



Week 1

The word “Advent” is formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a time for remembering and rejoicing in Christ’s birth while watching and waiting for Christ’s return.

We all know that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season can drown out the focus of this time of year. Over the next four weeks, we invite you to pause as we look for hope, joy, love, peace in Jesus.

As you begin your devotional for this week, pray this prayer to open your time:

Lord Jesus, through Advent this year, help us to slow down enough to see you. To reflect you to those around us. Help me to find your hope, joy, love, and peace in this season. Amen.

Today, let’s lean in on finding HOPE this Advent season.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7.

As God’s people were about to head into exile, God delivered hope through a promise. Someday, this will all be over – a King will come to make all things new. Christmas celebrates the hope that God sent Jesus to fulfill that promise and rescue creation once and for all. Knowing God has kept His promises in the past gives us hope that God will continue keeping His promises in the future.

So here's a question to reflect on: Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life or in the life of your family? Write out your response. Then, thank God for his faithfulness to you.

Finally, pray this prayer:

Dear God, thank You for reminding us during this time of year that You always keep Your promises! Thank You for the promise of Jesus. Thank You for the hope we have in Him. Help us to remember what You did for us when You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.

Week 2

Last week we talked about how the word "Advent" is formed from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." We mentioned how Advent is a time for remembering and rejoicing in Christ's birth while watching and waiting for Christ's return.

We also acknowledged how we all know that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season can drown out the focus of this time of year. That's why, starting with last week and continuing on this week, we're inviting you to pause as we look for hope, joy, love, peace in Jesus.

As you begin your devotional for this week, pray this prayer to open your time:

Lord Jesus, through Advent this year, help us to slow down enough to see you. To reflect you to those around us. Help me to find your hope, joy, love, and peace in this season. Amen.

Today, let's lean in on finding JOY this Advent season.

Read Luke 1:26-38, 46-47.

Much to Mary's surprise, the angel Gabriel appeared to her to announce she would be Jesus' mother. After all, Mary wasn't married yet, and she had a different plan for her life. Gabriel reminded her nothing is impossible with God. She could have been overwhelmed by this startling news, but she chose to respond with a song of joy. Nothing takes God by surprise. We can trust God has an ultimate plan for our lives and discover the joy that comes from believing in Jesus and God's plan for us.

As you think about joy, here's a question to ponder: How can you remember to have joy in all occasions (even when your plans change or don't go the way you want)? What role does trusting in God's plans do for your joy in life?

As you finish, pray this prayer:

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We can see how Mary trusted Your plan, and You filled her heart with joy. Thank You for reminding us You have a good plan for our lives, too. Help us to find our joy in You, because Your plans are ALWAYS good. Amen.

Week 3

Over the last two weeks, we've talked about how the word "Advent" is formed from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." We've talked about how Advent is a time for remembering and rejoicing in Christ's birth while watching and waiting for Christ's return.

We also acknowledged how we all know that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season can drown out the focus of this time of year. That's why, starting two weeks ago and continuing on this week, we're inviting you to pause as we look for hope, joy, love, peace in Jesus.

As you begin your devotional for this week, pray this prayer to open your time:

Lord Jesus, through Advent this year, help us to slow down enough to see you. To reflect you to those around us. Help me to find your hope, joy, love, and peace in this season. Amen.

Today, let's lean in on finding LOVE this Advent season.

Read Luke 2:1-7.

From a human perspective, this whole situation must have seemed crazy to Mary and Joseph. As hectic as this might have seemed, this is exactly how God wanted Jesus to enter the world. Right from the start, from the beginning of the Bible, God wanted to have a relationship with us. Even when we messed that up with our sin, God continued to love and make a way to rescue us. Jesus is proof that God loves us unconditionally.

So here's a question to ponder: How does it make you feel knowing God loves you so much? How can you show God's love to others?

Finish up with this prayer:

Dear God, thank You for showing Your love by sending Jesus. You kept Your promise to send a Savior. Help us to always remember how much You love us —so much that You sent Your own Son. And help us remember the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate with our family. Amen.

Week 4

On this final week, we're remembering Advent – this time of not only remembering and rejoicing in Christ's birth but also watching and waiting for Christ's return.

We have slowed down the last three weeks, knowing how we all tend to give into the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Now, after pausing to look for hope, joy, and love in Jesus we're starting off this final week looking for PEACE.

As you begin your devotional for this week, pray this prayer to open your time:

Lord Jesus, through Advent this year, help us to slow down enough to see you. To reflect you to those around us. Help me to find your hope, joy, love, and peace in this season. Amen.

Today, let's lean in on finding PEACE this Advent season.

Read Luke 2:8-20a.

After Jesus was born, the first people to find out were unassuming shepherds in a field. The angel announced Jesus' birth along with an angel choir proclaiming God's peace for everyone on earth. They rushed to see the baby for themselves. They were so excited they spent the rest of the night telling everyone they could about Jesus. We hope this Christmas that you will come to know God's love and believe Jesus truly is the Savior of the world!

With that being said, here's a question for this Advent season: How can you have peace knowing God loves us and sent us Jesus? Write out your thoughts.

Once finished, spend time in prayer praying the following:

Dear God, thank You for showing Your love by sending Jesus. You kept Your promise to send a Savior. Help us to always remember how much You love us —so much that You sent Your own Son. And help us remember the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate with our family. Amen.

Week 5 - Christmas Day

Welcome to today's BONUS devotional! Over the last four weeks, we've talked about how the word "Advent" is formed from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." We mentioned how Advent is a time for remembering and rejoicing in Christ's birth while watching and waiting for Christ's return.

We also acknowledged how we all know that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season can drown out the focus of this time of year. That's why, over the last four weeks, we've invited you to pause as we look for hope, joy, love, peace in Jesus.

Today is a little different though. Today, we get to celebrate how hope, joy, love, and peace are fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Read John 1:1-5, 14.

The “Word” John is talking about refers to Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He has been with God from the beginning, giving life and breath to all things. Christmas is the celebration that Jesus became like us. He lived and died and rose again, so we could have life that lasts forever with God. This Christmas, let’s celebrate that Jesus came to rescue us and God is always with us.

Christmas time will inevitably come and go. Before we know it the New Year, Valentine’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and so on will be upon us. So here’s a practical application for you. We actually have two questions here:

1. What does Jesus’ birth mean to you?
2. How can you stay focused on Jesus throughout the whole year?

When you’re finished reading and reflecting, pray this prayer:

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for sending Jesus to be a light in this world that can seem so dark. This Christmas, keep us focused on Jesus, the true reason for why we celebrate. As we remember how much You love us, help us know how we can show Your love to others this Christmas. Amen.