



ADVENT FAMILY READINGS



Copyright 2021 by LifePoint Church

This book may not be sold or distributed without prior permission from LifePoint Church.

This book was written and assembled by LifePoint Church. The material and format have been influenced by the Book of Common Prayer (2019), as well as historic Christian prayers found in the Pocket Book of Prayers, published by Barnes and Noble. Some material is taken directly from these sources.

This book was printed at Ingram Books in LaVergne, TN.

For more information, please contact LifePoint Church.

506 Legacy Dr | Smyrna, TN 37167

Website: lifepointchurch.org

Phone: (615) 459-3311

Table of Contents

How To Use This Book	<u>4</u>
Week 1: Peace	<u>6</u>
Week 2: Hope	<u>22</u>
Week 3: Love	<u>36</u>
Week 4: Joy	<u>52</u>
Week 5: Christ	<u>66</u>
Additional Hymns	<u>80</u>
Daily Advent Meditations	<u>84</u>
The Upcoming Year	<u>86</u>

How To Use This Book

Within this book you will find weekly worship guides for you to walk through with your family. The worship guides are meant to follow along with the Scriptures preached at our Sunday gatherings and are distinct from the Daily Advent Meditations (found in the back of the book). The Daily Advent Meditations are to be read separately, during personal devotions.

In this resource, you will find readings, prayers, songs, and activities meant to focus the hearts of your family on the incarnation of the Lord Jesus. Choose one night a week that you know will work for your family, and set aside 15-20 minutes to walk through the guides together. In the midst of busy lives and hectic holiday schedules, it is important that we take time to recalibrate our hearts on Jesus alongside our families.

Certain prayers and sections are assigned to the head of household. This will typically be a Christian father, who will be responsible for leading the family through the worship guide. However, if there is no Christian father in the home, the mother should serve as the head of household. The sections assigned to the family will be those family members other than the head of household.

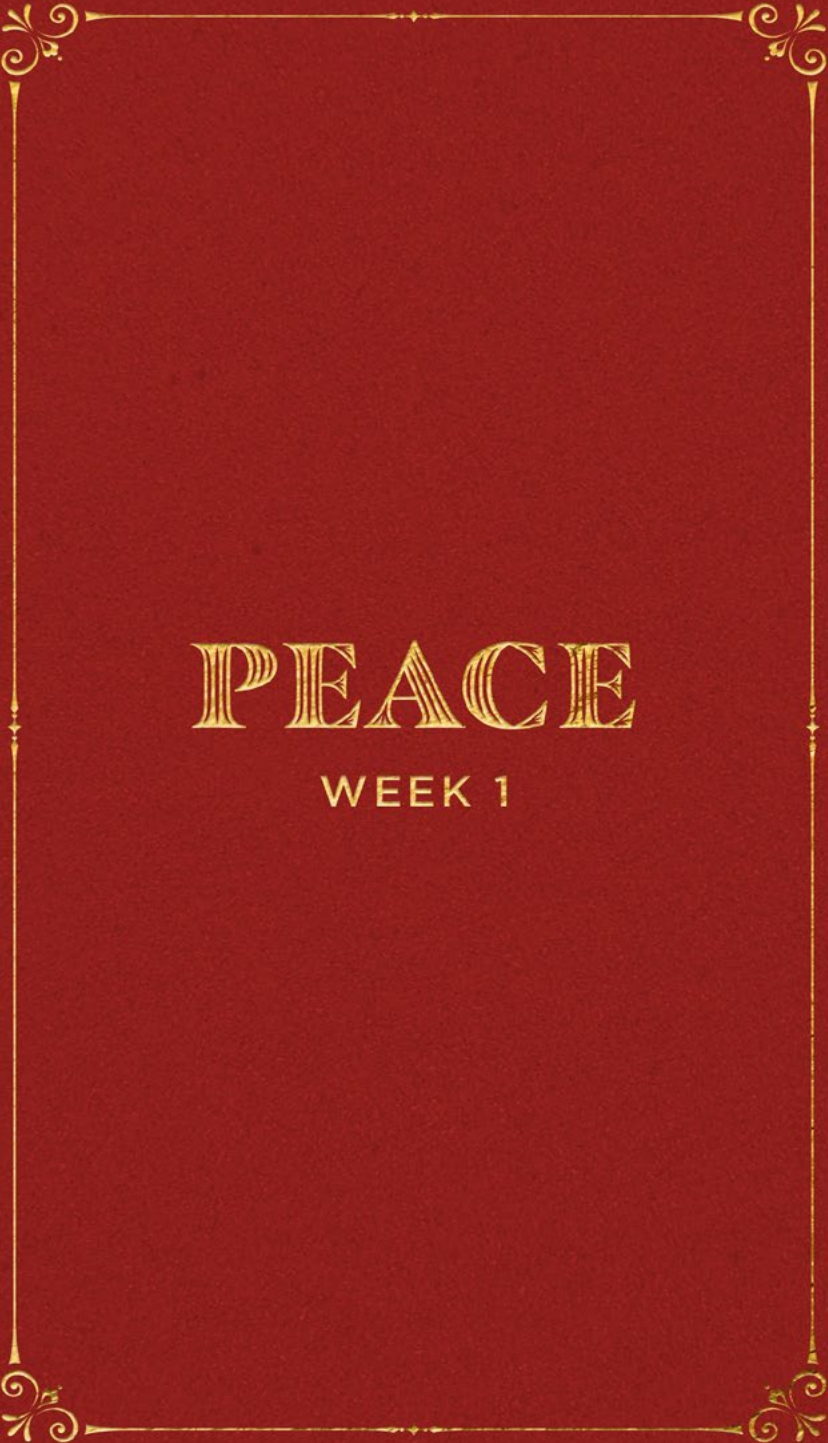
During weekly family worship, your family will light a candle on your Advent wreath. If you do not have one, be sure to gather the materials to make one before you start, or assemble



the wreath with your family during the first weekly worship time. You will need to clear a space for the Advent candles, preferably in a place that is visible during your normal movements throughout the home. You will need five candles (three purple, one pink, and one white). The three purple candles represent Peace, Hope, and Joy; the pink candle represents Love; and the white candle represents Christ. You may also gather other materials with which to decorate your Advent wreath, as well as the place where you put it.

