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The Christmas season is one of the best seasons! Sometimes our celebrations fly by, and we wish we had more time to think about how important and special this time of year can be.

The Advent Journey calendar will help you walk through the astonishing and hope-filled story of God showing up in the world through Jesus. Over the next few weeks, you'll get to celebrate and anticipate the birth of Jesus by reflecting on Scripture, sharing stories, and taking action with your family and loved ones.

Then, pull the cards from the deck in their sequence and...

- **Read** a passage of Scripture.
- **Share** your responses to discussion questions.
- **Do** something to remember the Bible verses and conversations you had.
- **Pray** together.

THE ADVENT JOURNEY

Christmas is a communal celebration. It's a time for us to gather with our loved ones to reflect, remember, and worship the great gifts God has given us. Before you start your Advent Journey, take some time to reflect on who you want to share this experience with. Is it your family? A group of friends? You might start your Advent Journey by inviting a few people to join you each day as you read, reflect, and discover new ways to put your faith into practice.

Then, think about some of your goals for this experience. What are the ways you'd like to grow? Maybe it's as simple as worshipping God with others or reflecting on God's gifts each day of Advent.

With these people and goals in mind, you can start your Advent Journey! This year, Advent starts on December 1, 2024, so on that day, gather with the people you've selected and journey together through these stories, practices, and passages of Scripture. We can't wait to hear how you grow and build new memories together!

DAY 1



READ Isaiah 64:1–9

SHARE Describe what "hope" means in your own words. What's something you're hoping for this week?

DAY 2



READ Micah 4:1–5

SHARE Hope for a peaceful world was common then, just as it is now. What are your biggest hopes when it comes to experiencing peace? Where would you like to see more peace?

DAY 3



READ Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

SHARE One way we experience hope is by wanting broken things to be "restored" to how they were before—or even better. That goes for our relationship with God and others, too. Can you think of one thing you would like to see restored?

DAY 4



READ Micah 5:1–5

SHARE Shepherds care for their flock and keep them safe. Who are the people that make you feel safe? How can they help you feel hopeful?

DAY 5



READ 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

SHARE How do you think thankfulness and hopefulness are connected?

DAY 6



READ Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

SHARE What does it mean to "rejoice" in something? How is hope connected to an abundance of joy?

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THE ADVENT JOURNEY

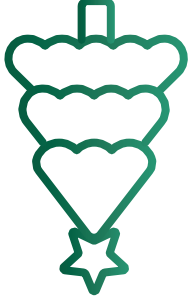
DAY 3



DO Take a step towards restoring a relationship that has been quiet by reaching out. Send a letter, text, or call them on the phone!

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

DAY 4



DO Today, write a thank you letter to God for keeping you safe.

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

DAY 1



DO Light a candle reminding your family of the hope of advent. Then, plan a few hours to stay offline or away from screens to connect with family and friends.

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

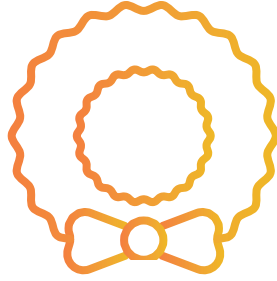
DAY 5



DO Pray to God and share something you're grateful for. Then, tell someone one reason you're grateful for them.

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

DAY 2



DO Write down the things that bring you peace. Then, share with a family member by helping them accomplish something on their list!

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to others this week. Amen.

DAY 6



DO Help someone in your family experience joy by serving them. You can make a bed, tidy up something, or bring a treat or coffee to a friend!

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

DAY 7



READ Mark 13:24–37

SHARE Waiting in hope looks like keeping watch and staying ready. In what ways are you keeping watch for God's presence in your life? How does it make you feel to know God is watching over you?

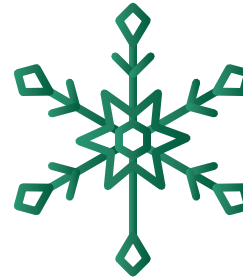
DAY 8



READ Isaiah 40:1–11

SHARE How can being ready help us feel peaceful? What was God preparing in order to make peace in the world?

