ADVENT

2025



LifePoint
CHURCH

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What is Advent?

The word Advent means “arrival.” The season of Advent is a time when God’s people remember the arrival of the Savior, Jesus Christ, into the world. For thousands of years, God’s people waited with great longing and expectation for the One who would come and end the curse of sin. They wept for the Savior who would come and right all the evil sin had wrought. They cried out for the Deliverer who would save them from the sting of death.

Two thousand years ago, in a small town called Bethlehem, that person arrived. He didn’t arrive with shouts of victory. He didn’t appear in a chariot of fire. He came silently, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, a carpenter's son. But, this child was unlike any other. He was God in the flesh, and He had come to save His people.

This season, and this discipleship guide, are meant to help you remember, rejoice, and rest in the sweetness of our Savior’s coming.



Preparing for Advent

Wreath & Candles:

During your weekly Family or Group Discipleship time, you'll light a candle on your Advent wreath to mark the progression of the season. If you don't already have a wreath, plan to gather the materials before November 30th, or consider assembling it together during your first week of worship. Choose a spot in your home where the wreath will remain visible throughout the season, serving as a quiet and continual reminder of the light of Christ.

You will need the following supplies:

- **Three Purple** candles
- One Pink candle
- **One White** candle
- A Wreath (optional)

Purchase the candles and a holder **OR** just the candles only.

The white candle is placed in the center of the candles (or wreath), signifying Christ as the heart of Advent. The other four candles (three purple and one pink) are placed around the white candle in a circular wreath of evergreens or arranged in a straight line if preferred. Both setups serve the same purpose: to visibly mark the progression of Advent and center our attention on Christ.

Candle Lighting Order, Themes & Corresponding Events

Week #	Candle	Theme	Event
Week 1, begins Nov 30	Purple	Hope	Christmas at LifePoint
Week 2, begins Dec 7	Purple	Peace	
Week 3, begins Dec 14	Pink	Joy	
Week 4, begins Dec 21	Purple	Love	
Christmas Eve & Day	White	Christ	Christmas Eve Service

Each week, you light the new candle plus the previously lit ones, culminating in all four being lit before Christmas Eve, then the white "Christ" candle lit on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas Day!

Weekly Discipleship Guide

The Weekly Discipleship Guide is designed to be used once a week during Advent, in a group setting. This could be with family, friends, neighbors, or a Life Group. Each week's guide contains a time of Scripture reading, prayer, reflection, and worship — all focused on preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus. Set aside 15 to 20 minutes on a night when everyone can be present. In the busyness of the season, let this be a quiet and meaningful time to slow down and refocus your heart on Christ.

Group Leadership

Each week, a designated **leader** should guide the time of worship.

- In a family, this should be the father (if a follower of Christ).
- If there is no Christian father in the home, a believing mother or another spiritually mature family member should lead.
- In a Life Group or gathering of friends, the group leader should take this role.

The leader reads the assigned portions marked for them, and the group reads the responsive or assigned group parts.

Structure of Each Week's Worship Time

1. **Candle Lighting:** Begin by lighting the appropriate candle(s) on your Advent wreath for the week.
2. **Catechism Question:** The leader leads the group in a brief catechism question and answer to help the group

learn an important truth surrounding the week's theme.

3. **Scripture Reading:** Read the assigned passage(s) for the week aloud. Encourage different members to participate in the reading when possible.
4. **Reflection / Meditation:** A short reading centered on the weekly theme will draw your attention to Christ and His coming.
5. **Discussion Questions:** Engage with the theme through guided reflection in the form of questions. Use the provided questions to spark conversation, share personal insights, and apply the truth of God's Word.
6. **Live Sent:** Each week, the group will be prompted to do something in response to the truths being discussed.
7. **Closing Scripture Prayer:** A group member reads a short Scripture, and the leader offers a prayer in response to the discussion and Scripture.
8. **Hymn (optional):** Sing or play a carol or worship song that connects with the theme for the week.

Let this be a restful rhythm, not a rushed routine. This guide is not only about remembering Christ's first coming but also about preparing our hearts for His return.

While this guide is structured around weekly worship, many desire a daily rhythm of reflection during the Advent season. If you would like to supplement your Advent journey with daily devotionals, we encourage you to explore the recommended daily resources at: lifept.org/advent

Start Here

Begin with Joining Us For Christmas at LifePoint

As we begin the Advent season, we invite you to gather with the family of God on Sunday, November 30. This special service is designed to model what this weekly guide will lead your family through each week of Advent. Together, we'll worship Jesus, our Immanuel, through carols, responsive readings, and candle lighting. Service times vary by location, and online options are also available.