Families with young children may utilize as much of the worship guide as they can, but may be advised to choose one of the passages to read as well as a song to sing. The rest of the guide can be completed with the parents (along with the children who are able to join them) at another time, perhaps after the young ones have gone to bed. An optional family activity is included at the end of each worship guide to provide opportunities to include younger children. Suitable passages from the Jesus Storybook Bible will be listed alongside the first Scripture reading in each worship guide.

Take your time as your family walks through this weekly time of worship. This is meant to be a reflective time with your loved ones. Follow the directions found in the small font. This will lead you through the worship guide.



PEACE

WEEK 1

Opening Blessing



he head of household may begin by reading one or more of the following passages. Read slowly, and allow the words to guide your hearts as you begin your time of worship.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14 —

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

— Psalm 22:3-5 —

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. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11 —



Preparation for Worship

The head of household says:

As we approach the throne of our Holy God, we must do so with open hearts. God teaches us that we are not to hide our sins from Him, but rather, we are to confess them freely so as to receive forgiveness and restoration by His grace. Our God is infinitely full of tenderness and love toward us. He never rejects us, despite our many failures. We will approach Him now to confess our sins and prepare our hearts.

The family will remain silent for 30 seconds while each member privately confesses their sins to God. Families with young children may skip the moment of silence and proceed to the guided prayer, or a parent may lead the children through a personalized prayer.

The head of household will then pray:

Most gracious Father, we thank you for the depths of your mercy toward us. We thank you that you always receive us when we come before you, and that you never cast us away even though we do not deserve your love. Thank you that you hear our confessions and have covered our sins with the blood of Jesus, your Son.

Fill our hearts with peace and truth. Where there is corruption within us, purge it. Where there is error, correct it. Where there is rebellion, bring reformation. Where there is division, bring unity. Let us always walk in the light and love of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.



Preparation for Scripture Reading

The head of household will take a Bible and say to the family:

God's Word is a treasure. It is our source of light, love, and truth. In these pages, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us. This home is built upon God's unfailing Word, and our lives are governed by all that He has commanded. Let us never forget this great gift.

The family will then pray:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Oh Lord, we thank You for Your Word.

FAMILY: Open our eyes to see You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Father, bless us as we read it.

FAMILY: That we may always obey You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ, purify us through it.

FAMILY: That we may always honor You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Holy Spirit, help us to understand it.

FAMILY: That we may always proclaim You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Praise the Lord.

ALL TOGETHER: The Lord's Name be praised.



The Reading of Scripture and Lessons

The head of household will then turn to Genesis 3:1-15. The passage may be read by the head of household, or another family member. Families with young children may turn to page 28 of the Jesus Storybook Bible and read the chapter titled “The Terrible Lie.” This may be done in addition to the Scripture reading, or it may serve as a replacement as long as the Scripture is read at a different time.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

— Genesis 3:1-15 —

At the end of the reading, the family will say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: This is the Word of the Lord.

FAMILY: Thanks be to God.

The head of household will then say:

Today, we are reflecting on Jesus Christ, our Peace. Everywhere around us we see chaos and destruction. It appears that there is no true peace on earth today. Because of our rebellion against God - from Adam and Eve's rebellion to our own - humanity has forsaken the peace of Christ for the chaos of sin. What are the ways this is most evident?

The family will give their answers.

The head of household will then say:

In the story we just read, we saw Adam and Eve rebel against God. But in the last verse, we see God promising to bring redemption to the world that sin corrupted. When Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't give them what they deserved. Instead, He promised that one day a Savior would come. One who would bring grace, forgiveness, and peace to the people of God. Jesus first brings peace between us and God, and through this, He brings peace between us and others. No one can produce lasting and enduring peace like Jesus.

The family will then say together:

Let us praise God for the Peace we have been given in Christ.

FEAR NOT

FOR I BRING YOU

GOOD NEWS

OF

GREAT JOY

LUKE 2:10



The Singing of a Hymn

In a posture of thankfulness and worship, the family will then say or sing this hymn together.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

(Henry W. Longfellow, 1864)^a

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Lighting the Advent Candle

The head of household will go to the Advent table and light the Peace candle, the first candle of the Advent wreath. After doing so, the head of household will join the family and say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The things of this world are passing away.

FAMILY: But God's Word remains forever.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The world is full of pain.

FAMILY: But God's people have everlasting peace.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

FAMILY: Be our Prince of Peace, forever.



Second Scripture Reading *(Optional)*

The head of household will then turn to Isaiah 11:1-9. This passage may be read by any member of the family.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the

adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

— Isaiah 11:1-9 —

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of God remains forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

The head of household will then say to the family:

Through their rebellion, Adam and Eve brought corruption to God's good world. But God promised redemption through a Savior. Even as God's people continued to rebel against Him – even as sin continued to bring death and destruction to the whole world – God never stopped pointing His people to the Peace that the Savior would bring.

In Isaiah 11, we see God promising that the coming Savior would restore His good world from the destructive power of sin. He promises that the Savior would bring peace to the world; He would teach us to love and enjoy God; and He would pour out righteousness on every corner of the earth that sin has stained. This is a powerful and enduring source of Peace for the people of God.

