

# A & SEASON OF HOPE

4 Advent devotions  
to help your family  
engage in the story  
of the Savior





Focus on the Family has created a unique and meaningful Advent experience for your family. We've compiled Scripture readings and family-friendly devotions for each Sunday of Advent. Take the time this Christmas season to connect with your kids in a meaningful way while enjoying a very special Advent!







# WEEK ONE

DECEMBER 1



## BEGIN WITH SCRIPTURE:

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST DAY OF ADVENT.

Have you ever counted down the days until Christmas? It's pretty exciting when those numbers get low, isn't it? For an Advent calendar, we do the same thing. We count down to Christmas by lighting candles on a wreath. Advent focuses on Jesus—His birth, how He is with us every day, and His promise to one day return to earth. Advent wreaths are made of evergreen branches, which symbolize God's faithfulness because they remain green all year.

Light the first purple candle. Purple is a color of royalty, and this color represents Christ as King. God's people trusted in their heavenly ruler, that He would keep His promise to Adam and Eve and send a Savior to rescue all of us from sin and death (Genesis 3:15). So each time you see these evergreen branches, think about God's faithfulness in your life.



# WEEK TWO

DECEMBER 8



## ACTIVITY

### Try this with your family:

Give your kids six craft sticks each. Have them write one word on each of their sticks: *birth*, *anointing*, *betrayal*, *death*, *Crucifixion* and *Resurrection*. After you read a prophecy, have them hold up the word that each of the following Scriptures refer to:

Isaiah 7:14 – *birth*

Isaiah 25:8 – *Resurrection*

Zechariah 11:12-13 – *betrayal*

Isaiah 9:6 – *birth*

Isaiah 53:12 – *Crucifixion*

Isaiah 11:1-4 – *anointing*

Isaiah 53:7-9 – *death*

Micah 5:2,4-5 – *birth*

Psalms 41:4 – *betrayal*

Psalms 22:14-18 – *death*

Psalms 16:10 – *Resurrection*

## BEGIN WITH SCRIPTURE:

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Luke 3:4

## THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT STARTS

**TODAY.** Light the first and second purple candles. The second purple candle reminds us that we are sinners who need to repent. We need to prepare our hearts for the return of Christ, who saves us from our sins.

How do we prepare? By learning all we can about Jesus. By trying each day to be more and more like Him. Before Jesus walked the earth, God’s people had to wait thousands of years for Him. But waiting didn’t mean they sat around and did nothing. God sent prophets to let people know what to look for, so that they knew about Jesus before He even got there. He gave rules to show them how to behave. And He sent leaders and judges to help them not go astray. So prepare your heart today to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of the Son of God.





# WEEK THREE

**DECEMBER 15**



## BEGIN WITH SCRIPTURE:

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live

**Ecclesiastes 3:12**

**TODAY, LIGHT THE ROSE-COLORED CANDLE, ALONG WITH THE FIRST TWO CANDLES OF YOUR ADVENT WREATH.**

This third candle represents the joy of God's people as they anticipated the coming Messiah. Lighting this candle reminds us that a joyful excitement for Christmas is a good thing.

There are many types of joy. The joy of the Lord can thrill us or simply help us remember that God is always with us. But joy isn't just an emotion. Joy is a continuous knowledge of the goodness of God, regardless of how we feel.

The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to be joyful. King Solomon, the wisest man in history, said the same in Ecclesiastes 3:12. So our joy shouldn't be based on what's happening to us. We should put our hope and trust in God daily, and that will bring us joy.



# WEEK FOUR

DECEMBER 22



## BEGIN WITH SCRIPTURE:

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs  
of praise!

**Psalms 95:2**

## TODAY, LIGHT THE FINAL PURPLE CANDLE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER THREE.

This candle represents God's love. Remember that God loved us so much that He sent His Son, even though we were still sinners (Romans 5:8).

We should respond to God's love for us by obeying Him and worshiping Him. We often think that worship means singing songs. But it's that and more. Worship is how we come into the presence of God. It's an act of respect in all we do—in our actions, attitude and words. Being able to come into His presence is a gift. It allows us to express our love to God and enjoy His love for us.

As you light this final Advent candle, think about one way you can better worship God. Tell your ideas to one another. Then this week, do a few of them as a family.



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## MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH



Fasten live or faux evergreen branches to a wire wreath circle with green crafting wire.



After you attach the first branch, lay a second branch over the end of the first so it covers the stem.



Continue in this way until you reach where you began and tuck final branches under the foliage of the beginning branches.



Set four candles in candle-holders inside the wreath. Traditionally, the wreath holds three purple candles and one rose-colored candle. Sometimes a large white candle is placed in the center of the wreath and is only lit in celebration of Christmas Day.

Find instructions for a paper Advent wreath at  
[FocusOnTheFamily.ca/Wreath](https://FocusOnTheFamily.ca/Wreath).