

Advent Guide for Family Worship



*Tips for transforming
your Christmas Season.*



baptistgeneralconventionofoklahoma

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

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At some point in mid-November, we will be climbing up into the attic to get our Christmas decorations out. We will deck the halls, hang the lights on the house, trim the tree, and begin to transform our homes into Christmas showplaces.

For Christians, this tradition of decorating our homes can be a symbol of the transformation that the Christ of Christmas makes in our lives. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says,

Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away and behold all things have become new.

Because Christ came into the world and into our lives, the ordinary homes of our hearts have been transformed into palaces of joy and celebration with the King of kings residing there.

During this advent season, think about the wonderful transformation that Jesus Christ has made in your life. Renew your commitment to live our this transformed life daily.

This Advent Guide for Family Worship was designed to guide your family through daily exploration of why Christ came and how He can impact your life and family. Use the Daily Bible Readings as a framework for your family worship. Be creative. Incorporate the Advent Activities into your holiday preparation, family worship, and holiday celebrations.



Daily Bible Readings

What was said about Christ's divinity?

December 1: He is Pre-existent

- Micah 5:2-4
- John 1:1-5

December 2: He is Jehovah

- Isaiah 40:3
- Matthew 3:3
- Psalm 24:7-10
- I Corinthians 2:8

December 3: He is First and Last

- Isaiah 44:6; 48:12-16
- Revelation 1:17; 22:13

December 4: He is the Eternal God

- Psalm 102:24-27
- Hebrews 1:8-12

December 5: He is the Creator

- Isaiah 40:28
- I John 1:3
- Colossians 1:16-17

December 6: He is King of kings

- Daniel 10:17
- Revelation 1:5; 17:14

December 7: He is Emmanuel

- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 1:18-25

What was prophesied about Christ?

December 8: Humanity

- Deuteronomy 18:15-19
- John 1:14

December 9: Ancestry

- Genesis 3:15
- Galatians 4:4
- Isaiah 9:7; 11:1
- Matthew 1:1-6
- Revelations 22:16

December 10: Birth

- Micah 5:2
- Matthew 2:1; 1:18-23
- Isaiah 7:14

December 11: Death

- Zechariah 11:12
- Matthew 26:15; 26:62-63
- Isaiah 53:4-7

December 12: Resurrection

- Isaiah 53:9
- Matthew 27:57-60
- Psalm 68:18
- Luke 24:50-51

What was said about Christ, the Messiah?

December 13: Messianic Psalm

- Psalm 72:1-20

December 14: Messianic Psalm

- Psalm 118:19-29

December 15: Benedictus (Simeon's Song)

- Luke 2:21-31
- Isaiah 42:6-7

What was said about Christ's Mission?

December 16: Cleanse of Sin

- Zechariah 3:1
- Malachi 3:2-3
- Matthew 3:11-12

December 17: Be the Light

- Isaiah 42:6-7
- Luke 1:67-79
- John 8:12

December 18: Preach the Good News

- Isaiah 61:1-3
- Luke 4:14-21

December 19: Save the World

- John 3:13-18

What was said about Christ's Incarnation?

December 20: Righteous Branch

- Isaiah 42:6-7; 11:1
- Matthew 1:1, 16-17

December 21: Virgin Birth

- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 1:13-23

December 22: Angel's Prophecy

- Luke 1:18-23

December 23: Magnificat (Mary's Song)

- Luke 1:39-56

December 24: Birth

- Luke 2:1-7

December 25: Shepherd's Visit

- Luke 2:8-20

What does your life say about Christ?

December 26: Life and Living

- John 10:10

December 27: Ministry

- Matthew 20:25
- Mark 10:41-45

December 28: Service

- Matthew 25:34-40

December 29: Witness

- Isaiah 43:10
- John 1:29-45

December 30: Worship and Praise

- John 4:24
- Psalm 95:6

December 31: Love

- John 13:35
- I John 3:14-24



Advent Family Activities

- **Adopt a missionary.** Correspond with the missionary during the advent season and continue throughout the new year.
- **Form an Advent group.** Get together once a week at someone's home. Share the Advent story and dessert. Pray for each other during the Advent Season.
- **Use the Advent story as the focus for a holiday party.** Go caroling in your neighborhood or to senior adults from your church. Attend a local Christmas program at your church or school. Finish the evening with dessert and the Advent story.
- **Worship with an Advent wreath.** One beautiful tradition is that of lighting the candles of an Advent or Christmas wreath. Place four purple or pink candles, and one white candle, within an evergreen wreath. Begin four weeks before Christmas. Light one purple or pink candle each week as you read the suggested Bible readings for that day. Light the white candle on Christmas Eve or day as you pray and thank God for the birth of Jesus.
- **Use a nativity scene.** Make or purchase a nativity set. Select a set that is non-

breakable so young fingers can touch and move the characters. Allow the children to move the figures while you read Luke 2:1-20.

- **Worship through giving.** Have the children decorate a jar or container to put pocket change in throughout the Advent Season. Give this money as a part of your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Many local charities provide opportunities for you to assist a needy family during the holiday season. Contact your church office, Salvation Army, or other charities for ideas.
- **Sing or play Christmas music.** Sing around your Christmas tree. Sing as a part of family worship. Sing while you do the dishes together or as you get ready for bed. Let your children hear *Away in a Manger* more often than a song about a reindeer.
- **Build your own family traditions.** Advent is a great time to help children build holiday traditions. Here are some ideas. Set aside a day for everyone to help decorate your home for the Advent/Christmas season. Schedule a movie night to watch your favorite holiday movies. Mixing the focus of secular and sacred is confusing to children. Home can be a place for both but keep them separate.
- **On Christmas Day before presenting gifts to one another, read the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1-20 and have a time of prayer thanking God for sending us the greatest Gift of all.** Impress upon your family the significance of giving and receiving gifts at this joyous occasion. Make it a celebration but keep the focus on Christ!