



**PRAYERS, LITURGIES AND DEVOTIONALS TO
SUPPLEMENT THE SEASON OF CHRIST'S BIRTH**

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ADVENT

An Overview of This Season

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit."

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of the Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning.

Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

The tradition of lighting Advent candles helps focus our devotionals and our prayers on different aspects of the mystery of Christ's birth. This guide follows the weekly rhythm of lighting the Advent candles of Hope, Preparation, Joy, Love and the Birth of Christ.

This Advent guide includes a devotionals to use in your personal study, in your missional community groups and with your families. It also includes our liturgies for Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1.

There will be many things competing for your attention and your time during this season. The intent of this guide is to resource our church family to slow down and to join together in the celebration of the season. As Christians, this should be one of the best times of the year.

It is our sincerest hope and our deepest prayer that this guide can be an extension of our Sunday gatherings. We pray that it helps you and your family spend time growing in love for God and praising him for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

- The Park Community Church

WEEK 1 // HOPE

November 27 - December 3

Advent is a season of expectation. During this season we anticipate the fulfillment of our hope: the arrival of the Messiah, who will bring about the renewal of all things. Anticipation and expectation often involve preparation: to fully embrace the hope brought by Jesus, we need to make ourselves ready for his arrival. There is always a risk when preparing ourselves for the Messiah's arrival that we come to expect, not only that he will arrive, but how he will arrive. This was Israel's mistake. They earnestly longed and hoped for the arrival of the Messiah. But the way they went about waiting for his arrival left them with a very specific idea of how he would arrive. It's no surprise, then, that many Jews did not embrace Jesus as the Messiah: he did not meet their expectations.

It's easy to find ourselves in a similar situation. When we so desperately long for something it is tempting to over-prepare, to do everything in our power to make sure that our hope is fulfilled. But in trying to control the situation we lose sight of our hope; we begin to focus more on the how rather than the what. We worry about how our friends and family will have a good time at dinner instead of hoping that they have a good time. We become preoccupied with how God is going to fix this broken mess of a world rather than simply hoping, and expecting, that he will do so.

The way around this problem is to learn to rest in expectation, to rest in our hope that Jesus will arrive, that the Messiah will renew all things. To rest in expectation is to place our hope fully in God's power and promise. When we do this, we can let go of our anxiety about how God will appear and instead find peace in our hope that he will appear and that he knows how he will appear.

God knows that it's difficult to rest in expectation. And that would seem to be one reason he gave us the Sabbath. On the Sabbath, we are supposed to live as if all of the work of renewing Creation has been accomplished. In other words, on the Sabbath, we are supposed to live as if there is nothing that we need to do because God has taken care of all of our needs.

To do work on the Sabbath (or not to take a Sabbath at all) is, in effect, to tell God that he cannot take care of all of your needs, that some of our hopes can only be fulfilled through our own planning and work.

As we enter this season of expectation, we invite you to reflect on your attitude towards the arrival of the Messiah. Do you hope for his arrival? Are you worried or anxious about when or how he will arrive? Do you trust that he will arrive?

We also invite you to practice the Sabbath. Once a week find a way to refrain from working towards some goal that you have. Learn to rest from striving so that you may begin abiding in the hope offered by the arrival of the Messiah.

PRAY

Father, We pray for the strength to rest in you. We pray that we may wait and rest in expectation of your Son's arrival, which is the fulfillment of our hope. Grant us the peace to meditate on your word so that we may be ready when Jesus arrives, so that we may know that you have laid out the perfect plan and that you will bring it to completion.

Amen.

***O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

GROUP DEVOTIONAL

What is your expectation of this season? Is it in people, events or things? Are you really hopeful for Christ's saving work in your life?

Do you trust in God's sovereignty in your life? How does the birth of Christ speak to your desire to control things in your life?

Do you find the holiday season to be tiring? What are ways you can celebrate God's gift of Jesus in restful ways? How can you and your family enter into Sabbath in the busyness of the holidays?



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Isaiah 9:6-7

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

Who was this Scripture spoken to? (The Israelites that were in exile) To whom was it spoken about? (a Messiah- would be Jesus)

If you were enslaved in captivity, how would this message make you feel? (hopeful)

How had God shown His faithfulness to the Israelites in the past? (bringing them out of Egyptian slavery, rebuilding the temple, kings taking care of them)

What are some of the names the prophecy gives Jesus and what do you think they imply about the coming Savior?

