

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 8, 2019 WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

ADVENT WEEK 2 :: PREPARATION

SONG FOR THE WEEK: [COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS](#)



FAITH IN HIS WORD

GET STARTED:

Activity [Younger Kids]: Practice remembering a very easy Bible verse together with your kids. Shorten the verse for younger kids. And make fun motions to go with the words to help everyone remember. I.e. Luke 1:30. For younger kids you may only try to remember 'Do not be afraid.' Or, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'

Questions [Older Kids & Students]: Has anyone you know ever shared with you news that was hard to believe? Did you ask them questions to learn more or did you take them at their word?

READ: Luke 1:26-33, 38

TALK: What the angel said to Mary was difficult to believe and her first response was to be afraid. But after reassurance that the Lord intended this for good, Mary settled in her heart, agreed with God, and said, "Let it be to me according to your word."

PRAY: •Thank God that His Word is true and can be trusted always, even when it promises things that seem impossible.

•Ask God to help you trust His Word.

•Begin praying for people and families you will invest in this Christmas season.

GET STARTED:

Activity [Younger Kids]: Play a game of...anything! Promise your kids that if they complete the game, they get a prize. Play the game quickly and keep your word and give them a prize. Keep in mind that the game should be something they can win or complete. A simple prize like a piece of candy or something they need that you've already purchased (like a toothbrush) will do.

Questions [Older Kids & Students]: Has anyone you know ever broken a promise that they made with you? What does it feel like to have that happen to you?

READ: Luke 2:1-7

TALK: In God's higher and perfect ways, He had Joseph and Mary making their way to Bethlehem. Once there, Jesus was born, just as had been prophesied (or said would happen) in Micah 5:2. God was fulfilling His promises.

PRAY: •Thank God that He always keeps His word and fulfills His promises.

•Ask God to help you to believe everything He has said He will do.

GET STARTED:

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

READ: Luke 3:4-6

PRAY: •Thank God for those He used to prepare the way for Jesus.

•Ask God to help you prepare room in your heart for Him to work this Advent season.

Continue praying for how you will demonstrate Christmas to your ONE.

FULFILLMENT OF HIS PROPHECY

PREPARATION