Visit lifept.org/christmas for times and details.

Week 1 Discipleship Guide

Hope

— Main idea —

We hope in Jesus to save us from our sins, keep all His promises, and live with us forever.

Candle Lighting

Choose a member of the group to light the first purple candle, representing Hope.

LEADER: This candle is a reminder that our hope is not a wish or a feeling, but a person: Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us.

Catechism Question

Each week, you will practice a short catechism question that will help your family/group learn the truth you're discussing. The leader should read the question, and then the group can read the answer together. Choose the question that best fits your group dynamic.

FOR ADULT GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH OLDER KIDS (TEENAGERS):

Q: What is our only hope in life and death?*
A: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS (ELEMENTARY AGE):

Q: What is our only hope in life and death?*
A: That we are not our own but belong to God.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS:

Q: Who is our hope?
A: Jesus

Use this question throughout the week. As you go, try to see if your family/group can recite this from memory.

Scripture Reading

Have someone in the group open a Bible, turn to the passage below, and read it aloud.

Romans 15:13

> [13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Jesus Is Our Hope

Now, the leader of the group should read this lesson and lead through the questions along the way.

Today, we're thinking about how Jesus is our hope.

Often, we use hope to refer to something uncertain about the future we wish will happen. **What are some things you're hoping for right now?**

As followers of Jesus, we know that this world is dark and broken because of sin. We might often find ourselves hoping that all the suffering and sadness that sin brings into this life would go away.

From the moment that sin entered the world, God promised He wouldn't forget about us or leave us alone. He promised a Savior would come for us. He gave His people something to hope in.

Isaiah 7:14

> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

God never speaks empty words. Centuries later, this promise came to pass in the birth of Jesus. We read about this in Matthew 1:21-23:

> [21] She [Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." *22* All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: *23* "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Everyone wishes the future will be better than the present. But, followers of Jesus have something to hold on to that reminds us the future will be better. God came down from heaven to be with us and to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him again. The birth of Jesus is a constant reminder that the God who holds the future loves us and will always keep His promises to us.

God's people don't have to just live with wishful thinking. We have Jesus, God with us, as our real and present Hope.

Reflection Questions

- What's something you're hoping will happen that you don't know will actually happen?
- How does knowing that Jesus was born and God is with you change how you hope for things?
- For younger children: What is something you hope Jesus will do one day?

Live Sent: Be Present with Someone

Each week, let the truth you're reflecting on move your family/group into action.

Since God came to be with us, find someone your family/groups can bless by being present with them. Try one of the following:

- Invite another person/family over for a meal.
- Take a meal to someone's house and eat with them.
- Visit someone you know is sick. Pray with them.

Closing Prayer and Scripture

Have someone in the group read the Scripture below.

Romans 8:31-32

> 31 ...If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Now, the leader should read this closing prayer.

> Lord Jesus, Immanuel, thank You for being our living hope. In a world full of uncertainty, You came near and proved Your love by giving us Your life. When life's storms shake us, strengthen our trust in you. You entered our darkness so we might never be left alone. May the flame from this candle today serve as a reminder that our hope is not built on shifting ground, but on the solid foundation of Your presence. Grant us to stand firm in that hope, to trust You more each day. Amen.

The Singing/Listening of an Advent Hymn (Optional)

Choose one of the songs below that celebrates Immanuel, God With Us.

"O Come, Emmanuel"

"War Cry"

Each week suggested Hymns can be found at lifept.org/advent.

Week 2 Discipleship Guide

Peace

— Main idea —

True peace isn't found in the absence of trouble but in the presence of Christ.

Candle Lighting

Someone in the group should now light the second purple candle, representing Peace, along with the first purple candle, representing Hope.

LEADER: This candle reminds us that peace is not found in our control or circumstances, but in the presence of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.

Catechism Question

Each week, you will practice a short catechism question that will help your family/group learn the truth you're discussing. The leader should read the question, and then the group can read the answer together. Choose the question that best fits your group dynamic.