Read Deuteronomy 7:9

What is a covenant? (promise)

Discuss how we as Gentiles are partakers in the covenant presented to the Jews.

How does knowing, for sure, that God will keep His promises make you feel?

Activity | Practice meditating on Isaiah 9:6 as a family by repeating it in as many silly voices as you can come up with:

Cowboy	Opera
Brittish	Girly
Manly	Whisper

Prayer

Encourage your family to search your house for things that are unbreakable. Gather them on a tray. Ideas are rocks, scissors, tools, bobby pins, stainless steel bowl, etc

Open in prayer, and let each child pray, "Thank You, God, that Your promises are more unbreakable than [name of object]."

Parent closes with: "Dear God, thank You that Your promises are true and unbreakable. Thank You for sending Jesus to us and keeping Your promise. This week, please help me and everyone else here to remember that I can have hope because God keeps His promises. Please help us see how You keep Your promises to be with us and take care of us this season. Amen."

WEEK 2 // PREPARE

December 4 - December 10

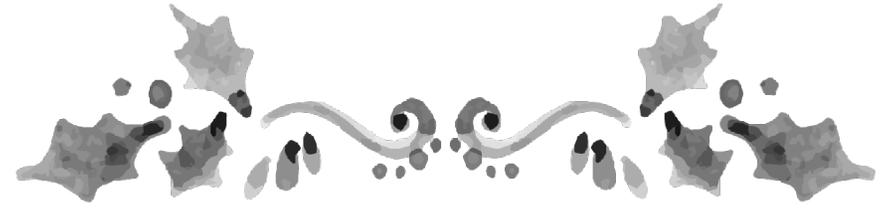
Sometimes our path is straight-forward. Sometimes we have a clear mission and direction. “God is there and He is moving.” There are times when we can plainly see where God is working.. We also experience times when our path doesn’t seem to be as well-defined. We look around and wonder where God is and what he’s doing.

It must have been wonderful to be in that time where everything seems laid out so clearly. He is coming and we are preparing. But our life is messier. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who haven’t seen me but believe,” and that trial weighs heavily upon us most days. A voice isn’t booming from heaven and a crystal-clear life-plan doesn’t just materialize.

Maybe God’s plan for redemption wasn’t so clear during this time either. Maybe people were searching for answers and for purpose just as much as we do. In spite of their doubts and questions, they still made the paths straight. They still filled in the valleys, and they still made the mountains low. They prepared the way of the Lord in the midst of the the mystery.

The voice crying in the wilderness, Isaiah foretells, is John the Baptist. How did John the Baptist prepare the way of the Lord? He spoke Truth. He told it like it was. He, undoubtedly, loved those around him.

Church, if you should take anything from the story of John the Baptist, it should be his unwavering commitment to what he believed and did not compromise in the slightest. He conquered the valleys of fear in his soul and didn’t care if he looked the fool to those in power. He did all of this to prepare the way for the One who was to come. He did this in preparation for the salvation of God.



*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



PRAY

Break us of our pride, our desire to look put together, and of our need to feel secure in this world. We submit ourselves to your rhythms this season, seeking out meaning over material, love over comfort, and the known over the mystery. Let us rely on your strength and joy as we join in praise for the gift of your sacrifice and relationship with us.

Amen.

What was a time in your life when God's plan for you seemed very unclear? What did it look like to cling to his goodness in the midst of uncertainty?

Who is someone in your life who proclaims the goodness of God clearly to you? Are you doing the same for others?

What does it mean to speak the truth in love? How do you see this in your life, in your family and in our church?



But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 1:13-17

Read Luke 1:5-25; 57-79

In Zechariah's time, there was a lot of trouble in his world. His people thought the only way out would be a savior-king, and that every baby had a chance at being that king. When Zechariah had no children, he must have felt out of chances. His family would never make a difference in the world. Have you ever wanted to make a difference when you felt our world was in trouble? Do you ever feel like you missed a chance to do that?

Zechariah belonged to God—his whole family were priests to help serve God at the temple, and then God gave Zechariah a way to make a difference to the whole world. We belong to Jesus, so what can we do to serve God right here? Do you think serving God and making a difference in our world has anything to do with joy?

Activity | Ask a parent to show you some of your baby pictures. What did they do to prepare for you coming into the family?

