



A
Family
ADVENT
Calendar



Starting four Sundays before Christmas (that's December 1 this year!), Advent is a season of expectation and preparation leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas day, so it ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we can reflect upon the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus' birth brings to all of us.

For a lot of families, it can be hard to keep Jesus at the center of their thoughts and celebrations. The season certainly has a lot going on! Between getting the Christmas tree up, watching our favorite Christmas movies, baking cookies, and Christmas parties, it's easy to get distracted. That's why this family-friendly Advent calendar was created—to help your family have super-doable ways to draw your family's attention to Jesus as you continue to enjoy the festivities.

Plan the best time and place for your family to do these activities. Is it at breakfast, in the car, at dinner, or at bedtime? Whenever and wherever it is, put this calendar and a Bible there right now so it's easier to remember!



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus Brings Hope



Pick someone to read Isaiah 7:14.

Did you know this promise was about Jesus and it was foretold around 700 YEARS before his birth? This brought a lot of hope to God's people. Jesus gives all of us hope still today!

Let everyone in your family share about something they're looking forward to that feels like it's 700 years away.



Print out a copy of the "Jesus Brings Us Hope" coloring sheet (included on page 7) for each person in your family.

Sit around the table, play your favorite Christmas music, and color as you sing!

Hang your creations where you can be reminded that **Jesus brings hope** all season long.



Pick someone new to read Isaiah 7:14.

Have you ever stopped to wonder why God chose to send Jesus to earth as a baby?

As a family, write down feelings people have when they hear someone is having a baby.

Then talk about why you think God may have chosen to send us hope through a baby.



Take a trip to the grocery store, and pick up a cake (or other birthday treat) and some birthday candles.

Put one candle for each family member on your cake. Before you blow them out, honor Jesus by saying a family prayer. Let each family member tell Jesus what they love about him.

As you eat cake, have everyone share what flavor of birthday cake they'd make for Jesus and why.



Pick someone to read Jeremiah 29:11.

No matter what happens, God has a *good* plan for each one of us. Just like God had a plan to send Jesus so we can be forgiven, forever friends with God. God showed us we can trust his plans because, as God promised, Jesus was born!

Write out Jeremiah 29:11 and draw a picture of Jesus on a sheet of paper. Hang it on the fridge for a reminder of God's good plans and the hope we have in Jesus.



Talk about this today:

If you could spend the day with Jesus, what would you talk about with him?



Pick someone new to read Jeremiah 29:11.

Invite everyone to share the best part about their week. Then pray together and thank God for your family's highlights of the week.

"All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')." Isaiah 7:14

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'" Jeremiah 29:11

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus Brings Peace

8

**Pick someone to read
Philippians 4:6-7.**

We *all* worry sometimes. But God's special Word for us—the Bible—tells us to pray about our worries so something wonderful can happen.

Have each person share something they're worried about. Then pray together, asking God to melt these worries away.

9

**Print out a copy of
the "Jesus Brings Us
Peace" coloring sheet
(on page 8) for each
person in your family.**

Sit around the table, play your favorite Christmas music, and color as you sing!

Hang your creations near each person's bed for a sweet-dreams reminder that **Jesus brings peace** all season long.

10

**Have everyone grab their
pillows and head to the
family room.**

Search for a playlist of peaceful music. Turn out the lights, and have everyone lie in a circle with heads on pillows close together.

**Pick someone to read the text
in bold from Philippians below.**

Play the music you selected, and tell everyone to close their eyes and focus on telling God what they need.

11

**The Christmas season
can be joyous...and
stressful. Here's a
quick way to release
some pressure.**

Find one thing you can eliminate from your calendar that will give you more space and time to relax. Decide as a family, and talk about what you'll do to enjoy that time instead.

12

**Pick someone to read
Matthew 6:27.**

Invite everyone to tell about how worry makes them feel.

Jesus came to bring peace to the world. Worry steals our joy and our peace! As a family, come up with some ways you can remember to pray any time you start to worry.

13

**Discuss this as a
family today:**

What are ways we can stay focused on Jesus during this Christmas season?

14

**Pick someone new to
read Philippians 4:6-7.**

Ask everyone to share a time in this last week when praying about their worries helped them relax and feel more peace.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

"Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?" Matthew 6:27

Before this week starts, go to the grocery store and pick up some hot chocolate, marshmallows, and whipped cream!



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus Brings Joy

15 Pick someone to read John 15:9-11.

God loves us, and he commands us to love others. Why? Because love fills us with great joy.

Talk about how your family can love others and bring them joy in the new year.

16 Print out a copy of the "Jesus Brings Us Joy" coloring sheet (included on page 9) for each person in your family.

Sit around the table, play your favorite Christmas music, and color as you sing!

Hang your creations where you can be reminded that **Jesus brings joy** all season long.

17 Pick someone new to read the bold text from John below.

Make some hot chocolate for everyone, and let your family members "overflow" their cups with marshmallows or whipped cream.

As you enjoy your mugs of happy, have everyone talk about the best part of this week so far.