Additional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard On High

(James Chadwick, 1862)^a

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Gloria In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

See within in a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary, Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

Gloria In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Closing Prayer

The head of household will then close with this prayer:

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of Your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of Your wisdom.

All our desire is known unto You, therefore perfect what You have begun, and what Your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek Your face, turn Your face unto us and show us Your glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.

— Saint Augustine (354-430)

The family will then say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The head of household will then say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

— 2 Corinthians 13:14 —



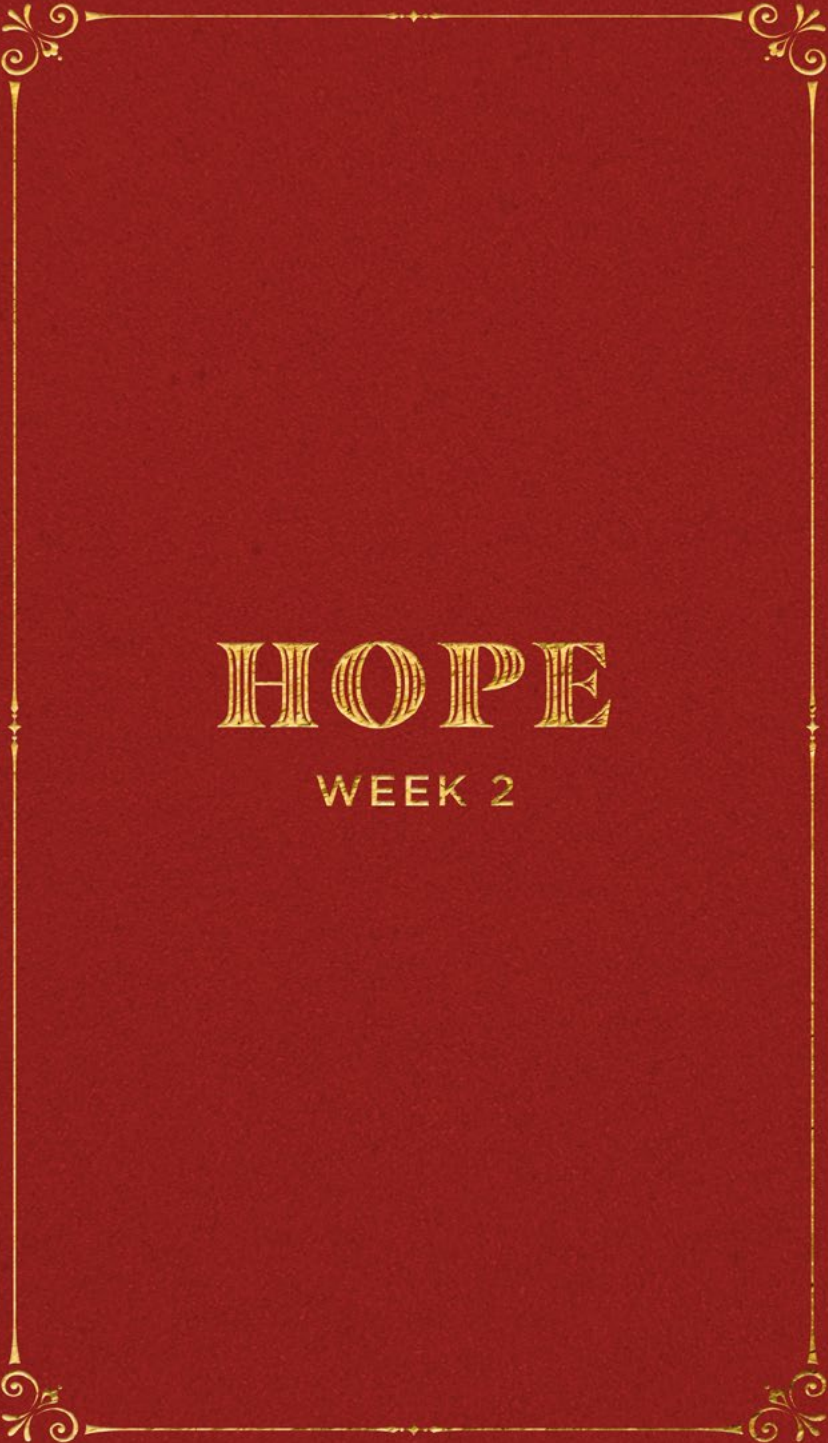
Activities for Families with Young Children

Take some time to enjoy fellowship together with these activities and service opportunities.

Make an ornament for your Christmas tree in the shape of a dove. This reminds us that Jesus brings peace between us and God.

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as a family:

- Meet your neighbors and give out candy canes and/or Christmas cookies with an attached invite to our Christmas Eve service. Talk with your children about the importance of sharing the Christmas story with others.
- Craft a paper chain that wraps around your tree, and explain that Jesus is our link to God (If you have not yet decorated your Christmas tree, do this while listening to Christmas hymns).



HOPE

WEEK 2

Opening Blessing



he head of household may begin by reading one or more of the following passages. Read slowly, and allow the words to guide your hearts as you begin your time of worship.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14 —

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

— Psalm 22:3-5 —

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. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11 —



Preparation for Worship

The head of household says:

As we approach the throne of our Holy God, we must do so with open hearts. God teaches us that we are not to hide our sins from Him, but rather, we are to confess them freely so as to receive forgiveness and restoration by His grace. Our God is infinitely full of tenderness and love toward us. He never rejects us, despite our many failures. We will approach Him now to confess our sins and prepare our hearts.

The family will remain silent for 30 seconds while each member privately confesses their sins to God. Families with young children may skip the moment of silence and proceed to the guided prayer, or a parent may lead the children through a personalized prayer.