Did anyone throw a party for them? Then ask them to tell you the story of the day you joined the family.

Prayer

Set out markers or crayons and then tell the kids they're going to pray in a different way this week. Instead of saying a prayer, they're going to draw or write one.

Direct them to draw or write a situation in which they can begin to start preparing their hearts for the true meaning of Christmas. Encourage them to be thoughtful and reverent.

Parent closes with, “Dear God, Thank You for doing the impossible, not just in Zechariah's life, but in ours. Thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus to rescue us. It's for that reason that we know that we can trust You no matter what. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.”

WEEK 3 // JOY

December 11 - December 17

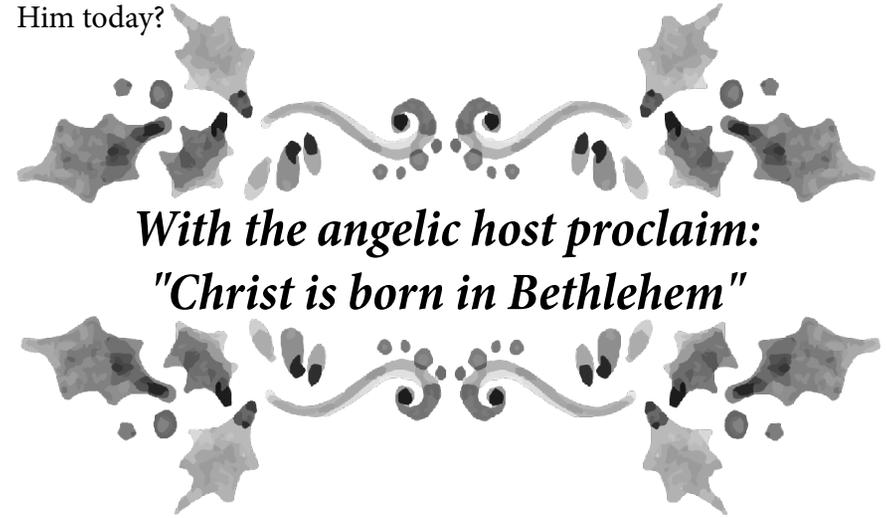
The purposes of God are seldom received by those with great status, but by those who are unassuming and ordinary. This is precisely what occurs after Christ is born, as the Father chose to reveal His “good news of great joy” to a group of lowly shepherds.

Can you imagine the scene? You’re watching your sheep graze upon the fields by moonlight. This night feels identical to others, as you and your fellow shepherds wait, with a tinge of boredom, for the sun to rise. Suddenly, a great and marvelous light permeates the field, warmer than the sun and more comforting than any campfire. A figure clothed in radiant robes appears to you. Fear and wonder envelop your very being; history, as you know it, will forever be changed.

Of course, this story pertains more to the news itself than those who received it. An angel of the Lord was pleased to announce that, the City of David, a Savior had been born, Christ the Lord. The designation made by the angel is staggering. By calling Jesus “Christ”, the angel evokes the Old Testament fulfillment of the Messiah. But do not miss what he calls Jesus next: the Lord. This heavenly messenger tells the shepherds that Jesus is God. To a group of humble shepherds, this angel reveals the fulfillment of a long-awaited Messiah who is, in His very nature, God. What wonder and amazement crossed the mind of these shepherds! Could they even comprehend this beautiful revelation? Could we understand it this very day?

In our lives as Christians, it may be easy to look up to the heroes of the faith. Men and women who loom large as flagbearers of Christ—the Apostle Paul, Dietrich Boenhoffer, Charles Spurgeon, Mother Teresa. But never forget this, dear Christian: the same Spirit of God that inhabited these champions dwells in you this very day. God is pleased to reveal His will and His power to all people,

regardless of status or background. The Messiah was birthed in ambiguity and practiced His ministry in an obscure land. His disciples were no experts of the law, but humble fisherman and a disgraced tax collector. Do not think, friend, that God reserves His purposes for the high and mighty. The God of all things is ready and willing to speak life and joy into your soul. Will you listen to Him today?



