

ALIVE

CHURCH

Advent Candle Readings for Families

Advent is a season of expectation for the whole family. This year, help your family focus on Jesus over the busyness of the season. Each week, follow the weekly prompts on Sunday. If Sunday doesn't work well for your family, try another day instead. Do whatever works best for your family.

Week One: Hope

Parent: Today is special because it is the beginning of a new season. This is the first week of Advent. The word "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming." It is a time when we get ready and prepare for the coming of Jesus. We will celebrate Jesus' coming on Christmas day. During Advent, we live with expectation and excitement for what God would do in our lives now and we look forward to when Jesus will come again.

Family: Today we will light one purple candle. The first candle is the candle of hope. (*Light the first candle.*) We lit this candle to remind us that we wait with hope that we have in Jesus.

Family Reading:

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:2

Parent: The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the hope that God gives us in Jesus.

Family Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, just like the prophets said, and for your promise to come again. Amen.

Discussion:

- What is hope?
- What hope do we have today?
- How does God give us hope?

Week Two: Love

Parent: This is the second week of Advent. During these days we are getting ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Last time we lit the candle of hope to remind us of the hope that God gives us in Jesus.

Family: Today we will light two candles. The second candle is the candle of love. (*Light two purple candles.*) We lit this candle to remind us that Jesus came to earth to show us and tell us of God's love.

Family Reading:

- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:16

Parent: During Advent, we remember God's gift of Jesus to the world. We know that God is love and His love for all people is the reason for this gift.

Family Prayer: Thank you, God, for loving us and giving your Son, Jesus. Help us to love one another and love people everywhere we go. Amen.

Discussion:

- How has God shown us love?
- How do we love others today?
- How do we help others know God's love?

Week Three: Joy

Parent: This is the third week of Advent. During these days we are getting ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Last time we lit the candle of love to remind us of God's love for us.

Family: Today we will light three candles. The third candle is the candle of joy. (*Light two purple candles and the pink candle.*) We lit this candle to remind us that we can have joy because of the coming of Jesus.

Family Reading:

- Luke 2:8–11
- John 15:11

Parent: When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy for all people. In Jesus we can have joy to the full.

Family Prayer: Lord, thank you that we can have joy because our Savior, Jesus has come. Fill our hearts with joy today. Amen.

Discussion:

- What is joy?
- How do we find joy today?
- How does God give us joy?

Week Four: Peace

Parent: This is the fourth week of Advent. Advent is a time of preparing and getting ready for the coming of Jesus. Last time we lit the candle of joy.

Family: Today we will light four candles. The fourth candle is the candle of peace. (*Light all the purple and pink candles.*) We lit this candle to remind us that God gives us peace in Jesus.

Family Reading:

- Isaiah 9:6–7
- Luke 2:13–14

Parent: When we look at the fourth candle, we remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings peace in our lives.

Family Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the peace you give us. We pray to experience your peace this week. Amen.

Discussion:

- What is peace?
- How does Jesus bring peace to the world?
- How can we find peace today?

Christmas Day

Parent: Today is Christmas. The day we have waited for and prepared for is finally here! Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we waited for this day, we lit four candles, which represented: hope, love, joy, and peace.

Family: Today, on Christmas, we will also light the white candle. This candle represents Jesus. (*Light all candles, including the white candle.*) We lit this candle to remember Jesus' coming.

Family Reading:

- Matthew 1:18–23
- John 8:12

Parent: When we look at the center candle, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He came to save us from sin and give us life.

Family Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, that you came to earth to be the light of the world. Today, help us remember that you came to save us. Amen.

Discussion:

- Why is it important that Jesus came into the world?
- How is your life different today because Jesus came?
- What are you looking forward to God doing in your life in the coming days?