IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



Advent
2026
Family Devotional

Advent is the most WONDERful time of the year!

KEEP THE WONDER IN ADVENT BY SPENDING TIME IN SCRIPTURE, CONVERSATION, AND COMMUNITY THIS SEASON

How to Use This Family Advent Devotional
This devotional is designed to help families grow in faith together through the Church Year, moving from Advent through Christ the King Sunday. Each week follows the Revised Common Lectionary and invites all ages into Scripture, conversation, prayer, and discipleship.

When to Use It
Set aside 15-30 minutes once each week or a shorter amount of time on a few different days. Many families find it helpful to gather on Sunday evening, during a family meal, or another regular time that works best for their schedule.

What You'll Find Each Week
Week Number, Date, and Weekly Theme
Each devotional begins with the week number and date so your family can follow the journey through the entire year.

Centering Time
Begin with a simple question designed to help everyone connect the week's theme to everyday life.

Example: "What qualities make a good king or leader?"
Allow each family member to share before moving on.

Read
Read the featured Scripture passage aloud together.
If young children are present, consider reading from a family-friendly Bible translation.
Encourage different family members to take turns reading throughout the year.

Wonder Together
These discussion questions help families explore God's Word.
There are no right or wrong answers. Encourage curiosity, listening, and conversation. Use all the questions or select the most meaningful ones for your family.

Family Devotion
Read the devotion aloud together.
The devotion connects the Scripture reading to everyday life and helps families understand how God is at work in the world and in their own lives.

Family Activity
Participate in the suggested activity. Activities are designed to reinforce the week's lesson through creativity, service, reflection, or shared experiences.
Adapt activities as needed for your family's ages, abilities, and schedules.



Prayer
Pray the written prayer together.
You may also invite family members to add their own prayers before or after the printed prayer.

Family Challenge
The Family Challenge provides a practical way to live out the week's message.
Encourage everyone in the family to participate throughout the week and share their experiences when you gather again.

Weekly Blessing
End your time together by speaking the blessing aloud.
Parents, grandparents, caregivers, or children may read the blessing over the family as a reminder of God's love and presence.

Helpful Tips for Families
- Keep the atmosphere relaxed and welcoming.
- Encourage participation from all ages.
- Allow children to ask questions and wonder freely.
- Focus on conversation rather than finding perfect answers.
- If time is limited, simply read the Scripture, discuss one question, and pray together.
- Celebrate small moments of growth and faithfulness.
- Return to any week's theme throughout the week in conversations, meals, or bedtime prayers.

A Final Word
This devotional is not about completing a program perfectly. It is about creating space for your family to encounter God together. Some weeks will feel rich and meaningful. Other weeks may feel simple and brief. Trust that God is at work through every Scripture read, prayer spoken, question asked, and act of love shared.

May this practice during Advent help your family grow in faith, deepen your relationships, and discover the presence of Christ in every in every day life.



Hope

WEEK 1
NOVEMBER 29

Centering Time…..
Gather around a candle. Light it and say:
"Jesus, as we begin Advent, help us pay attention to Your presence among us."

Read
Mark 13:24-37

Wonder Together
- What do you do when you're waiting for something exciting?
- Why do you think Jesus tells us to stay awake?
- What is something wonderful you are looking forward to?
- Where have you seen something beautiful this week?

Family Devotion
Jesus tells His disciples to stay awake. He isn't talking only about sleep. He is inviting us to pay attention. Sometimes we rush through life and miss the ways God is working around us. Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for Christmas, but we also learn to watch for God's presence every day. When we notice beauty, kindness, forgiveness, or courage, we catch a glimpse of God's kingdom.

Being spiritually awake means expecting God to show up in ordinary places**.**

Family Activity
Create an "Advent Watchfulness Jar."
Write on slips of paper:
- A kind act you witnessed
- Something beautiful you noticed
- A prayer God answered

Place them in the jar throughout Advent.

Prayer
Lord Jesus,
Help us stay awake to Your love. Open our eyes to see You at work in our family, our community, and our world.
Amen.

Family Challenge
Notice one way God is at work each day this week and share it with your family.

Weekly Blessing
May God help you notice God’s presence wherever you go this week.



Peace

WEEK 2
DECEMBER 6

Centering Time…..
Light two Advent candles.
Say together:
"Prepare the way of the Lord."

Read
Mark 1:1-8

Wonder Together
- What do you do when a special guest is coming?
- What are ways we can show kindness?
- How do you think John the Baptist felt telling people about Jesus?
- Why do you think people throughout history have searched for God?
- What helps you focus on what matters most?

Family Devotion
John the Baptist had a simple message: Get ready for Jesus.
When a special guest is coming, we clean, organize, and make preparations. Advent invites us to do the same spiritually.

Preparing for Jesus might mean asking forgiveness, spending more time in prayer, showing kindness, or making room in our schedules for God.
John reminds us that Christmas is more than a holiday. It is a celebration of Christ coming among us.

Family Activity
Work together to clean one area of your home.
As you work, talk about ways God can help clean and renew our hearts. If there are things that can be donated, place them in a bag to be donated.

Prayer
God,
Prepare our hearts for Jesus. Remove anything that keeps us from loving You and loving others.
Amen.

Family Challenge
Choose one way your family will make more room for God this week.

Weekly Blessing
May God prepare your hearts with peace and joy.



Joy

WEEK 3
DECEMBER 13

Centering Time…..
Light three Advent candles.
Have each family member share one person who has helped them know God's love

Read
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wonder Together
- What does a flashlight do?
- Who has taught you about God?
- How can you be kind to someone this week?
- What do you think it means to shine God's light?
- How can we help others see Jesus?
- Why was John willing to point attention away from himself?

Family Devotion
John the Baptist understood something important: he wasn't the light. His job was to point to the light.
Sometimes we think faith is about drawing attention to ourselves. John teaches us a different way. A faithful life points others toward Christ.
When we act with kindness, forgive mistakes, tell the truth, and serve others, people can see something of Jesus in us.
We don't have to be perfect. We simply reflect Jesus' light.

Family Activity
Watch a favorite Christmas movie together and then talk about how it helps you understand the importance of hope, peace, joy, or love.

Family Challenge
Encourage one person every day this week.

Weekly Blessing
May Christ's light shine through your family.



Love

WEEK 4
DECEMBER 20

Centering Time.....
Light all four Advent candles.
Say together:
"Let it be with me according to your word."

Read
Luke 1:26-38

Wonder Together
- How do you think Mary felt when the angel spoke to her?
- What makes you feel brave?
- When have you tried something new?
- When has God asked you to be brave?
- What can we learn from Mary's faith and courage?
- What helps you trust someone?
- Is there an area of life where you wish you had more faith?

Family Devotion
Mary received surprising news. God's plan was much bigger than anything she expected. Mary probably had questions and fears. Yet she trusted God and responded with faith. Following Jesus doesn't mean we always know exactly what will happen. Like Mary, we learn to trust God's goodness even when the future feels uncertain.

Every time we obey God, show kindness, forgive someone, or do the right thing, we are saying "yes" to God too.

Family Activity
Make a meal together and share it with a friend or neighbor.

Prayer
God,
Thank You for Mary's example. Give us courage to trust You and follow wherever You lead.
Amen.

Family Challenge
Practice saying "yes" to opportunities to help others this week.

Weekly Blessing
May God give you Mary's courage and faith.





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