With the angelic host proclaim:

"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

PRAY

We thank you for the air we’re breathing and the life You’ve given us. As we press in to the weightiness and meaning of Advent, we ask for joy and humility. Give us joy when the world seems dim around us. Give us humility when we boast in our accomplishments and fail to acknowledge Your provision in our lives. Speak to our hearts as we enjoy our family, our old friends, and a time of rest. Never let us forget that our laughter, our love, and our kinship come from you, Father. Form us into beacons of light for the strongholds of darkness in this holiday season. You chose to reveal the news of Your Son to lowly shepherds. Lord, reveal to us the goodness of Your Son today. Let us see Jesus in the wondrous and in the mundane. Let us be Jesus to those who do not know Him. We love you, Father. Be our peace and joy today and forevermore.
Amen.

GROUP DEVOTIONAL

Why do you think God delights in using normal, unassuming people? What does this say about His character?

The life of a Christian is not easy, but it is joyful. What role does joy play in our devotion and walk with Christ?

The Christmas season brings material happiness for some and familial dread for others. As Christians, how can we reshape the consumeristic aspect of Christmas? How can we be a light to those in pain during Christmas?



And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Luke 2:8-15

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read Luke 2:8-15

What is a census? (When the government counts the people)

Where was Joseph's family from? (Bethlehem)

Where did they lay Jesus after He was born? (A manger)

Why is God's gift of Jesus the best gift ever?

Even if you don't have much money or a lot of material stuff, what can you still give? Is there something you've received that wasn't a physical thing but it still blessed you or made your life better?

Name some ways you can give TIME as a present to someone. Give an example of other really great gifts that aren't something expensive.

Who do you know that would be totally blown away if you gave them a Christmas gift? Maybe a kid who's hard to like or someone you don't know very well. What could you give that person?

So many times we think about how we will be blessing others when we give them something. And it usually does bless them. But in what way would you be blessed as the giver? How would living a life of generosity change your life?

Activity | Give the kids some options for Christmas carols to set the words of Philippians 4:4 to: “Jingle Bells,” “Joy to the World,” “Deck the Halls,” “12 Days of Christmas,” etc.

Let the older kids have input as to the song and the way the words fit. Brainstorm for a while, and then work together on a tune and word arrangement. Sing the new song a few times together.

Prayer

Gather the group and encourage them to think of one gift to thank God for. Give each person a Christmas bow and direct them to pull off the backing.

As you move around the circle, let each child say, “Dear God, thank You for giving me (gift) and for sending Your Son.” Then, they should stick the bow on themselves (anywhere but their faces)

Parent close with “Dear God, thank You for giving me all these kids to help grow toward You. Thank You, so much, on Christmas and all the time, for sending Jesus to rescue all people. Thank You for Christmas and the gifts we give and receive to celebrate the greatest gift, the fact that I can have joy because God sent His Son. Amen.”

WEEK 4 // LOVE

December 18 - December 24

The holidays can be wonderful. Family and friends send cards, exchange gifts and gather together. For others, the absence of close relationships can make the holidays difficult. Why is this?

This Advent season only exists because of love. The traditions, the holiday and even the world in which we celebrate all stem from the ultimate love of God.

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve and now all have sinned. Sin separates us from God. Yet God still loved us.

Christ was born on this earth out of his obedience to the Father. As fully man and fully God, Jesus came down to live amongst us, even when we were dead in our transgressions. He did this so that he might live the life we could never live and die the death that we should die to give us the grace we could never deserve. That gift of grace is the ultimate expression of his love.

We often look to the holiday season - the parties, the people, the gifts, the time off - to satisfy this craving for perfect love. Whether this season is full of fun and family or is full of heartbreak, Dear Church, never forget that you have been loved so well by a God so great.

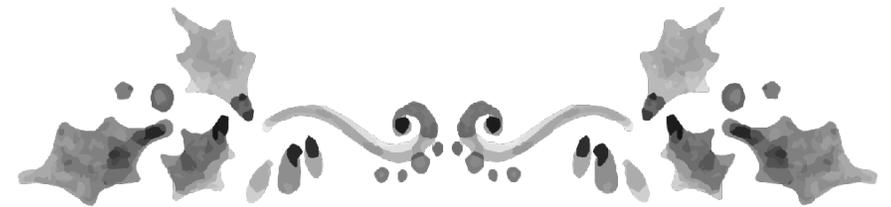
You were the object of his affection before and after sin entered the picture. Your sins have been forgiven and grace has been given to you through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. What perfect and ultimate love, that he would give us his only Son for sinners like us.

