



ADVENT

PREPARE • FOR
HIS • COMING



What is Advent?

ADVENT – COMING OR ARRIVAL.



The season of Advent consists of Christmas Day and the four weeks prior to it. Advent in the Christian tradition is the beginning of the liturgical or Christian Calendar.



Historians don't know for sure when Advent started being observed, but in the 400s, when December 25 was established as Christmas, Christians started fasting for the month leading up to it. Within the church calendar, Advent refers to the first coming of Christ (His birth at the Nativity) and the Second Coming of Christ (His

return to redeem His people). We focus on the first coming of Christ for the month of December in anxious anticipation of His birth. Churches around the world dedicate a portion of their services on the four Sundays of Advent to the lighting of the Advent candles on a wreath to remember the tenants of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Christ Candle - Light. The wreath, is a circle representing eternity. The lighting of the candles, reading of Scripture and reflection creates anticipation for Christmas Day. We hope that this daily reminder of Christ's coming will bring you closer to Christ during this Advent season.



How to Use This Guide.



Although traditionally Advent wreathes and Advent candles were used in churches, Christians have adopted this traditional way of celebrating **IN THEIR HOMES** during Advent season.



This booklet can be used year after year by adjusting the starting date.

Advent starts four Sundays before December 25.
(See below)

This can be anywhere from November 27 to December 3.



Start date is four Sundays from **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**THIS BOOKLET IS A
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
FOR ALL THE DAYS
OF ADVENT.**

Each day there will be candles to light, a reading of Scripture and a reflection question. Traditionally, the candles are lit and allowed to

burn during a meal. You can develop your own tradition of time for Advent reflection based on what fits your schedule.

A green wreath with four pillar candles inset and one center candle is needed.



Week 01
HOPE

Week 02
PEACE

Week 03
JOY

Week 04
LOVE

**Lighting
Order**



Dec 25
LIGHT
(Center)



Hope

WEEK ONE

As much as possible, start today's Advent time in darkness then light the first candle and read below. Each day light the Candle of Hope

Light the Candle of Hope

Day 1 On the first Sunday of Advent we light the first of five candles - the Candle of Hope. The season of Advent prepares our hearts for receiving the hope of all mankind - Jesus - God in the flesh. Advent is filled with expectation and has been that way for thousands of years. Today we hope for a tree, decorations, presents and time with loved ones. In earlier years before Christ was on earth, God's people hoped for something else - a Savior. For 500 years God had been silent, but His people knew He had promised them a Messiah. He gave them hope in the darkness. We can begin to see how this light will make a difference in the darkness. God promised, people hoped

for a Savior, and Christ's coming as an infant was the promise kept.
God is faithful!

Read – Matthew 1:23 - Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

Day 2

Read – Psalm 33:21 - Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we **hope** in you.

Reflect – How does God's love give you hope?



Day 3

Read – Psalm 71:14-15 - But I

will **hope** continually and will praise you yet more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

Reflect – How does God's salvation for us give you hope?

Day 4

Read – Jeremiah 14:22 - Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our **hope** on you, for you do all these things.

Reflect – How does God's ability to do all things give you hope?

Day 5

Read – Romans 15:13 - 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**.

Reflect – How does **hoping** in God bring peace in your life?

Day 6

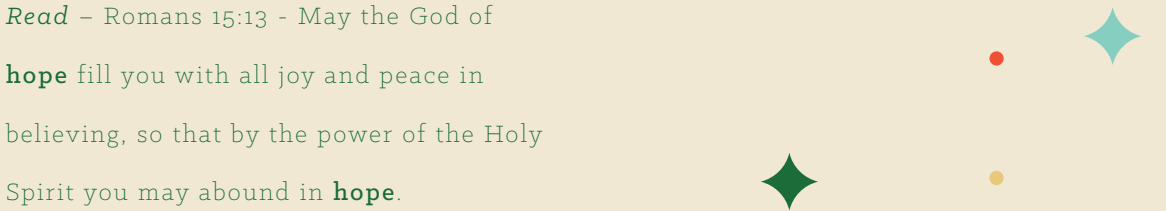
Read – Psalm 71:5 - For you, O Lord, are my **hope**, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Reflect – How does trusting in God bring you hope?

Day 7

Read – Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

Reflect – How does hoping in God affect your future?



Peace

WEEK TWO

We light two outer candles starting with the Hope candle from last week and a new candle – Peace. Daily light the two candles and read the corresponding text below.

Light the Candles of Hope and Peace

Day 1 - This second Sunday of Advent we focus on peace. Advent allows Christ followers an opportunity to feel the peace of anticipation. When you know for certain that something you have waited on is going to happen, you rest in the peace of knowing. We know Christ came to save us and to bring us eternal peace. Jesus is referred to as the Prince of Peace – the only true source of peace for our hearts and minds. Knowing we have eternal life through this infant who came to earth as our Messiah brings a peace that sometimes we cannot understand in our own hearts.

