

Advent Devotions



Note TO THE PARENT



The season of Advent is a time for believers to reflect on both the first coming of Jesus at His birth in Bethlehem and His second coming in the future, when He will return in glory to judge and reign as King.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Advent lasts for four weeks leading up to Christmas, and it culminates on Christmas Eve. Advent is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for both the celebration of Jesus' first coming and the hopeful expectation of His second coming. During Advent, believers reflect on the long-awaited arrival of the Messiah promised in the Old Testament as they also look forward to His return. The season is marked by readings, prayers, and hymns that emphasize both the joy of Jesus' first coming and the hope of His second coming. It's also a time for repentance and spiritual renewal, a time to prepare one's heart for Christ by considering how He has transformed the world and how He continues to transform lives. Though Advent is a period of waiting, it is a joyful waiting, filled with hope and anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises.

As a family, set the next four weeks aside to remember our Savior's birth and 2nd coming in prayer and song. Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation. It is a time of hope and expectation. It is a time of repentance and reflection. It is a time of joyful waiting. During Advent, reflect on the promises that were fulfilled and are yet to be fulfilled through Christ.

Create an Advent Wreath. It is a circular arrangement of evergreen branches, symbolizing the hope and the eternal life that comes through Christ. It holds four candles, one for each week of Advent. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple, and one is rose (pink). The colors reflect the themes hope, faith, joy, and peace. Some Advent wreaths may also have a fifth candle, known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday at dinner time, light a new candle. Read and discuss the suggested Bible passages. Use them as memory work or copy work. Learn and sing the suggested songs or carols. Use the suggested hymn study during the week as your family devotions. Pray together as a family. If you created the Advent Countdown Prayer or Acts of Kindness Chain, break one off each day during the month of December. Do the acts of kindness or prayer suggestions on each chain as part of your daily family Advent devotions.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

—Carrie—
DE FRANCISCO

www.coffeewithcarrie.org





Prayers FOR ADVENT COUNTDOWN

Write one on each chain link in your Advent Countdown Chain.

1. Pray for your pastor.
2. Pray for a friend who is sad.
3. Pray for a family member who needs Jesus.
4. Pray for humility today.
5. Pray for your sibling.
6. Pray for your father.
7. Pray for your mother.
8. Pray for the President.
9. Pray for joy today.
10. Thank God for three things today.
11. Pray for a teacher or coach.
12. Pray for peace.
13. Pray for an enemy.
14. Pray for a neighbor.
15. Pray for America.
16. Pray for self-control today.
17. Pray for leaders in your church.
18. Pray for a grateful heart.
19. Pray for a sick friend or family member.
20. Pray for missionaries.
21. Pray for Israel that they will come to know Jesus as their promised Messiah.
22. Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus with someone today.
23. Pray for those who are hungry or homeless.
24. Thank God for Jesus today.





ISAIAH 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.





Week One



1st SUNDAY of ADVENT:
Light the first PURPLE Candle.

First Candle (Hope or Prophecy Candle):

This is the violet or purple candle, representing hope and expectation. It symbolizes the prophecy of the coming Messiah and the hope of Christ's return.



Read Isaiah 9:2-7.
Discuss and talk about the Messiah's names.
Thank God for His promises and for sending a savior.



DURING THE WEEK: Light the first PURPLE Candle at each meal.

- Listen to Handel's *Messiah*. Learn the song "For Unto Us."
- Memorize Isaiah 9: 2-7.
- Use Isaiah 9:2-7 as copy work.
- For further study, look up, read, and discuss Psalm 122; Isaiah 2:2-5; Romans 13:11-14.





Week One



1st WEEK of ADVENT:

Hymn Study: "We Three Kings"
John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Listen to the song and sing together all of the verses.

Use YouTube to watch a classic performance of this song by Hugh Jackman, David Hobson, and Peter Cousen.

Learn some of the vocabulary that might be unknown.

- What does orient mean?
- What does "traverse afar" mean?
- What is a moor?
- What were the three gifts?
- What is frankensence ?
- What is myrrh?

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

"We Three Kings" summarizes in song the Magi visiting baby Jesus in Matthew 2.

Memorize Psalm 105:3.

"Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD."

Discuss "Wise men still seek Him."

What does it mean to be wise? When the Magi saw the star, they knew the promised Messiah was born. Oddly, the Magi were not Jewish, however, a long time ago, a Hebrew boy advised the king of Babylon and the King of Persia. Daniel told the Magi all about the promised savior. Because one man shared his faith in the one true God, hundreds of years later, Gentile seekers went on a journey to find and worship this promised Messiah. We never know how our words, actions, and prayers will produce heavenly treasures in heaven and how they will affect future generations. Be a Daniel. Be a wise man.