PRAY

We pray that in this Advent season, we reflect on the gift of your Son. God, thank you for the love that you've given us - a love so great that it cost you your Son. Through your love, we find grace and hope. We pray that we accept the free gift of your love. We pray that your love shapes our lives, that our actions and our words reflect the great love with which you loved us.

May we not rely on this season, on people, on things to find love. Rather, we pray that we find it in you. We pray for all those who hurt and feel unloved during this season. Lord, draw near to them and remind them of their worth in you. We pray that we are you people, marked by extraordinary love and driven by

your grace.
Amen.



*For unto you is born
this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



Read John 3:16-21. Jesus was sent in the world to save it, not to condemn it. Do you ever feel like Jesus is condemning you? Why? How is this an incorrect view of our Savior?

God loved you so much that he sent Jesus into this world to save you. How does that loving grace affect the way you view yourself? How does that loving grace affect the way you see others?

Identify areas in your life where there is darkness. What are some practical ways that you, your family and your community can be lights in this world and in each other's lives?



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

John 3:16-21

Read Luke 2:10-11, John 3:16-21

Why did God send his son?

How did Jesus meet our greatest need?

What would you say is the greatest need most people have? What is your greatest need right now?

Why do you think that missionaries often try to meet people's physical and basic needs before trying to help them with their spiritual needs? Do you agree with this approach? Why or why not? (This could be an interesting conversation since technically our greatest need is Jesus. But there is no “right” or “wrong” answer. Just a way to get your kids thinking critically about what they believe.)

Name three things that would help us notice the needs of other people.

Activity | Have all the family sit with their backs to you and their eyes closed. Choose one kid from the group to stand a few feet behind the group and put a dot sticker somewhere visible on his or her body. Invite everyone to turn around and open their eyes. The first kid to “Spot the Dot” wins and takes the place of the previous kid wearing the dot. Play as time allows or until all the kids have had a turn wearing a dot.

Prayer

Ask your kids to think about a need they've had in the past. Ask them to now think about how God helped meet that need. Give kids a few moments to silently thank God for meeting that need.

Parent closes with “*God, thank You for meeting our needs. We especially thank You for seeing our need for a Savior. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth to meet that need. You are amazing, God. Amen.*”

WEEK 5 // CHRIST

December 25 - December 31

Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians that the flesh is opposed to the Spirit. Jesus says that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is both of the Spirit is spirit. The flesh often means sinful nature.

The mystery of the gospel is this: God became flesh. To carry out his plan for redemption, Jesus took on flesh. Sharing in our flesh and blood, Jesus also shared in the same things we experience: hunger, thirst, exhaustion, joy, pain. Why would Jesus, the Son of God, take on flesh for our sake?

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

In order for Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins, he had to be one of us. He lived a life much like ours, in the sense that he had to eat, sleep, interact with others. Yet, he lived a life free from sin. He took on flesh that he might destroy the power of death, which rules in our flesh. He became something lower than his glorious self to make us something greater than our sinful selves. That started in the miracle of his birth.

We celebrate Christ's birth and incarnation. His flesh is our redemption. In Him, we find hope, love and joy.

He is our God, and, behold, He has come!



*Joy to the world!
The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him
room,
And heaven and nature sing.*



PRAY

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who took on flesh. How merciful you are, that you would send your Son to take on, not only flesh, but our sins. Your grace, expressed to us in Jesus Christ, has called us out of the death we once lived and into the perfect and blameless life Jesus lived. We pray that you lead us away from following our sinful desires and we look to you for how we are to live, for it is in you alone that we have life.

Amen.

Read Romans 8. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, what does the Father do through Jesus?

What kind of life does Jesus' death allow us to live? What does this look like in your life? In your family? In your Missional Community?

What would it look like for you to live knowing that Jesus conquered sin, that God conquered death and that we are conquerors through him who loved us?



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

Read Luke 2:7-15

Who are the people you want to share God's story with this week or month? What do you think is the best way to share it with them? Think about the first time you heard the gospel. Is that a good way to share the gospel with others?

Read Matthew 5:16 together. What kind of things can you do help them realize God's story is for them?

Gather the family and look up Philippians 4:4.

It's easy to be happy when everything is great—when life is good and things are going the way we want. But what about when things don't go your way? No matter what happens, you can have joy because God sent the best gift ever: His one and only Son, Jesus! That's what Christmas is all about.

Activity | Make an ornament for your Christmas tree to help you remember God's gift!