DAY 9



READ Psalm 27

SHARE What does peace look like to you? How can we find peace when we're waiting for something?

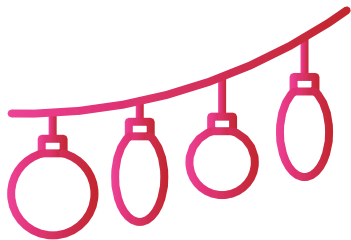
DAY 10



READ Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

SHARE "Peace on Earth" is more than a lyric from a Christmas carol. It's the hope for everything that was broken to be mended again. What's one thing you can fix or repair today?

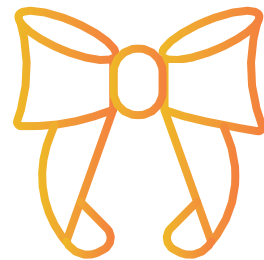
DAY 11



READ Luke 1:5–17

SHARE God sometimes give us peace and comfort through unexpected gifts at just the right time. Can you think of a time you were comforted in an unexpected way?

DAY 12



READ 2 Peter 3:8–15a

SHARE Would you rather wait your turn to do something you really love or choose something different that you could do right away?

DAY 13



READ Habakkuk 3:2–6

SHARE Remembering big moments in our faith journey can help us when we are in a season of waiting. What are some of those big moments in your story?

DAY 14



READ Mark 1:1–8

SHARE Would you rather quietly sneak into a party or have someone announce your arrival? Why do you think God sent a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus?

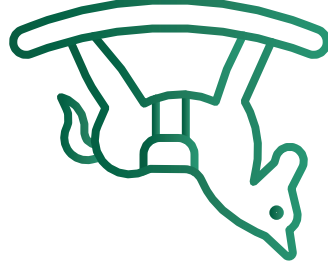
DAY 10



DO Fix something that's broken in your home, at your school, or in a place your family likes to visit.

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

DAY 14



DO Cut some paper into strips. Tape one strip into a circle to start your "Do Good Garland." Every time you or someone in your family does a good deed, add a new paper chain to the garland!

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

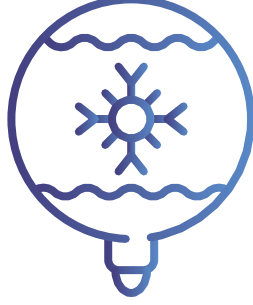
DAY 9



DO Practice memorizing Psalm 27:13-14 together.

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

DAY 13



DO Draw or look at pictures of a sunrise and sunset. Then, make a plan to wake up early to watch the sunrise with your family or loved ones.

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

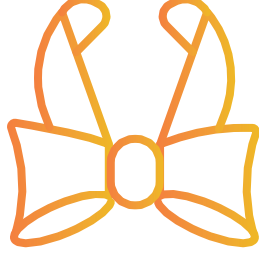
DAY 8



DO Practice making peace with someone you've recently had an argument with.

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

DAY 12



DO Practice being patient by working to solve a puzzle or playing a board game!

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

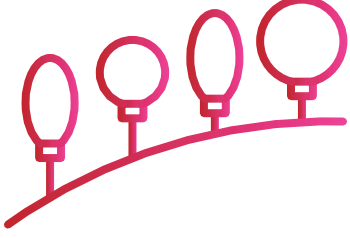
DAY 7



DO Make a list of the things that bring you hope today. Then, talk about some of the items on your list.

PRAY God, you bring us hope when we need it most. Thank you for stepping in to save us. Help us show your hope to others this week. Amen.

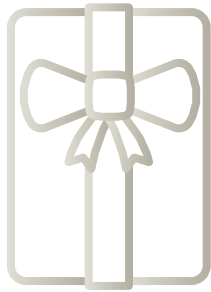
DAY 11



DO Do something that brings you comfort—like drinking hot chocolate or crawling under a blanket. Then, do something that helps a loved one feel comforted!

PRAY God, you bring peace to the world. Thank you for calming our hearts and our minds. Help us be peacemakers in the world today. Amen.