The head of household will then pray:

Most gracious Father, we thank you for the depths of your mercy toward us. We thank you that you always receive us when we come before you, and that you never cast us away even though we do not deserve your love. Thank you that you hear our confessions and have covered our sins with the blood of Jesus, your Son.

Fill our hearts with peace and truth. Where there is corruption within us, purge it. Where there is error, correct it. Where there is rebellion, bring reformation. Where there is division, bring unity. Let us always walk in the light and love of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.



Preparation for Scripture Reading

The head of household will take a Bible and say to the family:

God's Word is a treasure. It is our source of light, love, and truth. In these pages, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us. This home is built upon God's unfailing Word, and our lives are governed by all that He has commanded. Let us never forget this great gift.

The family will then pray:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Oh Lord, we thank You for Your Word.

FAMILY: Open our eyes to see You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Father, bless us as we read it.

FAMILY: That we may always obey You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ, purify us through it.

FAMILY: That we may always honor You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Holy Spirit, help us to understand it.

FAMILY: That we may always proclaim You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Praise the Lord.

ALL TOGETHER: The Lord's Name be praised.



The Reading of Scripture and Lessons

The head of household will then turn to Matthew 1:18–25. The passage may be read by the head of household or another family member. Families with young children may turn to page 176 of the Jesus Storybook Bible and read the chapter titled “He’s Here.” This may be done in addition to the Scripture reading, or it may serve as a replacement as long as the Scripture is read at a different time.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All 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). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:

he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

— Matthew 1:18–25 —

At the end of the reading, the family will say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: This is the Word of the Lord.

FAMILY: Thanks be to God.

The head of household will then say:

Today we are reflecting on Jesus Christ, our Hope. Oftentimes, we can forget what great hope we have in Christ because there are so many things that try to take our hope away. What are some things that distract us from the hope we have in Christ?

The family will give their answers.

The head of household will then say:

It's important for us to remember that Christ is greater than the world. Because God the Father sent His Son, we can have confidence that He will work all things for our good and His glory. Scripture says that Jesus shall be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." This title reminds us that no matter the chaos we experience, no matter the pain we endure, and no matter the uncertainty of the future, Christ is always with us. And if God is with us, who can stand against us?

The family will then say together:

Let us praise God for the hope we have in Christ.

BORN

TO SET

Thy

PEOPLE

FREE



The Singing of a Hymn

In a posture of thankfulness and worship, the family will then say or sing this hymn together.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

(Charles Wesley, 1744)^a

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Lighting the Advent Candle

The head of household will go to the Advent table and light the Hope candle, the second candle of Advent wreath. After doing so, the head of household will join the family and say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The things of this world are passing away.

FAMILY: But God's Word remains forever.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The world is full of despair.

FAMILY: But God's people will not lose hope.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Always be near us, Lord Jesus.

FAMILY: We hope in You, always.



Second Scripture Reading (*Optional*)

The head of household will then turn to Isaiah 9:1-7. This passage may be read by any member of the family.

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt the land
of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter
time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land
beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

— Isaiah 9:1-7 —

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of God remains forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

The head of household will then say to the family:

When God first spoke these words to Isaiah, the people of Judah were on the verge of collapse, judgement, and exile. Their sins had brought about great judgement. Foreign powers exiled the Israelites from their homeland. Once again, God's people were bound in slavery. However, it was in the face of this devastation that God gave His people a message of hope. One day, a Child would come who would dispel all darkness and deliver God's people from their enemies. Christ is that promised Child, who delivers His people from the domain of darkness and into the kingdom of light.

Additional Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel

(John Mason Neale, 1861)^a

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud, and majesty and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Closing Prayer

The head of household will then close with this prayer:

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

— Saint Teresa of Avila (1515)

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
Thy beauty of Thy Peace.

— John Greenleaf Whittier (1807)

The family will then say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The head of household will then say:

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.

— Romans 15:13 —



Activities for Families with Young Children

Take some time to enjoy fellowship together with these activities and service opportunities.

Make an ornament for your Christmas tree in the shape of a star. This reminds us that Jesus brings us great hope.

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as a family:

- Make a video wishing all your friends and family a merry Christmas and send it to them. Tell your children that God wants us to tell everyone about the good news of Jesus.
- As a family, film a video for social media, singing a Christmas carol with your family. At the end, invite everyone to our Christmas Eve gathering.



LOVE

WEEK 3

Opening Blessing



he head of household may begin by reading one or more of the following passages. Read slowly, and allow the words to guide your hearts as you begin your time of worship.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14 —

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

— Psalm 22:3-5 —

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. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11 —



Preparation for Worship

The head of household says:

As we approach the throne of our Holy God, we must do so with open hearts. God teaches us that we are not to hide our sins from Him, but rather, we are to confess them freely so as to receive forgiveness and restoration by His grace. Our God is infinitely full of tenderness and love toward us. He never rejects us, despite our many failures. We will approach Him now to confess our sins and prepare our hearts.

The family will remain silent for 30 seconds while each member privately confesses their sins to God. Families with young children may skip the moment of silence and proceed to the guided prayer, or a parent may lead the children through a personalized prayer.

The head of household will then pray:

Most gracious Father, we thank you for the depths of your mercy toward us. We thank you that you always receive us when we come to you, and that you never cast us away, even though we do not deserve your love. Thank you that you hear our confessions and have covered our sins with the blood of your Son, Jesus.

Fill our hearts with peace and truth. Where there is corruption within us, purge it. Where there is error, correct it. Where there is rebellion, bring reformation. Where there is division, bring unity. Let us always walk in the light and love of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.



Preparation for Scripture Reading

The head of household will take a Bible and say to the family:

God's Word is a treasure. It is our source of light, love, and truth. In these pages, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us. This home is built upon God's unfailing Word, and our lives are governed by all that He has commanded. Let us never forget this great gift.

The family will then pray:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Oh Lord, we thank You for Your Word.

