



A Parent's Guide to **ADVENT FOR KIDS**

This guide is meant to be used along with the **Church on the Move Friends and Family Advent Guide**. This is not a guide to give to your kids, rather, it's a resource for you to be able to intentionally lead them through this season of Advent by sparking conversations and memorable activities.

WEEKLY

- **Discuss** the topic of the week with your child(ren).
- **Ask** what do they think it means? What does it really mean? *Keep this discussion short, no more than two minutes.*
 - **Example:** "What is hope?" (Wait for response.) "That's a really good answer! Very smart! The Bible says that hope is..."
- **Have fun!** Do at least one activity together as a family per week. We've provided two activity suggestions every week that help demonstrate the weekly advent topic to a child. If you can do both activities, do them! Children learn through repetition and teaching these concepts through hands-on activity with their family is a great way to learn it!
- **Read** the weekly verse provided with your child(ren). Talk about what the verse means. Consider giving your child(ren) a treat they enjoy or a snack they like when reading the verse. We love when scripture reading is associated with fun!

DAILY

- **Pray:** Hold hands and pray together each night before going to bed.





WEEK ONE | HOPE

*"May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace as you trust in
him"*

Romans 15:13

01 | HOPE ACTIVITY

- Use construction paper to make loops that countdown until Christmas. Tear off one every day until Christmas morning! Just like we have hope that Christmas will come soon, we also have hope that Jesus will come back!

02 | HOPE ACTIVITY

- Light a fire after dark and roast marshmallows. As you light the fire, talk to your kids about how when Jesus came, he was the light in the darkness. He was our hope!
- Alternative: If you don't have access to a fire, go see Christmas lights together! Talk about how dark the night would be without the lights. Our world would be dark if we didn't have Jesus!



WEEK TWO

The Promise of Peace



WEEK TWO | PEACE

*"Glory to God in the Highest, and
on Earth peace, good will towards
men"*

Luke 2:14

01 | PEACE ACTIVITY

- Make some snowflakes together. Gather everyone together and turn on some quiet, peaceful Christmas music (probably not "I want a hippopotamus for Christmas"). Talk about how quiet it is when it snows. How peaceful we feel. Remind them that Jesus brings us peace, no matter what is going on around us.
- Alternative: For those with kids too young to cut out snowflakes, you can create snowflakes with Q-Tips, straws, popsicle sticks, etc. You could also print out a snowflake template and let the kids add stickers, color, use blue paint doobers, or, if you're feeling adventurous, let them add some glue and glitter!

02 | PEACE ACTIVITY

- Be still. Take a few moments to turn off the technology and noise around you. Pop some popcorn to snack on and read the Christmas story from the Bible. If you'd like, use one of the suggested versions for a kid-friendly option.¹



WEEK THREE

The Anticipation of Joy



WEEK THREE | JOY

"But the angel reassured them, 'Don't be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.'"

Luke 2:10

01 | JOY ACTIVITY

- Have a snowball fight! You can use store-bought snowballs, wads of white paper, or bundled up socks! Make a pile on opposite sides of the living room and split into teams (parents vs. kids, boys vs. girls, etc.). Make a dividing line down the middle, so the two sides of the room are visible. Have kids count how many snowballs you started with. Set a timer for 2 minutes and throw the snowballs at each other. The team that has the fewest amount of snowballs on their side of the room at the end of the two minutes, wins! Play best 2 out of 3. The winning team gets to pick which Christmas movie to watch! Everyone has to watch together!

02 | JOY ACTIVITY

- Build a gingerbread house together! There are handy kits available in most stores! You could also go the old-fashioned route and make them by hand!
- Alternative: Make cookies together and decorate the cookies with frosting and sprinkles.



WEEK FOUR

The Giving of Love



WEEK FOUR | LOVE

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in His will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

01 | LOVE ACTIVITY

- Choose an activity to do together as a family that shows love to someone you don't know. Whatever you do, make sure that all members of the household can participate in.
 - Ideas:
 - Buy a gift for a neighbor you don't know very well.
 - Volunteer at a food bank.
 - Buy or make someone a Christmas dinner.
 - Write letters to some nursing home residents.
 - Grab a tag off of an angel tree.

02 | LOVE ACTIVITY

- At dinner, have everyone who is old enough to talk, take some time to go around the table and say one thing that you love about every member of the family. When everyone has gone around the table, treat everyone to a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows!



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

¹KID-FRIENDLY OPTIONS



OLDER KIDS

[The Story of Baby Jesus](#), by Leanna Guenther

PDF: [The Nativity Story](#), Retold by Teri Ann Berg Olsen

YOUNGER KIDS

PDF: [Jesus Is Born](#), Authored by Katuscia Giusti

PDF: [Joyitas de la Biblia \(Spanish\)](#), Texto: Katuscia Giusti



FAQs:

- 1. How long should I make each discussion?** Keep in mind the short attention span of children. Don't feel like you have to talk about the topic the whole time you are doing an activity. One or two minutes of discussion is plenty for younger kids. Let the activity just be a time to be together while reinforcing the concept itself.
- 2. Why is there so much food involved in this advent guide?** The Bible says "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Children learning the Torah were often given tastes of honey to go with scripture reading. It's a way for children to engage all senses in the Word of God and associate God with goodness. We want to do that too! Of course, make adjustments for allergies, health concerns, etc. This is a loose guide. Adapt where you see fit!