Luke 1: 31-33

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.





Week Two



2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT:
Light the second PURPLE Candle.



Second Candle (Faith or Bethlehem Candle)

The second candle is also violet or purple, representing faith. It recalls the faith of Mary and Joseph as they journeyed to Bethlehem in anticipation of the birth of Jesus.



Read Luke 1: 26-56.

**Discuss and talk about God's promise and Mary's response.
Ask God to help you worship Him and give Him all glory.**



DURING THE WEEK: Light the 1st & 2nd PURPLE Candles at each meal.

- Listen and learn the hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."
- Memorize Luke 1: 29-33. (Teens memorize entire passage)
- Use Luke 1: 29-33 as copy work.
- For further study, look up, read, and discuss Matthew 1 and John 1: 1-15.





Week Two



2nd WEEK of ADVENT: Hymn Study: "Silent Night" BY JOSEPH MOHR

Listen to the song and sing together all of the verses.

Use YouTube to watch and listen to different versions of it.

Learn some of the vocabulary that might be unknown.

- What does "round yon" mean? It simply means "around." "Yon" is an older word for "over there."
- What does "Shepherds quake at the sight" mean?
- What is a "Heavenly Host"?

Read Luke 2.

"Silent Night" describes the events in Luke 2 and the humble birth of Jesus.

Memorize Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Learn the history of the song.

The song's lyrics were originally written in German just after the end of the Napoleonic Wars around 1816 by a young Austrian priest named Joseph Mohr. In the fall of 1816, Mohr's congregation in the little town of Austria was devastated. Due to a volcanic eruption in 1815, Mohr's congregation was poverty-stricken, hungry, and traumatized. He composed a set of six poetic verses to convey hope. Perhaps at no time in the song's history was this message of hope and peace more important than during the Christmas Truce of 1914. At the height of World War I, German and British soldiers on the front lines in Flanders laid down their weapons on Christmas Eve and together sang "Silent Night."





Luke 2:10-12

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.





Week Three

3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT:

Light the PINK Candle.



Third Candle (Joy or Shepherd's Candle)

The third candle is rose or pink, representing joy. This candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday" (from the Latin word "gaudete," meaning "rejoice"), reflecting the joy of the coming Savior.



Read Luke 2: 1- 21

Discuss and talk about the good news & the shepherds' response. Thank God for sending a savior and ask Him for boldness to share the Good News too.



DURING THE WEEK: Light the PINK and 2 PURPLE Candles at each meal.

- Listen and learn "Go Tell It On the Mountains."
- Memorize Luke 2:8-12. (Teens memorize entire passage)
- Use Luke 2:8-12. as copy work.
- For further study, look up, read, and discuss Psalm 146:5-10; Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 2:10-11.





Week Three



3rd WEEK of ADVENT:

Hymn Study: "Go Tell It On The Mountains"
An African- American spiritual

Listen to the song and sing together all of the verses.

For fun, watch a few YouTube videos of different artists and choirs singing the song. Read all of the verses together.

Learn some of the vocabulary that might be unknown.

- In the last verse, what does "lowly manger" mean?
- In verse 3, why do you think "The shepherds were fearful and trembled"?

Read Luke 2: 8-20.