FAMILY: Open our eyes to see You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Father, bless us as we read it.

FAMILY: That we may always obey You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ, purify us through it.

FAMILY: That we may always honor You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Holy Spirit, help us to understand it.

FAMILY: That we may always proclaim You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Praise the Lord.

ALL TOGETHER: The Lord's Name be praised.



The Reading of Scripture and Lessons

The head of household will then turn to Genesis 22:1–14. The passage may be read by the head of household or another family member. Families with young children may turn to page 62 of the Jesus Storybook Bible and read the chapter titled “The Present.” This may be done in addition to the Scripture reading, or it may serve as a replacement as long as the Scripture is read at a different time.

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He 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.” ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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.” ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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.

⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He 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.” ¹³And 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. ¹⁴So 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.”

— Genesis 22:1–14 —

At the end of the reading, the family will say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: This is the Word of the Lord.

FAMILY: Thanks be to God.

The head of household will then say:

Today we are reflecting on Jesus Christ, our Love. There is no clearer portrait of God's love than Jesus Christ. What are some of the things you love more than anything else?

The family will give their answers.

The head of household will then say:

There is no love that quite matches the love between a parent and child. In fact, the first time the word "love" appears in Scripture is here in Genesis 22, referring to Abraham and Isaac. The thought of losing his son would have been unbearable to Abraham. But He had faith that the God of love would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. In faith, he obeyed God's commandment. In this passage, we see God's love in His faithfulness to provide a lamb. Now, in Jesus Christ, the Lamb who takes away our sins, we have the greatest display of God's love.

The family will then say together:

Let us praise God for the hope we have in Christ.



The Singing of a Hymn

In a posture of thankfulness and worship, the family will then say or sing this hymn together.

Silent Night

(Joseph Mohr, 1818)^a

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.

HEAVENLY

HOSTS SING

↔
ALLELUIA

Christ THE

SAVIOR IS

↔
BORN



Lighting the Advent Candle

The head of household will go to the Advent table and light the Love candle, the third candle of Advent wreath. After doing so, the head of household will join the family and say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The things of this world are passing away.

FAMILY: But God's Word remains forever.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The world is filled with false love.

FAMILY: But God's people see true love in Christ.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Hold on to us forever, Lord Jesus.

FAMILY: Keep us in Your love, always.



Second Scripture Reading (*Optional*)

The head of household will then turn to John 3:16–21. This passage may be read by any member of the family.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

— John 3:16–21 —

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God remains forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

The head of household will then say to the family:

God spared Abraham's son on Mount Moriah. But on the hill of Calvary, God did not spare His own Son. In the richness of God's love for us—while we were still dead in our sins—He gave us His Son to take the punishment that we deserved. Christ was born to die for the sins of God's people so that, through faith in Him, we may be spared from God's wrath. The Lord Jesus taught us, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Celebrating God's love means remembering the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf.

Praise be to God for His love given to us through Jesus Christ.

Additional Hymn

O Holy Night

(Placide Cappeau, 1847)^a

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;

His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;

Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,

And in his name all oppression shall cease,

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;

Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever!

His power and glory evermore proclaim!

His power and glory evermore proclaim!



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Closing Prayer

The head of household will then close with this prayer:

O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of Thy Holy Spirit.

Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake.

— Saint Ambrose of Milan (400)

O Sovereign and almighty Lord, bless all Your people, and all Your flock. Give Your peace, Your help, Your love unto us Your servants, the sheep of Your fold, that we may be united in the bond of peace and love, one body and one spirit, in one hope of our calling, in Your divine and boundless love.

— Liturgy of Saint Mark (4th century)

The family will then say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The head of household will then say:

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

— Ephesians 3:20–21 —



Activities for Families with Young Children

Take some time to enjoy fellowship together with these activities and service opportunities.

Make an ornament for your Christmas tree shaped like a heart. This reminds us that Jesus shows us the love of God.

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as a family:

- Find winter clothes around your house that you can give away to an organization that helps those in need. Talk to your children about how God helped us in our need by sending Jesus, so we should show God's love by helping others who have need.
- Write Christmas cards for 10 different homes on your street that include the purpose and meaning of Christmas.

JOY
WEEK 4

Opening Blessing



he head of household may begin by reading one or more of the following passages. Read slowly, and allow the words to guide your hearts as you begin your time of worship.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14 —

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

— Psalm 22:3-5 —

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. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11 —



Preparation for Worship

The head of household says:

As we approach the throne of our Holy God, we must do so with open hearts. God teaches us that we are not to hide our sins from Him, but rather, we are to confess them freely so as to receive forgiveness and restoration by His grace. Our God is infinitely full of tenderness and love toward us. He never rejects us, despite our many failures. We will approach Him now to confess our sins and prepare our hearts.

The family will remain silent for 30 seconds while each member privately confesses their sins to God. Families with young children may skip the moment of silence and proceed to the guided prayer, or a parent may lead the children through a personalized prayer.

The head of household will then pray:

Most gracious Father, we thank you for the depths of your mercy toward us. We thank you that you always receive us when we come to you, and that you never cast us away, even though we do not deserve your love. Thank you that you hear our confessions and have covered our sins with the blood of your Son, Jesus.

Fill our hearts with peace and truth. Where there is corruption within us, purge it. Where there is error, correct it. Where there is rebellion, bring reformation. Where there is division, bring unity. Let us always walk in the light and love of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.



Preparation for Scripture Reading

The head of household will take a Bible and say to the family:

God's Word is a treasure. It is our source of light, love, and truth. In these pages, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us. This home is built upon God's unfailing Word, and our lives are governed by all that He has commanded. Let us never forget this great gift.

The family will then pray:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Oh Lord, we thank You for Your Word.