Read – Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the

government shall be upon[a] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of **Peace**.

Day 2

Read – Isaiah 26:3 - You keep him in perfect **peace** whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Reflect – How does keeping your focus on God's character bring you peace?

Day 3

Read – Psalm 4:8 -In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.



Reflect – How are you able to rest in God's peace?

Day 4

Read – Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes **peace**, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Reflect – How does the good news of the Gospel bring peace?

Day 5

Read – Ephesians 2:17-18 - And He (Christ) came and preached **peace** to you who were far off and **peace** to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Reflect – How did Christ's coming at Christmas bring peace to the world?

Day 6

Read – Luke 2:14 - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among those with whom he is pleased!"

Reflect – How does the Angel's heralding that Christ's coming would bring peace show the importance of God's peace?

Day 7

Read – Phillipians 4:7 - And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reflect – How does God's peace guard your heart and mind?



Joy

WEEK THREE

We light three outer candles starting with the Hope candle, Peace candle and a new candle – Joy. Daily light the three candles and read the corresponding text below.

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy

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Day 1 – On this third Sunday of Advent, we add joy to our celebration of hope and peace in the expectant coming of Jesus our Messiah. The lighting of the candle of joy reminds us of the joy that knowing Christ brings to our lives and the joy that Christ’s coming brings to the world. During the Christmas season we sing “Joy to the World, the Lord has come” much as the angels sang to the shepherds heralding the arrival of Christ as a baby born in a manger that night. We find joy in the fact that God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior, the Savior of all mankind.

Read – Luke 2:9-11 - 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. 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.

Day 2

Read – Romans 15:13 - 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.

Reflect – How do God’s joy and peace allow you to abound in hope?





Day 3

Read – Nehemiah 8:10 – The **joy** of the Lord is my strength.

Reflect – How can you find strength in the joy of the Lord?

Day 4

Read – Psalm 32:11 – Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for **joy**, all you bright in heart!

Reflect – How can you shout for joy during this Advent season?

Day 5

Read – Isaiah 35:10 – And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting **joy** shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and **joy**, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reflect – How do you feel about the everlasting joy you will have in eternity as a Christ?

Day 6

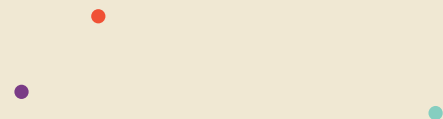
Read – Isaiah 55:12 – For you shall go out in **joy** and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Reflect – How does knowing that even nature praises the Lord bring joy to your heart?

Day 7

Read – Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Reflect – How important is joy as a Christ-follower?



Love

WEEK FOUR

We light four outer candles starting with the Hope candle, Peace candle, Joy candle and a new candle – Love. Daily light the four candles and read the corresponding text below.

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

Day 1 – On the fourth Sunday of Advent we focus on the immeasurable love that God has for His creation by sending His Son to save us. Our hope for eternal peace brings joy to our hearts, which are filled with love for all people during this Advent time. Christmas can bring times of frustration and stress. As we anxiously await celebrating Christ's birth, may we be filled with God's love for others. He sent His one and only Son to die for us. How can we not show that love to those around us, especially during Christmas! As we show His love to others we honor Him.

Read – 1 John 4:10 - In this is **love**, not that we have **loved** God but that He **loved** us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Day 2

Read – Deuteronomy 6:5 – You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might.

Reflect – How can you grow in your love for God because of what He did for you?



Day 3

Read – Psalm 13:5 – But I have trusted in your steadfast **love**; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Reflect – How does knowing God's love is never changing affect your faith in Him?

Day 4

Read – Luke 6:27 – But I say to those who hear, **love** your enemies, do good to those who hate you

Reflect – How can you show love to those who are difficult during this Advent season?

Day 5

Read – Matt. 17:5 - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I **love**; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Reflect – How does Christ's position as God's loved Son motivate us to listen to Him in our daily lives?



WEEK FOUR

*Light Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Center
Christ Candle - The Candle of Light*

Merry Christmas! Today is the day we have been anxiously awaiting – Christ has come to earth. We have prepared our hearts during this season to be prepared for His coming. Christ the King comes through this birth of a baby in Bethlehem. This final candle we light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world – the Messiah, Savior. Light changes the darkness in an instant to illuminate hope, peace, joy and love. Remember the first day when you lit the candle of Hope in darkness? Our world is dark and Christ's light changes everything. His coming to the world allows people to find hope in eternal salvation. His human journey on earth began in a stable and ended with the fulfillment of His mission to take on the sins of the world by dying on a cross. He was resurrected to glory and seated at the right hand of the Father. Christians anxiously await His coming again. Take this time to reflect on all that Christ our Savior means to you!

Read Christ's words– John 8:12 – I am the **light** of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.