FOR ADULT GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH OLDER KIDS (TEENAGERS):

Q: How can we have peace with God?
A: By trusting that Jesus died to save us from our sins and to give us access to our Father in Heaven

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS (ELEMENTARY AGE):

Q: How can we have peace with God?
A: By trusting that Jesus died for our sins.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS:

Q: Who brings us peace with God?

A: Jesus

Use this question throughout the week. As you go, try to see if your family/group can recite this from memory.

Scripture Reading

Have someone in the group open a Bible, turn to the passage below, and read it aloud.

Isaiah 9:6

> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus Is Our Peace

NOW, THE LEADER OF THE GROUP SHOULD READ THIS LESSON AND LEAD THROUGH THE QUESTIONS ALONG THE WAY.

Since the fall of humanity in Genesis 3, the world has known strife and brokenness. **What are some ways we see a lack of peace in the world?**

But from the beginning, God promised to restore peace on earth and peace between God and man.

Genesis 3:15 tells us that one of Eve's descendants would crush evil and restore what sin broke. That promise is fulfilled in Jesus, Immanuel, the One who made peace between God and humanity.

We live surrounded by noise, tension, and news that unsettles us. The world seems full of everything except peace. Sometimes, even within ourselves, we feel that same chaos.

From Adam and Eve all the way to our lives today, people have exchanged the peace of God for the chaos and mess of sin. We

see it in our broken relationships, in our anxiety, and in acts of evil in this world.

When sin entered the world from Adam and Eve's disobedience, so did God's promise of peace through a savior. That Savior is Jesus. and He came to bring true peace – peace with God and man and peace all over the world.

No matter how hard we try, no one else can offer a peace as deep, lasting, or real as the peace that comes from Jesus.

Reflection Questions

- Where in your life do you long for peace right now?
- What areas of your heart or relationships feel unsettled?
- How does knowing that Christ is your peace affect how you respond to worry, anxiety, or chaos?
- **For younger children:** Are there any times you feel scared or worried? How can knowing that Jesus is with you calm you down?

Live Sent: Peace through Prayer

Each week, let the truth you're reflecting on move your family/group into action.

Since Jesus died to give us peace with God, we now can access God wherever we are and whenever we need. God's presence brings peace to our lives, and one of the most powerful ways we feel God's presence is through prayer.

So, before you leave this time, think of one person/family to pray for together. Call that family right now and ask how you can pray for them. If they ask why, tell them you want them to feel the peace of God right now!

Closing Scripture and Prayer

HAVE SOMEONE IN THE GROUP READ THE SCRIPTURE BELOW.

Ephesians 2:13-14

> 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

Now, the leader should read this closing prayer.

> Lord Jesus, our Prince of Peace, we praise You that you came to bring us peace with God. You entered our troubled and hurting world to secure for us a peace that the world cannot give and cannot take away. In Your cross, You reconciled us to God and made peace through Your blood. Help us now to live in that peace, not anxiously clinging to control, but humbly trusting in Your love and power. Let Your presence rule in our hearts, even when life is far from peaceful. Amen.

The Singing/Listening of an Advent Hymn (Optional)

Choose one of the songs below that celebrates the peace we have in Jesus alone.

"Silent Night"

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Each week suggested Hymns can be found at lifept.org/advent.

Week 3 Discipleship Guide

Joy

— Main idea —

Our joy is not rooted in circumstances but in Jesus abiding with us no matter what.

Candle Lighting

Someone in the group should now light the pink candle, representing Joy, along with the first two purple candles, representing Hope and Peace.

Leader: This candle reminds us that joy is not a fleeting emotion, but a deep and enduring reality found in Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us.

Catechism Question

Each week, you will practice a short catechism question that will help your family/group learn the truth you're discussing. The leader should read the question, and then the group can read the answer together. Choose the question that best fits your group dynamic.

FOR ADULT GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH OLDER KIDS (TEENAGERS):

> ***Q: Where is our joy found?***
> A: Our Joy is found in the good news that the Father loves us, the Son came to us, and the Spirit will never leave us.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS (ELEMENTARY AGE):

> ***Q: Where is our joy found?***
> A: Our joy is found in God's presence with us.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS:

> ***Q: Because God is with us, what should we always do?***
> A: Rejoice!

Use this question throughout the week. As you go, try to see if your family/group can recite this from memory.

Scripture Reading

Have someone in the group open a Bible, turn to the passage below, and read it aloud.

Luke 1:46–55

46 And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Jesus Is Our Joy

Now, the leader of the group should read this lesson and lead through the questions along the way.