FAMILY: Open our eyes to see You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Father, bless us as we read it.

FAMILY: That we may always obey You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ, purify us through it.

FAMILY: That we may always honor You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Holy Spirit, help us to understand it.

FAMILY: That we may always proclaim You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Praise the Lord.

ALL TOGETHER: The Lord's Name be praised.



The Reading of Scripture and Lessons

The head of household will then turn to Luke 1:46–55. The passage may be read by the head of household, or another family member. Families with young children may turn to page 130 of the Jesus Storybook Bible and read the chapter titled “The Good Shepherd.” This may be done in addition to the Scripture reading, or it may serve as a replacement as long as the Scripture is read at a different time.

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.”

— Luke 1:46–55 —

At the end of the reading, the family will say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: This is the Word of the Lord.

FAMILY: Thanks be to God.

The head of household will then say:

Today we are reflecting on Jesus Christ, our Joy. After all the things she had seen and heard, Mary could not help but sing. Have you ever experienced something so amazing that you wanted to sing about it? Has there ever been a time in your life when you were so overwhelmed with happiness that you had to share it with someone else?

The family will give their answers.

The head of household will then say:

Deep joy evokes in us a desire to speak, shout, and sing. Mary, along with the rest of her people, had been waiting for thousands of years for the promised Savior to come. Not only had they been waiting, but God had also been silent. No prophets had come with a fresh word from the Lord in 400 years. The people of God may have started to fear that God had abandoned them. But the news that Mary received was the sign that God had a greater word for His people: His Word would take on flesh and dwell among us (John 1:1, 14). This news was worthy of songs. And it is why millions of songs have been written about Jesus since Mary first sang hers.

The family will then say together:

Let us praise God for the hope we have in Christ.



The Singing of a Hymn

In a posture of thankfulness and worship, the family will then say or sing this hymn together.

Joy To The World

(Isaac Watts, 1719)^a

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Lighting the Advent Candle

The head of household will go to the Advent table and light the Joy candle, the fourth candle of Advent wreath. After doing so, the head of household will join the family and say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The things of this world are passing away.

FAMILY: But God's Word remains forever.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The world is filled with sadness and sorrow.

FAMILY: But God's people have great joy in Christ.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: We sing praises to You for You are worthy of praise.

FAMILY: Be the joy of our hearts, always.



Second Scripture Reading (*Optional*)

The head of household will then turn to Psalm 16. This passage may be read by any member of the family.

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.”

³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

— Psalm 16 —

—◦— *You make* —◦—
KNOWN ^{TO} ME
THE
PATH ^{OF} LIFE

—◦— *In your* —◦—
PRESENCE
THERE IS
FULLNESS

^{OF} JOY

—◦— PSALM 16:11 —◦—

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God remains forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

The head of household will then say to the family:

True joy can only be found in the Lord Jesus. The world will try to entice us away from Him with promises of joy. But all of these promises fail to deliver what only Christ can give us. We must always turn our hearts toward Christ to satisfy our deepest longings and desires. By His grace, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we must treasure Christ as our greatest desire. He will never leave us wanting or longing for something better. He will never leave us empty or vacant. He will always be faithful to fill our minds with wonder, our mouths with songs, and our hearts with joy.

Additional Hymn

Go Tell It On The Mountain

(John Wesley Work Jr., 1865)^a

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Closing Prayer

The head of household will then close with this prayer:

Lord, because You have made us,
we owe You the whole of our love;
Because You have redeemed us,
we owe You the whole of ourselves;
Because You have promised so much,
we owe You our whole being.
We owe You much more love than we owe to ourselves,
as You are greater than us.
We pray You, Lord, make us taste by love what we taste
by knowledge; let us know by love what we know by
understanding.
We owe You more than our whole selves, but we have no
more, and by ourselves we cannot render the whole of it
to You.
Draw us to You, Lord, in the fullness of Your love. We are
whole Yours by creation; make us all Yours, too, in love.
— Saint Anselm (1033)

The family will then say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The head of household will then say:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

