

Dare to Dream

Advent Season

Family Advent Devotion Guide

10 Advent and Christmas Devotions for Families



Advent 2021

Devotion 1

Week of November 28th

Theme

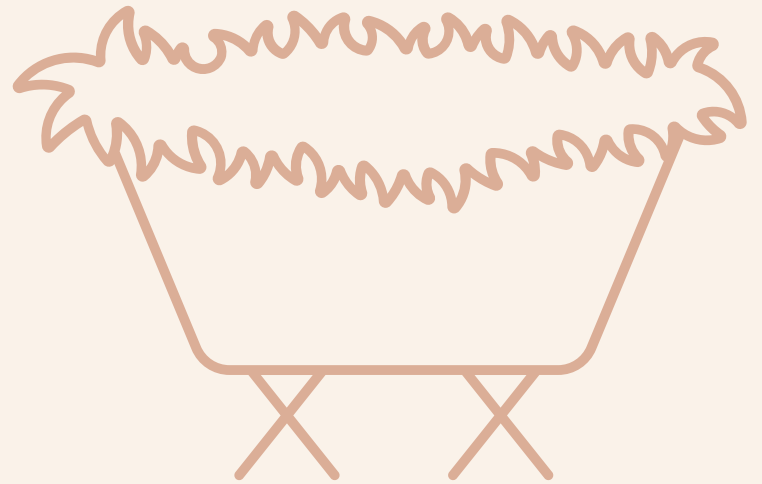
Jesus is coming.

Materials

- Bible
- Marble

Activity

Hold up the marble and look through it. Everything is upside down. Jesus came to turn the world UPSIDE down and fill the world with His love and grace.



Scripture & Discussion

- The word Advent means "coming". Who or what are we waiting for during this season?
- Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What did people think Jesus would be like? What were their dreams for their new king?
- People were looking for a mighty King, and Jesus was a baby born in a manger. How is that upside down and backwards? Why do you think God planned it to happen that way?
- Read John 1:10-12. How did people receive Jesus? How did He turn the world upside down?
- What are your dreams for Christmas?

Prayer

Pray that during the time you spend together over the next few weeks, your family will draw closer to each other and to God.

Devotion 2

Week of November 28th

Theme

God with us.

Materials

- Bible
- Bubbles

Activity

Take turns blowing bubbles. Bubbles can symbolize our prayers going to God. As you blow bubbles, share a prayer request or praise to send to God, who is always with us and always listening.



Scripture & Discussion

- Read Matthew 1:23. What does the name Immanuel mean?
- Why do you think Immanuel is a good name for Jesus?
- How do you know God is always with you and hears all your prayers?
- Even though the bubbles pop and disappear, God doesn't disappear. He is always with us, even when we can't see Him. How does that make you feel?
- Can we pray to God for our dreams? How does God respond?

Prayer

Thank God for always being with us. Pray over your family's prayer requests and include praises for things God has done in your life.

Devotion 3

Week of December 5th

Theme

Rejoice for Jesus!

Materials

- Bible
- Jingle Bells

Activity

Ring the bell and listen to its sound. As it rings, sing a Christmas carol together. Make music and sing to the Lord, thanking Him for Jesus. What is your favorite Christmas carol or worship song?

Scripture & Discussion

- Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago in a manger and He was the first and best Christmas present- a reason to rejoice and give thanks to God! What does it mean to rejoice?
- Read Luke 2:1-17. People had been hoping and dreaming for a Messiah for hundreds of years. How would you have felt if you were there when Jesus was born?
- Read Psalm 105:2-3. Why can you give thanks and rejoice this Christmas? What are some ways you can rejoice?
- People are still dreaming about the day that Jesus will return to Earth. What do you think it will look like when He comes back?



Prayer

Pray the words of Joy to the World. Give thanks for Jesus!

Devotion 4

Week of December 5th

Theme

Jesus came to be a light to the world.

Materials

- Bible
- Tealight Candle

Activity

Light the candle. Turn out the lights. What happens to the light from the candle when you turn the lights off? Does it get dimmer? No, it lights up the darkness. That is how Jesus shines His light into the world.

Scripture & Discussion

- Read John 8:12. What does this verse say about the reason Jesus came to earth?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world? How does He bring light to the darkness?
- How does Jesus shine light into your life?
- Read Matthew 5:14-16. What does this verse say about how we should act in this world?
- How can we shine God's light to others?



Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to be our light in the darkness and for giving us love and hope. Ask for God's help to be a light in the darkness to others.