What's one of the happiest moments of your life?

We just read about one of the happiest moments of Mary's life. Mary was filled with wonder when the angel announced that she would give birth to the Messiah. And, just like us, whenever

we experience something wonderful, her response wasn't fear. It was a song of joy.

After 400 years of prophetic silence, God had spoken again. Not through thunder or kings, but through the quiet faith of a young woman. She sang because **joy had come.** God had come!

That same joy is available to us today. It's not based on how our year has gone or what we get for Christmas or what lies ahead. Our joy is based on a person: **Jesus.**

When Jesus was on Earth, he taught his disciples something important about where we find joy that never fades. In John 15:11, Jesus says,

> "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Jesus speaks these words in the middle of His teaching on how His followers can have a deep and abiding relationship with Him. Just before verse 11, He says, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love" (v.10).

In other words, the joy Jesus offers is directly tied to whether or not we're abiding with Jesus. Joy is not circumstantial happiness, but a fullness of joy that comes from living in communion with Christ, rooted in His love, and nourished by obedience.

But remember, we could never abide with Jesus in a real-time relationship if He didn't first come to us and welcome us in. Our joy isn't ultimately found in what we do, but in what Jesus has already done for us.

Reflection Questions

- What are things you find yourself looking to for joy?
- What can we do to deepen our joy in Jesus?

- For younger children: how can knowing that Jesus is with you make you happy no matter what's going on in your life?

Live Sent: Sharing Good News of Great Joy

Each week, let the truth you're reflecting on move your family/group into action.

The Gospel is a message that brings us great joy. Identify a truth about God that brings you joy. Then, identify one person you want to share that truth with this week.

By this time next week, everyone in your family/group should share with whoever they thought of.

Closing Scripture and Prayer

Have someone in the group read the Scripture below.

Philippians 4:4

> 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Now, the leader should read this closing prayer.

Lord Jesus, You have entered the world not to promise ease, but to offer joy that outlasts pain. In You, we see joy in flesh: You had perfect joy in everything you did because You have a perfect relationship with the Father. Let us learn, like Mary, to magnify You and rejoice in our Savior, not because life is easy, but because You have come to be with us. Root our joy deeply in Your love, and teach us to abide in You, that Your joy may be in us and our joy may be full. Amen.

The Singing/Listening of an Advent Hymn (Optional)

Choose one of the songs below that proclaims the joy of Christ's birth and presence.

"Joy to the World"

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Each week suggested Hymns can be found at lifept.org/advent.

Week 4 Discipleship Guide

Love

— Summary —

God's love is not just a feeling.
It's a personal and sacrificial commitment
to our good, seen clearly in Jesus.

Candle Lighting

Someone in the group should now light the remaining purple candle, representing Love, along with the other two purple candles (Hope and Peace) and the pink candle (Joy), as we reflect on God's love made visible in Christ.

LEADER: This candle reminds us that we are warmed by God's personal and sacrificial love for us in Jesus Christ, Immanuel.

Catechism Question

Each week, you will practice a short catechism question that will help your family/group learn the truth you're discussing. The leader should read the question, and then the group can read the answer together. Choose the question that best fits your group dynamic.

FOR ADULT GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH OLDER KIDS (TEENAGERS):

> ***Q: How can we know God loves us?***
> A: We know God loves us because Jesus came to die for our sins while we were still God's enemies.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS (ELEMENTARY AGE):

> ***Q: How can we know God loves us?***
> A: We know God loves us because Jesus died for our sins.

FOR GROUPS/FAMILIES WITH TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS:

Q: Who loves you?
A: God!

Use this question throughout the week. As you go, try to see if your family/group can recite this from memory.

Scripture Reading

Have someone in the group open a Bible, turn to the passage below, and read it aloud.

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your

only son, from me." [13] And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. [14] So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Jesus Is Our Love

Now, the leader of the group should read this lesson and lead through the questions along the way.

What's something you really love?

In Genesis 22, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Like most parents, Abraham loved his son more than almost anything in his life. Even though giving up what we love is heartbreaking, Abraham decided to obey God.

In faith, he declared, "God will provide for Himself the lamb (Genesis 22:8)." And He did. God sent a ram to Abraham so that he would spare Isaac's life.

During Advent, we remember that even though God spared Isaac's life because Abraham loved Him, He was willing to give up His own Son to come to Earth to be killed in our place. In the birth of Jesus, we see clearly that God loves us far more than we think He does.

