

ADVENT Worship Guide 2019

1 Peter 1:8-13

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The time has once again come to celebrate Advent, a season of joyful expectation. “Advent” comes from the Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” During this time, we who follow Christ gather together to celebrate His humble birth, both as a church family and with our individual families. Jesus did not only come as a child; He is coming again as King, so we rejoice in looking back on God’s faithfulness throughout history while also waiting in eager anticipation for his promised return. May this Advent season be full of great hope and celebration for you and your family.

HOW TO PREPARE

Use this guide during your personal or family devotion three times each week between December 1st and December 24th. We also encourage you to join in the traditional practice of lighting a candle for each week of Advent.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Choose three times each week that you and/or your family can sit down together for 10-15 minutes to read, talk, pray, and sing. The first three weeks contain three devotionals that correspond with a particular week of Advent. The fourth week will only have two devotionals.

The third devotion each week coincides with the five candles often used during the traditional practice of an advent wreath. Traditionally, the candles are lit on Sundays, but you and your family may choose to use this guide without a wreath and candles, or to light them on a day other than Sunday. There is also a song each week from the [MyHouse Worship series](#) that goes along with the content for the week. And you can use our [Advent Playlist](#).

The final devotion is designed to be completed on Christmas Eve, serving as a culmination of all the advent devotions. When the final candle is lit, this signifies that Christ the Lamb has come! Our reason for celebration is not in material possessions or even in each other, but in Christ Jesus who came to sacrifice himself in our place.

May God richly bless your family during this season as you look to him.

DECEMBER 1, 2019 WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE
ADVENT WEEK 1 :: HOPE
SONG FOR THE WEEK: [O COME EMMANUEL](#)



RESCUE IS COMING

GET STARTED:

Activity [Younger Kids]: Sing you or your youngest child's favorite Christmas carol together.

Questions [Older Kids & Students]: Has there ever been a time in your life when you needed to be rescued? How did you feel? Where did you look for help? Describe how you felt after you were no longer in danger.

Parents: In the absence of a fitting example, here are [10 historical rescue stories](#).

READ: Genesis 3:15

TALK: From before the time that sin entered the world, God had a plan to rescue His children. It brings great hope to those who follow Christ to remember His promise to save.

PRAY: Thank God that He has promised to rescue His children, and that He has not left us without Hope.

GET STARTED:

Activity [Younger Kids]: Plan a fun activity for your family after your devotion time. (Something such as going to get ice cream or watching a special show or movie and eating popcorn or a special treat that your youngest kids will love) Tell your kids the plan. After reading the verses in Isaiah 9, ask your kids: How are you feeling? Are you excited about what we're going to do? Is it hard to pay attention? Then remind them that this is how God's people felt as they waited for the arrival of Jesus.

Questions [Older Kids & Students]: When is the last time you were really excited about something that was going to happen in the future? What did you do to try to make time go by faster? Were you able to focus? Why is it so hard to wait when you are excited?

READ: Isaiah 9:6-7

TALK: God was reminding His children of this promise to send Jesus, who would be the Hope of all the world. Not only was Jesus promised to come, but He was promised to come as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. He was promised to come as God who could save God's people from their sin.

PRAY: Thank God for a sense of expectation around the Christmas season. Ask God to help that sense of expectation for the celebration of Jesus more than anything else.

GET STARTED:

Ask one member of your family to light the first candle of the advent wreath.

READ: Romans 15:12-13

PRAY: Thank the God of hope that He did what He said He would do. God sent Jesus, through a specific family, in a specific way, at a specific time, so that hope may abound.

EXPECTA- TION IS BUILDING

HOPE