— Jude 1:24–25 —



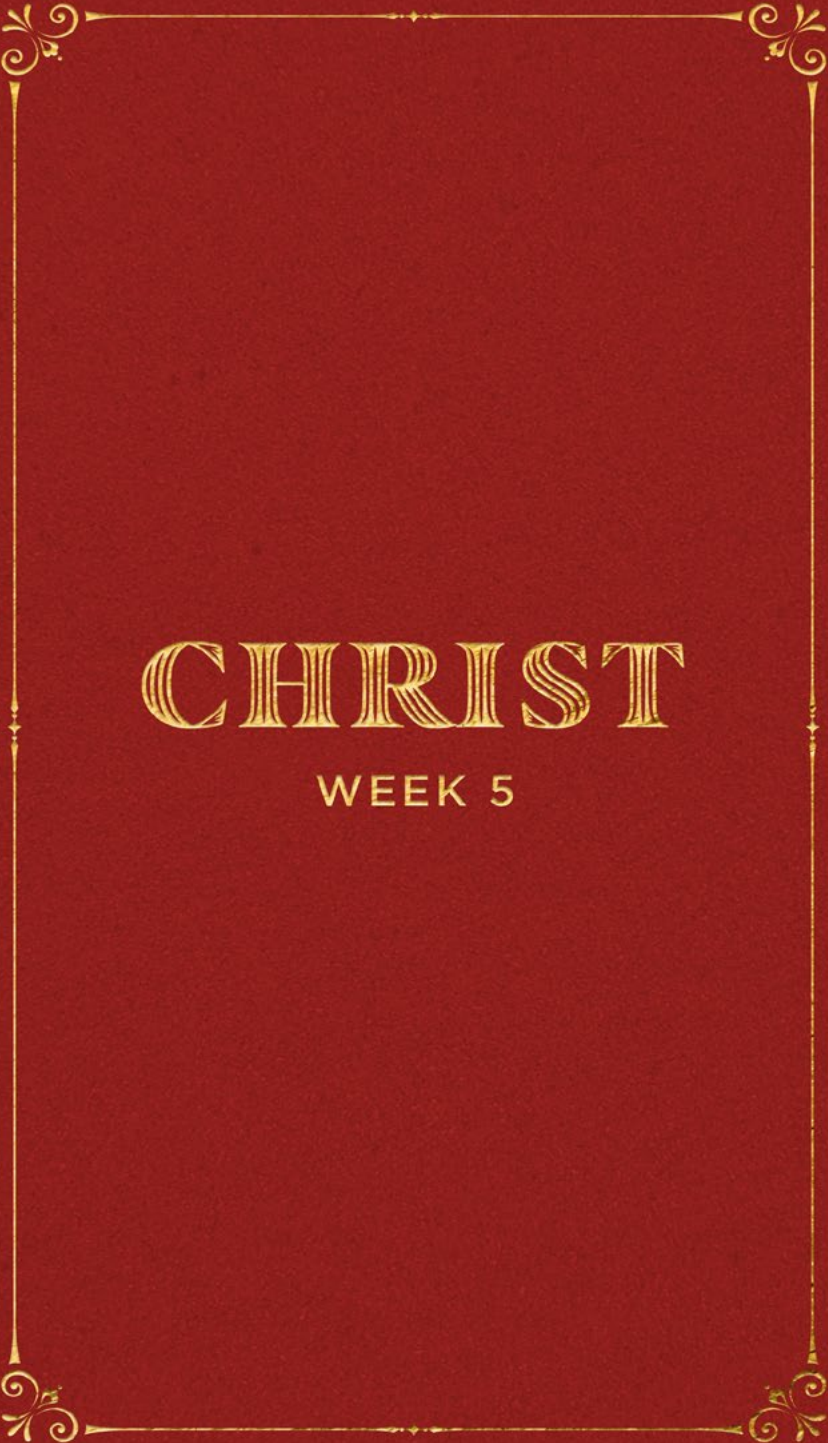
Activities for Families with Young Children

Take some time to enjoy fellowship together with these activities and service opportunities.

Make an ornament for your Christmas tree in the shape of the letter “J.” This reminds us that Jesus brings us great joy.

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as a family:

- Drive around to look at Christmas lights, listening to Christmas hymns. Tell your children that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12), and remind them of this as you look at the lights.
- At Starbucks (or any drive-thru), pay it forward, and ask the cashier if you can leave a note for the car behind you that includes the words of Isaiah 9:6.



CHRIST

WEEK 5

Opening Blessing



he head of household may begin by reading one or more of the following passages. Read slowly, and allow the words to guide your hearts as you begin your time of worship.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14 —

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

— Psalm 22:3-5 —

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. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:10-11 —



Preparation for Worship

The head of household says:

As we approach the throne of our Holy God, we must do so with open hearts. God teaches us that we are not to hide our sins from Him, but rather, we are to confess them freely so as to receive forgiveness and restoration by His grace. Our God is infinitely full of tenderness and love toward us. He never rejects us, despite our many failures. We will approach Him now to confess our sins and prepare our hearts.

The family will remain silent for 30 seconds while each member privately confesses their sins to God. Families with young children may skip the moment of silence and proceed to the guided prayer, or a parent may lead the children through a personalized prayer.

The head of household will then pray:

Most gracious Father, we thank you for the depths of your mercy toward us. We thank you that you always receive us when we come before you, and that you never cast us away even though we do not deserve your love. Thank you that you hear our confessions and have covered our sins with the blood of Jesus, your Son.

Fill our hearts with peace and truth. Where there is corruption within us, purge it. Where there is error, correct it. Where there is rebellion, bring reformation. Where there is division, bring unity. Let us always walk in the light and love of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.



Preparation for Scripture Reading

The head of household will take a Bible and say to the family:

God's Word is a treasure. It is our source of light, love, and truth. In these pages, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us. This home is built upon God's unfailing Word, and our lives are governed by all that He has commanded. Let us never forget this great gift.

The family will then pray:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Oh Lord, we thank You for Your Word.

FAMILY: Open our eyes to see You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Father, bless us as we read it.

FAMILY: That we may always obey You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ, purify us through it.

FAMILY: That we may always honor You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Holy Spirit, help us to understand it.

FAMILY: That we may always proclaim You.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Praise the Lord.

ALL TOGETHER: The Lord's Name be praised.



The Reading of Scripture and Lessons

The head of household will then turn to Luke 2:8–20. The passage may be read by the head of household, or another family member. Families with young children may turn to page 184 of the Jesus Storybook Bible and read the chapter titled “The Light of the World.” This may be done in addition to the Scripture reading, or it may serve as a replacement as long as the Scripture is read at a different time.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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!”

¹⁵When 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.

— Luke 2:8–20 —

At the end of the reading, the family will say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: This is the Word of the Lord.

FAMILY: Thanks be to God.

The head of household will then say:

Christ is the One who makes Christmas special. The good news is that after all the gifts have been opened, the parties have ended, and the food has been eaten, Christ will remain. Christ, the King of Glory, entered the world He created to bring hope, peace, love, and joy. How rich a treasure we possess in Jesus Christ, our Lord! How immeasurable is His greatness and how wonderful is His love! Forever we will praise Him, our Immanuel, our God incarnate, our Savior and King.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God remains forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

GLORY

TO GOD ^{IN} THE

HIGHEST

AND ON EARTH

PEACE

AMONG THOSE WITH

WHOM HE IS

PLEASED

LUKE 2:14



The Singing of a Hymn

In a posture of thankfulness and worship, the family will then say or sing this hymn together.