Cut out a heart shape from a piece of paper. Write Romans 5:8 on the front of the heart and use glitter glue or yarn to decorate it. Punch a hole in the top for hanging. Run a piece of string through the top and hang on your Christmas tree.

Prayer

Gather the group and encourage them to think of one gift to thank God for. Give each person a Christmas bow and direct them to pull off the backing.

As you move around the circle, let each child say, "Dear God, thank You for giving me (gift) and for sending Your Son." Then, they should stick the bow on themselves (anywhere but their faces)

Parent close with "Dear God, thank You for giving me all these kids to help grow toward You. Thank You, so much, on Christmas and all the time, for sending Jesus to rescue all people. Thank You for Christmas and the gifts we give and receive to celebrate the greatest gift, the fact that I can have joy because God sent His Son. Amen."

DECEMBER 25th

Service Liturgy

This service outline is a suggestion for you to lead with your family, neighbors or missional community group. There are multiple prayer, and scripture readings and songs. Make the service interactive by having multiple people read and pray. It is our hope that this at-home liturgy will encourage you and your family to worship our Savior this Christmas day!

Call to Worship //

Read Psalm 98

Sing //

Joy to the World

O Come All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Thanksgiving//

Glory be to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, goodwill toward those he favors.

For unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you,

we give thanks unto you for this greatest of your mercies,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

who was made human to take away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us and turn us from our iniquities.

You who were made manifest to destroy the works of the devil,

have mercy upon us and enable us to renounce and forsake them.

You who are the great advocate with the Father, receive our prayer.

Amen.

Read //

Luke 2:8-14

Hebrews 1:1-6

Discuss //

How does the Hebrews passage describe Jesus?

The angels herald the glory of God through Jesus. In what ways do we announce the goodness of God in Jesus?

Sing //

Hark the Herald Angels Sing!

Communion //

Gather together communion elements and present them to one another. All who call on the name of Jesus are welcome to the table.

When breaking the bread, say "The body of Christ broken for you."

When dipping into the wine say "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Pray //

O God, in the sending of your Son, Jesus,

to be born of Mary,

your Word became flesh,

and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

His name is above every name,

the Prince of Peace and Savior of all.

In him we have been brought out

Sing //

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Benediction //

May God, who sent his angels

to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,

fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. Amen.

JANUARY 1st

Service Liturgy

Call to Worship //

Psalm 148

Sing //

Come Thou Fount
In Christ Alone

Read //

Matthew 2:1-12

Discuss //

The wise men were foreigners who search for Jesus. They brought to him precious gifts to honor him. In this new year, what gifts will you bring to Jesus?

Pray //

O God, our Father, creator of the universe,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, came to our world,
pour your Holy Spirit upon your church,
that all people of our world,
being led through the knowledge of your truth to worship you,
may offer the gold of intellect,
the frankincense of devotion,
and the myrrh of discipline
to him who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns for ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Communion //

Gather together communion elements and present them to one another.
All who call on the name of Jesus are welcome to the table.
When breaking the bread, say "The body of Christ broken for you."
When dipping into the wine say "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Sing //

Be Thou My Vision
10,000 Reasons

Read Together this Confession of Faith //

We believe that the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity,
being truly and eternally God,
of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time
had come, take upon himself human nature,
with all its essential properties and common frailties, yet without sin.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
in the womb of the virgin Mary, and of her substance.
In this way, two whole natures, the divine and the human,
perfect and distinct, were inseparably joined together in one person
without being changed, mixed, or confused.
This person is truly God and truly man,
yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.
In his human nature, united to the divine nature, the Lord Jesus
was set apart and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure,
having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
In him the Father was pleased to have all fullness dwell, so that—
being holy, blameless, and undefiled, full of grace and truth—
he might be completely equipped
to fulfill the office of a mediator and guarantor.
He did not take this office to himself but was called to it by his Father,
who put all power and judgment into his hand
and commanded him to execute it.
—from *Westminster Confession (MESV)*, Chap. VIII, Sec. 2-3

Pray //

You came in the fullness of time, O Savior,
emptying yourself for us.
Your incarnation foreshadowed, O Savior,
that you would be obedient unto death.
Therefore God has given you, O Savior,
a name that is above all names:
we confess you are Christ the Lord!

Benediction //

Galatians 3:23 - 4:7

Sing //

Doxology

REFLECTION

Lined writing area with 25 horizontal lines.

