



Christmas

AT THE

Vineyard

ADVENT GUIDE

For centuries, Christians from around the world have celebrated Advent. This Christmas, we will join Christians from across the globe to celebrate. Advent reflects upon the time of waiting for the first coming of Jesus. Jesus arrived with humility, as a helpless child, to save His people, and to save the world. Advent also tells a story of prophecy, fulfillment, and God's faithfulness to His people.

This Christmas we'll prepare our hearts for Christmas by reflecting on our need for the Savior, and we will look ahead to the second coming of Jesus. Advent makes our celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas day more spectacular and more meaningful.

Practicing Advent as a family is simple: each Sunday, light a candle, read a scripture passage, reflect on it together, and enjoy a Christmas hymn. (You'll start with one candle on the first week and end with five lit candles on Christmas Day). Spend time together to marvel at His eternal offer of hope, peace, love, and joy!

WEEK 1

HOPE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Luke 1:29-37

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. Hundreds of years passed between the promise and fulfillment of the prophecies about Jesus. What is something you have had to wait for? Why is it hard to wait?
2. How is hope in God different than the hope of the world?
3. How does hope help us as we are waiting?

WEEK 2

PEACE

Micah 5:2-5a, Matthew 2:4-6

O Holy Night

1. How would you describe the difference between peace and anxiety?
2. Micah 5:5 lets us know that the coming King would be the source of peace. How did Jesus bring peace between us and God? How did He bring peace between people?
3. Why do you think Jesus may have come to a more quiet and small place, in Bethlehem? What does that reveal about God's heart for all people?

WEEK 3

LOVE

Isaiah 42:1-4, Matthew 12:15-21

Come All Ye Faithful

1. How did Jesus show worth or love to others at cost to himself?
2. How does committed love cost you something?
3. How has God revealed his love for all people through Jesus?

WEEK 4

JOY

Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 2:10-11

Joy to the World

1. How is Jesus' kingdom different from the world?
2. What is the difference between happiness and joy? What often robs you of joy?
3. How does Jesus' reign as king bring lasting joy?

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRIST

Luke 2:1-20

Go Tell It On the Mountain

1. What inconveniences or hardships can you find in the story of Jesus' birth? How do these reveal God's amazing love for us?
2. Who was first invited to meet Jesus? Why is that significant?
3. Focus on each of the important words spoken by the angel. How is Jesus' birth good news of great joy for all people? Who needs to hear this good news?