DAY 15



READ Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

SHARE Which stories from Jesus' life did this passage remind you of? How have you experienced freedom in Jesus?

DAY 16



READ Ephesians 6:10–17

SHARE What does it mean to protect someone? How have you felt protected by God?

DAY 17



READ Psalm 126

SHARE What are some great things God has done for you that bring you joy?

DAY 18



READ Luke 1:47–55

SHARE Describe a time when you were shown mercy. How could you show mercy to someone this week?

DAY 19



READ 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

SHARE Would you rather have little things to rejoice every day or one big thing to rejoice every month?

DAY 20



READ Psalm 89:1–4; 19–26

SHARE How can you tell when you love something? How do you know God loves you?

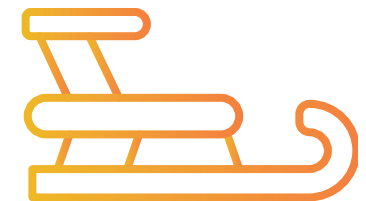
DAY 21



READ John 1:6–8, 19–28

SHARE What does it mean to be a witness? What are some of the ways you have witnessed Jesus' love and light in your life?

DAY 22



READ Isaiah 9:6–7

SHARE Think of a time when you experienced God's peace during a stressful situation. Share how God's peace helped you through it.

DAY 18



DO Take some time to clean something in your home, make your bed, or do laundry. As you do, think about the way God gives us a fresh start.

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

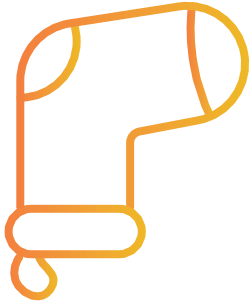
DAY 22



DO Make a list as a family of ways you can show love to people around you—like helping someone, sharing a kind word, or giving a hug.

PRAY Jesus, thank you for showing us what real love looks like. Help us to love others like you love us. Amen.

DAY 17



DO Take a Pray walk through your community with your family or loved ones and ask God to show you ways you can bring joy to your neighbors.

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

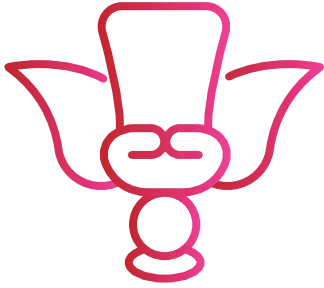
DAY 21



DO Share a Christmas memory about a time you felt loved and cherished.

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

DAY 16



DO Sing "Joy to the World" with your family or loved ones and remember Jesus is the joy that came to the world!

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

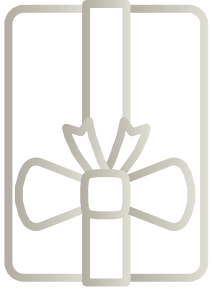
DAY 20



DO Show God's love to someone through an act of kindness! Then, write a note for someone you love.

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

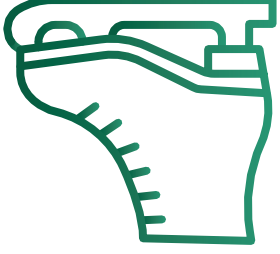
DAY 15



DO Today, serve your family or friends! Then, schedule a time for you and your loved ones to serve your community alongside a local organization or a ministry of your church.

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

DAY 19



DO Sometimes, when we experience joy, we just need to move, jump, or dance. Today, play a few of your favorite songs and throw a quick dance party!

PRAY God, you are the source of our joy. Thank you for giving us a reason to celebrate. Help us bring joy to the lives of the people around us. Amen.

DAY 23



READ 1 John 4:9-11

SHARE What is one way someone has shown love to you recently? How does knowing that God loved us first help us love others?

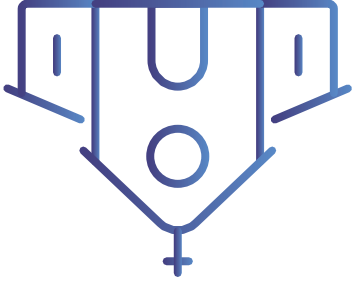
DAY 24



READ Luke 2:1–20

SHARE The arrival of Jesus changed everything. God became like us to rescue us and show us how loved we are. What have you learned about love through Jesus' presence in your life? What's something you've learned from this Advent experience?