Devotion 5

Week of December 12th

Theme

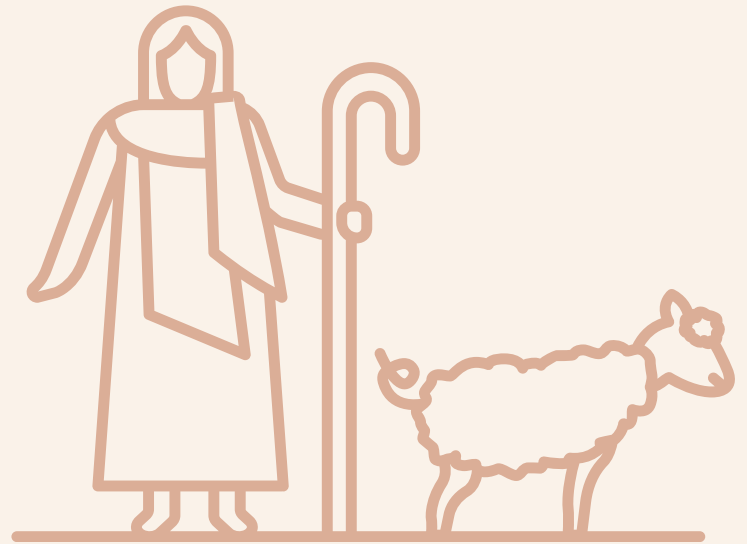
We can respond with joy to the gift of Jesus.

Materials

- Bible
- Chenille Stems

Activity

Shape the chenille stems into the shape of an angel (or just wings or halo). Then try shaping them into a shepherd's crook or a sheep.



Scripture & Discussion

- Read Luke 2:8-20. Do you think the shepherds ever dreamed they would be apart of the story of the Savior's birth?
- How did the shepherds respond to seeing the angels?
- What do you think you would have done when the angels appeared?
- What did the shepherds do after meeting Jesus?
- How can we act like the shepherds and respond with joy to the gift of Jesus?

Prayer

Ask God to help you respond with joy to the the gift of Jesus. Ask him to help you spread the news of His birth this advent and Christmas season.

Devotion 6

Week of December 12th

Theme

Jesus has many names.

Materials

- Bible
- Nativity Ornament Craft
- Family Pictures

Activity

Put together the ornament craft.. Look at the depiction of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Then look at pictures of your family when your children were infants. Talk about what the process of naming them was like for you and why you chose their names. Talk about what dreams you had for them when they were born.

Scripture & Discussion

- Read Matthew 1:18-21. Where did Jesus get His name? Why did the angel say that Mary's baby would be named Jesus?
- Parents usually have big dreams for their children. What do you think Mary's dreams for Jesus were? How do you think they were the same or different as God's dreams for Him?
- What other names have you heard for Jesus or God?
- Listen to "These Are The Names of God" by Lifeway Kids. What names stuck out to you? What do these names tell you about God & Jesus?
- What is your favorite way to refer to God?



Prayer

Pray for God to be present with you during Advent, using your favorite name for God.

Devotion 7

Week of December 19th

Theme

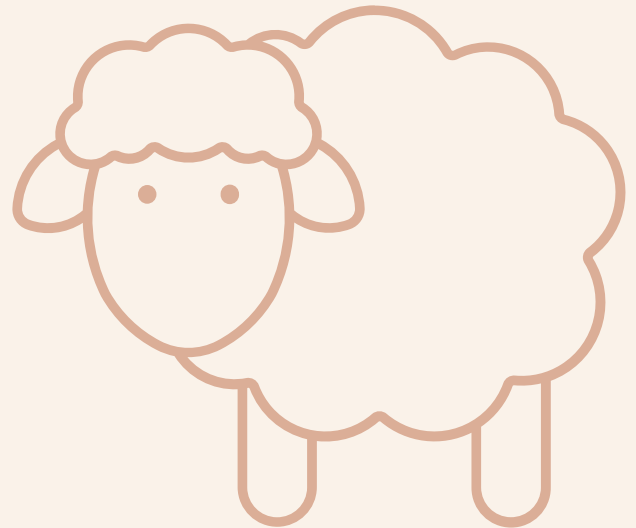
God is our shepherd.

Materials

- Bible
- Plastic Sheep

Activity

Look at the plastic sheep and talk about what it would take to keep the sheep healthy and safe. If you have pets in your home, you can talk about how you keep them safe. Talk about what a shepherd does for their sheep.