Think for a moment about what you love most in this world. How hard would it be to give that up? God's love for us is so deep that it holds nothing back to do what is good for us, not even His only Son. 1 John 4:9 tells us, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him."

When God's people receive God's love, it transforms everything about us. The Bible tells us, "We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)." God's love reshapes our identity, renews our relationships, and compels us to sacrifice ourselves for others.

Let this Advent season remind you just how much God loves you, and let His love change how you love others.

Reflection Questions

- Why is it sometimes hard to believe that God loves us?
- How might God be leading you to act in sacrificial love toward someone around you this week?
- For younger children: how does Jesus dying for your sins prove that God loves you?

Live Sent: One Day

One of the easiest ways we can sacrifice ourselves is by giving up the money that God has given us for the good of other people. This Advent season, we're inviting our church to participate in a One Day offering. Simply put, we're inviting you to sacrifice one day of your salary/income for the good of the people of Brussels, Belgium and Bangkok, Thailand.

Together with your group/family, pray and ask God to produce a sacrificial love in each of you. As you pray, ask God to make it clear exactly how you can sacrifice for the good of these people, even if you don't know them.

You can learn more about One Day at lifept.org/oneday.

Closing Scripture and Prayer

Have someone in the group read the Scripture below.

Romans 5:8

> [8]But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Now, the leader should read this closing prayer.

> Almighty Father, thank you for loving us before we loved you. We praise you for sending Jesus to save us and prove how much you love your people. We want to believe that you love us, no matter how we feel. Teach us to abide in your love, and transform us to love our neighbor the way that you love us. We want the world to know your love. Amen.

The Singing/Listening of an Advent Hymn (Optional)

Choose one of the songs below that proclaims the joy of Christ's birth and presence.

"O Holy Night"

"Sing We the Song of Emanuel"

Each week suggested Hymns can be found at lifept.org/advent.

Join Us This Christmas Eve

As we draw near to the celebration of Christ's birth, we invite you to gather with us on Wednesday, December 24 across all LifePoint campuses for a special Christmas Eve service. Each gathering will include carols, communion, and candle lighting as we worship Jesus, our Immanuel. Service times vary by location, and online options are also available. Visit lifept.org/eve25 for times and details.

Christmas Day

Christ Has Come

Candle Lighting
Someone in the group should now light all the candles on the Advent wreath, in the below order:

1. The **1st Purple** candle — **Hope**
2. The **2nd Purple** candle — **Peace**
3. The **Pink** candle — **Joy**
4. The **3rd Purple** candle — **Love**
5. The **White** candle, at the center of the wreath — **Christ**

LEADER: Today, we celebrate and remember that the Savior we've longed for, Jesus Christ, Immanuel, has come. The Light has dawned in the darkness! Each candle has reminded us of what God promised: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. But today, we remember that all these are fulfilled in a person, Jesus of Nazareth.

Scripture Reading:

Have someone in the group open a Bible, turn to the passage below, and read it aloud.

Luke 2:1–21

> [1]In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2]This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4]And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5]to be registered with

Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6]And while they were there,
the time came for her to give birth. [7]And she gave birth to her firstborn
son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn. [8]And in the same region
there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by
night. [9]And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the
Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10]And
the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of
great joy that will be for all the people. [11]For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12]And this will be
a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and
lying in a manger." [13]And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14]"Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
[15]When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16]And they went
with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.
[17]And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told
them concerning this child. [18]And all who heard it wondered at what
the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary treasured up all these things,
pondering them in her heart. [20]And the shepherds returned, glorifying
and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told
them. [21]And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was
called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in
the womb.

When Jesus was born, He came in humility, to redeem us and save us from our sins. And one day, Jesus will come again in glory, not as a suffering, humble servant, but as a conquering King, to restore all things and reign forever in righteousness!

Closing Scripture and Prayer

Have someone in the group read the Scripture below.

Revelation 22:7

> And behold, I am coming soon.

NOW, THE LEADER SHOULD READ THIS CLOSING PRAYER.

> Lord Jesus, we thank you that we get to remember and celebrate your birth. Teach us to live all our lives with grateful wonder at your first coming and eager expectation for your second coming. We believe you're coming back to make all things right. Remove distractions from our lives, and let every gift we receive this Christmas be used to bring good news of great joy to all people! Amen.