Jesus, our Savior.



GOD WITH US

Week 5 – God With Us

The last days of December remind us that Jesus' coming is not just for one holiday — it changes every day of our lives. "Emmanuel" means "God with us." This name for Jesus shows that God came close, lived among us, and is still with us through His Spirit. He is with us in our homes, our schools, our work, and every part of life. For families, remembering "God With Us" means starting the new year with confidence. We are never alone, because Jesus has promised to be with us always. Advent ends with this reminder: the God who came as a baby in Bethlehem is still present and active today, guiding us, loving us, and preparing us for His return.

BABY JESUS

Family Activity: No One Puts Baby Jesus in the Attic!

Supplies Needed: None

The best part about Christmas is that the hope, peace, joy and love that it reminds us of doesn't have to end! Take time for each family member to choose a piece of Christmas decor to keep in their room or bathroom as a reminder that God is with us in every season. Reflect together on how God was with you this Christmas and how He will continue to be with you in the new year.



WEEK 3

DECEMBER 29-31

Mon, Dec 29 – Luke 2:1-14

Context & Summary: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and the angels announced His birth to shepherds in the fields. God showed His love by sending His Son for everyone, even the lowly and forgotten.

Family Question: Why do you think God announced Jesus' birth to shepherds first?

Truth to Remember: God is with us, and His love is for everyone.

Tue, Dec 30 – Luke 2:15-21

Context & Summary: The shepherds hurried to see Jesus and told others about what they had heard. Mary treasured these things in her heart, celebrating that God was with them through her child.

Family Question: How can you celebrate Jesus with your family today?

Truth to Remember: God is with us, and we can celebrate Him every day.

Wed, Dec 31 – Matthew 2:1-12

Context & Summary: Wise men from far away followed a star and brought gifts to honor Jesus. Their worship shows us how we can give our best to the King who is with us forever.

Family Question: What is one way you can give Jesus your best this year?

Truth to Remember: God is with us, and Jesus is worthy of our worship.



PRAYER

A Closing Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. As we have walked through this Advent season, we remember that He is our Hope, our Peace, our Joy, our Love, and that He is always with us. We ask that You help us carry these truths into the new year. Fill our homes with Your presence, guide our steps with Your Word, and use our families to shine the light of Christ to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



NOTES