Scripture & Discussion

- Have you ever had to care for an animal? Was it hard or easy? Why did you take care of them?
- Read Psalm 23. What does the Psalm say about how God cares for us? How is it like a shepherd caring for his sheep?
- In what ways do you see God caring for you like a shepherd every day?
- Read John 10:11-18. How is Jesus like a good shepherd?
- Why does Jesus protect and care for us?

Prayer

Thank God for his protection and care. Pray that He continues to watch over you and keep you healthy and safe this Advent.

Devotion 8

Week of December 19th

Theme

We share God's love with others!

Materials

- Bible
- Cookie Cutter

Activity

What shape is your cookie cutter? How can that remind you of the Gospel or the birth of Jesus? To take this one step further, use the cookie cutter to make some cookies and share them with someone who needs to know the love and kindness of Jesus.

Scripture & Discussion

- If your cookie cutter is in the shape of something the world thinks of as the meaning of Christmas (stocking, snowman, toys), how is that different from what the Bible says about why we celebrate?
- Read 1 John 3:11, 17-18, 23. How does the Bible say we should treat others? Why should we treat them this way?
- How can we show others that Jesus is the best gift ever?
- God's dream for the world is one that is filled with love and kindness. What can you do this Advent to show love to someone in need?



Prayer

Ask God to show you ways that you can help show love to others during this Advent and Christmas season..

Devotion 9

Christmas Eve

Theme

Jesus came to give us hope.

Materials

- Bible
- Star Stickers

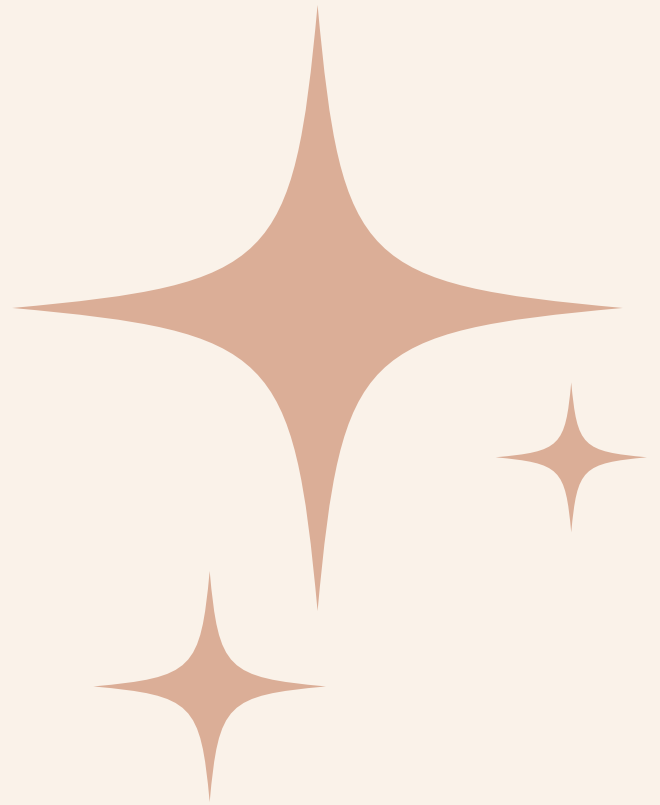
Activity

Take turns hiding a star and playing “hot and cold” as you imagine what the wise men must have felt like on their journey to visit Jesus.

Peel off the back from the star and stick it somewhere in your home where it will be a reminder of the star that led the wise men to Jesus, and the hope He brought the world.

Scripture & Discussion

- Read Matthew 2:9-10. The wise men had been dreaming of Jesus' arrival for many years. How did the wise men know He had arrived, and how did they find Him?
- How did you first find out about Jesus?
- The star represented hope and joy for the wise men; their dreams had been fulfilled! What does the star remind you of or represent in your life?
- What dreams do you want to see fulfilled?
- How can you seek Jesus?



Prayer

Thank God for allowing us to have a relationship with Jesus and for sending the star as a symbol of hope, grace, and the birth of a Savior.

Devotion 10

Christmas Day

Theme

Jesus is the best gift ever!

Materials

- Bible
- Birthday Candle

Activity

Light the candle and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Talk about how you celebrate your birthday. You can even make a card or a cake for Jesus!



Scripture & Discussion

- How do you celebrate birthdays in your family?
- Read Matthew 2:11. How did the Magi celebrate the birth of Jesus? What gifts did they bring?
- What gift would you give to Jesus today?
- What is one reason you can worship Him?
- Why is Jesus the best gift ever for us?

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus to earth as a gift to us. Ask Him to be with your family as you celebrate Christmas.