18 Have everyone share...

What's the most fun you've ever had with our family in the days leading up to Christmas?

19 Pick someone to read Psalm 98:4.

Psalm 98 inspired the song "Joy to the World."

Find the song online. Listen to and/or sing it as a family.

Then let everyone share what makes their joy overflow at Christmastime.

20 Have everyone share what kind of food puts a smile on their faces.

Plan to make Christmas cookies or some other "shareable" food as a family this weekend!

Put a smile on someone else's face by giving some away! Choose someone special as a family.

21 Pick someone to read Revelation 21:4-5.

Just four more sleeps until the day of Jesus' birth!

Jesus is the best gift we can ever hope to receive. He brings us eternal life. A life that's nothing like the life we live here today. A life with "no more death or sorrow or crying or pain." Wow! That's something to be joyful about.

Pray as a family and thank God for the gift of Jesus.

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" John 15:9-11

"Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!" Psalm 98:4

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!'" Revelation 21:4-5

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus Brings Love



22 Pick someone to read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** and verse **13** as well.

As a family, discuss what these Bible verses tell us about love. Make sure everyone gets a chance to share.



23 Talk about this: **Who are friends and family members we could tell about how much God loves them?**

Print copies of the "God loves you!" note (included on page 10). As you talk about people, write their names in the blank spaces.

Put the note in a Christmas card, and mail it or drop it off on their porch with a small gift. It might be late in the season, but it's never too late for people to hear that God loves them!



24

24 Today is Christmas Eve and the last day of Advent.

Pick someone to read 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Gather around your Christmas tree or a lit candle. Search online for the song "Silent Night" and play it. After the song, pray together and thank God for sending Jesus—the Light of the World who shows us God's amazing love.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Three things will last forever—faith, hope and love—and the greatest of these is **love."** 1 Corinthians 13:13

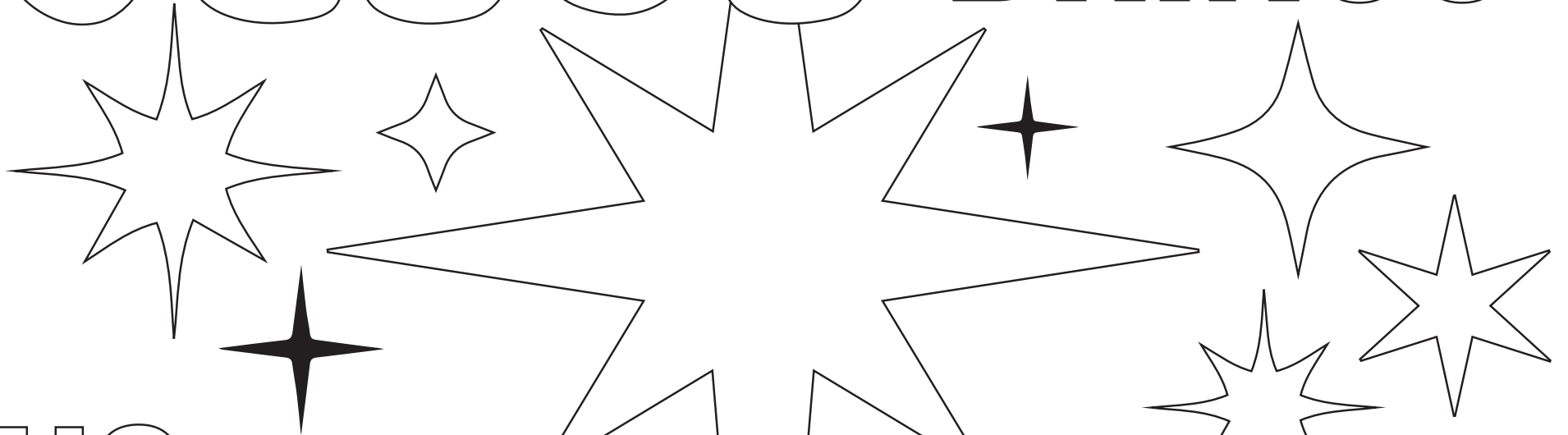
JESUS
BRINGS US
HOPE!



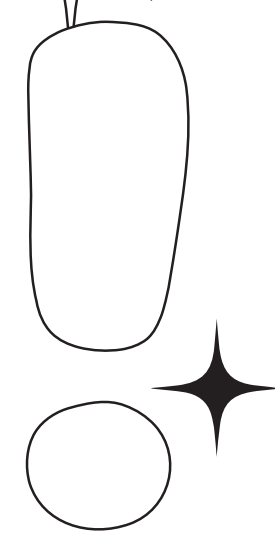
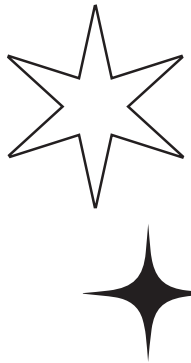
JESUS
BRINGS US
PEACE!



JESUS BRINGS



US JOY!





GOD LOVES YOU!

For God loves _____ so much
that he gave his one and only Son, so that
if _____ believes in him,
_____ will not perish but have
eternal life.

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