O Come, All Ye Faithful (We Adore Thee)

(John Francis Wade, translated from Latin, 1743)^b

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him

Born the King of Angels

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

All glory in the highest

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

How we adore thee, How we adore thee

Righteous and Holy

Our Savior

True god from true God,

Light Everlasting

Jesus we love thee

Christ the Lord!



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.

Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

How we adore thee,
How we adore thee
Righteous and Holy
Our Savior
True god from true God,
Light Everlasting
Jesus we love thee
Christ the Lord!



Lighting the Advent Candle

The head of household will go to the Advent table and light the Christ candle, the fifth candle of Advent wreath. After doing so, the head of household will join the family and say:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The earth is the Lord's,
for He made it.

FAMILY: O come, let us adore Him.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Worship the Lord in the beauty
of holiness.

FAMILY: O come, let us adore Him.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting.

FAMILY: O come, let us adore Him.

Additional Hymn

Away In A Manger (Forever Amen)

(Martin Luther, 1882)^c

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
The dawn of salvation beginning to break
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, oh, gift from above
The King of the heavens, forever with us

I worship You, Jesus for all of my days
The highest of praises be unto Your name

My God and my Savior

My King and my friend

Yours is the glory, forever amen

Yours is the glory, forever amen

Yours is the glory, forever amen



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Closing Prayer

The head of household will then close with this prayer:

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

— Saint Patrick (387)

The head of household will then say:

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our
Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

— Revelation 11:15 —

The family will then say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.



Final Christmas Blessing

Members of the family will each say one of these lines to the rest of the family. If there are more lines than family members, someone may say more than one.

May you know the joy of Jesus, and may the joy of Jesus be with you.

May you know the peace of our God, and may the peace of our God be with you.

May you know the hope of the Spirit, and may the hope of the Spirit be with you.

May you know the love of our Lord, and may the love of our Lord be with you.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Christ the Lord will reign forever.

FAMILY: Amen.

The head of household will then say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

— 2 Corinthians 13:14 —



Activities for Families with Young Children

Take some time to enjoy fellowship together with these activities and service opportunities.

For the final week, make an ornament for your Christmas tree shaped like a cross. This reminds us that Christmas is about celebrating the Lord Jesus Christ.

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as a family:

- Watch your favorite Christmas movie together as a family. Tell your children that God sent Jesus to bring us into His family, and encourage them to think on this as you enjoy your time together.
- Play your favorite family game(s) while listening to Christmas hymns.



Additional Hymns

The First Noel

(Anonymous, 1833)^a

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind has bought

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

(Charles Wesley, 1739)^a

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled.”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,

Join the triumph of the skies,

With angelic host proclaim:

“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n adored,

Christ the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come,

Offspring of a Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Sing We The Song Of Emmanuel

(Matt Boswell and Matt Papa, 2019)^d

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark
Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus

Gloria! Gloria!



Scan to sing
hymn with
music and
video.



Daily Advent Meditations

Each day of Advent, set aside time to personally meditate on the passages of Scripture below. Do not rush through them, close your Bible, and move on. Rather, read them slowly. Read them multiple times. Deeply ponder what the words say, and consider what the Holy Spirit shows you through them. Allow yourself to be amazed by the wonder of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.



Before you begin reading, pray this:

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may behold wondrous things out of your Law.

— Psalm 119:18 —



November 28	Isaiah 8:22-9:7
November 29	Psalms 89:19-29
November 30	Isaiah 11:1-10
December 1	Psalms 2:1-12
December 2	Genesis 3:8-15
December 3	Psalms 118:19-29
December 4	Genesis 17:1-9
December 5	Psalms 45:1-9
December 6	Micah 5:1-6
December 7	Psalms 110:1-7
December 8	John 1:1-18
December 9	Matthew 1:1-17
December 10	Luke 1:1-17
December 11	Luke 1:18-25
December 12	Luke 1:26-38
December 13	Luke 1:39-45
December 14	Luke 1:46-56
December 15	Luke 1:57-66
December 16	Luke 1:67-80
December 17	Matthew 1:18-25
December 18	Luke 2:1-7
December 19	Luke 2:8-14
December 20	Luke 2:15-21
December 21	Matthew 2:1-12
December 22	Matthew 2:13-18
December 23	Matthew 2:19-23
December 24	Luke 2:22-32
December 25	Luke 2:33-40



The Upcoming Year

Our prayer is that the family worship guides, daily Advent meditations, and activities in this book have been a great encouragement to you during this season of worship and reflection on the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to end by encouraging you to engaging with the Scriptures and enjoying the Lord Jesus in the coming year.

Discover bible reading plans on our website at lifept.org/bible.

Scan the code below to visit the webpage.



Appendix

^aPublic Domain

^b*O Come All Ye Faithful (We Adore Thee)* by John F Wade, Frederick Oakeley, Travis Ryan, Temitope Peters.

This arrangement, new words and music © 2021 Integrity's Alleluia! Music (SESAC), The Worship Society (SESAC) (both adm at IntegratedRights.com)

^c*Away In A Manger (Forever Amen)* by James Ramsey Murray, John Thomas McFarland , Jonathan Smith, Martin Luther, Phil Wickham. Phil Wickham Music (BMI) Simply Global Songs (BMI) Sing My Songs (BMI) Cashagamble Jet Music (BMI) Be Essential Songs (BMI) (admin at EssentialMusicPublishing.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI # 7138828

^c*Sing We The Song Of Emmanuel* by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, and Keith Getty © 2015 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) / Messenger Hymns (BMI) / Getty Music Hymns and Songs (ASCAP) / Love Your Enemies Publishing (ASCAP) / Townend Songs (PRS) (Admin. by Music Services.org) CCLI #7078042

