



Advent Candle Readings

Advent is a season of expectation. To help you engage this Advent season, follow the prompts to lean into God's hope, peace, love, and joy. You will be prompted to light candles on the four Sundays leading into Christmas, as well as one candle on Christmas Day. If Sunday doesn't work well for you or your family, try another day instead. Do whatever works best to help you focus on Jesus in the midst of the busyness this Advent season.

Week One: Hope

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 look forward to and prepare for the coming of Jesus. We will celebrate Jesus' first coming to earth on Christmas day. Now, during Advent, we wait with expectation and excitement for what God will do in our lives today, and we look forward to the future day when Jesus will come again.

Today we will light one purple candle. The first candle is the candle of hope. (*Light the first candle.*) We light it to remind us that we always have hope because of Jesus!

Reading:

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:2

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

Prayer:

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

Reflection:

- What does it mean to have hope?
- What are some things you're hoping for right now?
- How does God give us hope?



Week Two: Love

This is the second week of Advent. During these days, we are waiting 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.

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

Reading:

- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:16
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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.

Prayer:

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

Reflection:

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



Week Three: Joy

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

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

Reading:

- Luke 2:8–11
- John 15:11
- Romans 15:13

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.

Prayer:

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

Reflection:

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



Week Four: Peace

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

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

Reading:

- Isaiah 9:6–7
- Luke 2:13–14

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

Prayer:

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

Reflection:

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



Christmas Day

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.

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

Reading:

- Matthew 1:18–23
- John 8:12

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.

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.

Reflection:

- 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?