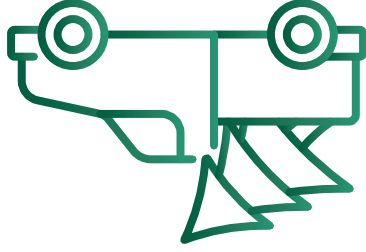
DAY 23



DO Bake a simple treat together as a family, like cookies or muffins, and share them with a neighbor or friend to show them love.

PRAY Dear God, thank you for loving us first. Help us to share your love with others, and to be kind and caring, just like you. Amen.

DAY 24



DO Spend time praying with your family or loved ones. Pray for God to help you live out each of the four themes of Advent in the world (hope, peace, joy, and love).

PRAY God, you love us so much. Thank you for sending Jesus to us so we could experience freedom. Help us show your unending love to others. Amen.

EXPANSION ACTIVITIES



CREATING YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR

- **Turn each card into a gift tag** by punching a hole at the top and adding string. Then hang each tag from your tree.
- **Get envelopes (plus a treat)** and place each card inside along with a small gift, candy, or gift card.
- **Write each action step on a popsicle stick** and pull a random stick from a jar each day.
- **Grab blank ornaments** and write the Scripture reading and action steps on them before hanging them from your tree.
- **Hang cards from clothespins** on a string (bonus points if you decorate the clothespins like reindeers).
- **Light a candle** each time you open a card.
- **Make a digital calendar** and share it with the people you'll take the Advent Journey with.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- **Share Affirmations:** Take a few minutes to share a quality or characteristic you appreciate about someone.
- **Pray Together:** Pray together about a specific issue, topic, or idea.
- **Listen To Music:** Share a song you're into right now and listen to it together.
- **Serve Together:** Find a ministry or local organization and serve together.
- **Do Something Kind:** Perform random acts of kindness each day or throughout the challenge.
- **Rest Together:** Make plans to rest from doing work.
- **Laugh Together:** Pick something that makes you all laugh and enjoy it together.
- **Read By Candlelight:** Light a few candles and reflect on the way Jesus brings light into the world.
- **Bake Something Yummy:** Spend some time making some holiday treats together.
- **Play A Board Game:** Choose your favorite board game and play it together.
- **Watch A Christmas Movie:** Select your favorite Christmas movie and watch it together.
- **Share Your Favorite Christmas Memory:** There are so many memories surrounding Christmas. Share one of your favorites.
- **Create A Christmas Photo Shoot:** Grab some Christmas decorations and your phone camera for a quick Christmas photo shoot.
- **Make An Ornament:** Gather some blank ornaments and art supplies to create some ornaments.
- **Make Christmas Cards:** Spend time making Christmas cards for the loved ones in your life.
- **Wrap A Present:** Take a few moments to wrap presents and share about a favorite gift you've received.
- **Host Christmas Karaoke:** Choose your favorite Christmas song and sing together!
- **Clean Out Your Closet:** Donate some gently used clothes, toys, or other items to a local organization.
- **Take Treats To Your Local Community Helpers:** Make a few gift baskets to hand out to community helpers like crossing guards, school administrators, and librarians.
- **Leave A Kind Message For The Package Deliverers:** Our Christmas season is full of deliveries. Leave a note or a treat for the people who deliver your packages.
- **Call A Relative:** Pick up the phone and have a conversation with a relative.
- **Write A Letter To A Friend:** Write a letter to someone and mail it to them.
- **Mail A Christmas Card:** Find some stamps and mail someone a Christmas card.
- **Help A Neighbor With Their Christmas Decorations:** Ask your neighbors if they need help with Christmas decorations.
- **Take Your Loved Ones To Look At Christmas Lights:** Research some neighborhoods near you that go all out for Christmas. Then, make a trip to look at all of the lights.
- **Make Hot Cocoa And Share Stories:** Make a large batch of hot chocolate and share about the people and things you're grateful for.