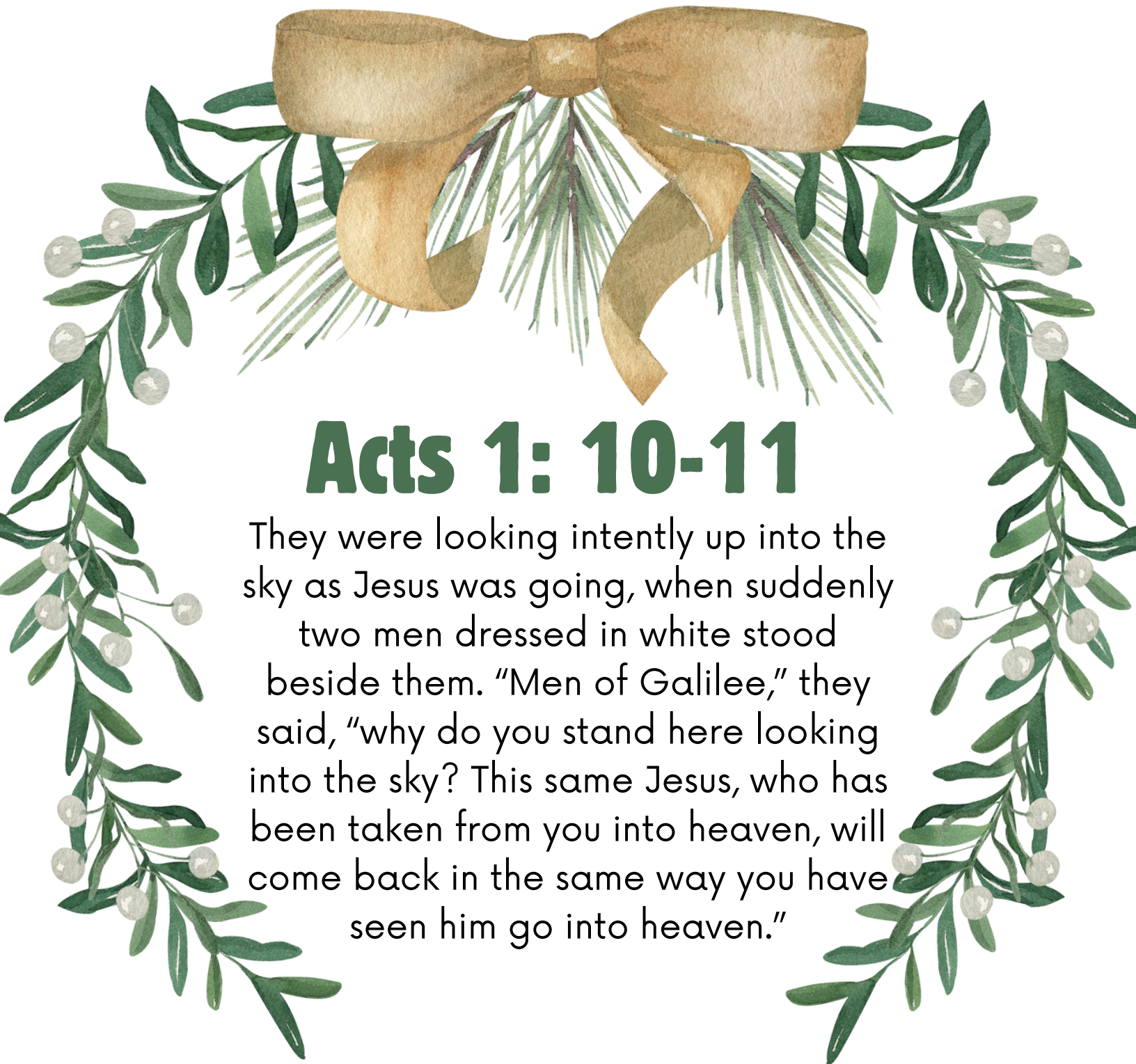
"Go Tell it on the Mountains" is about the angels coming to the shepherds in the fields, declaring the good news of the savior's birth, and instructing the shepherds to go tell everyone what they heard and saw.

Memorize Luke 2: 13-14: "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Discuss the Good News!

Brainstorm ways you can share the good news of Jesus with your friends and family this week. Be specific. Invite them to a church event or Sunday service. Go caroling as a way to share the good news of Jesus' birth.





Acts 1: 10-11

They were looking intently up into the sky as Jesus was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."





Week Four



4th SUNDAY of ADVENT:
Light the last PURPLE Candle.



Fourth Candle (Peace or Angel's Candle)

The fourth candle is another violet or purple candle, representing peace. It recalls the message of the angels who announced the birth of Jesus, proclaiming "peace on earth, goodwill to men" (Luke 2:14).



Read Acts 1: 10-11

**Discuss and talk about Jesus' promise to return.
Ask God to be do His will while you wait for His return.**



DURING THE WEEK: Light ALL of the Candles at each meal.

- Listen and learn "Joy to the World"
- Memorize Acts 1: 10-11.
- Use Acts 1: 10-11 as copy work.
- For further study, look up, read, and discuss John 14: 1-6, Isaiah 11 & 35, & Zechariah 14.





Week Four



4th WEEK of ADVENT:

Hymn Study: "Joy to The World"
BY ISSAC WATTS

Listen to the song and sing together all of the verses.

Use YouTube again to watch and listen to any version you like by different artists and choirs.

Learn some of the vocabulary that might be unknown.

- What does "Let men their songs employ" mean?
- Why do the fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains rejoice and repeat the sounds of joy?
- What are His wonders of love?

Read Psalm 98.

Look for similar words, verses, and promises in Psalm 98 that can also be found in "Joy to the World."

Memorize Philippians 2:10-11.

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Learn the history of the song.

The carol was written in 1719 by the English minister and hymn-writer Isaac Watts, and its lyrics are a Christian interpretation of Psalm 98 celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Today, the carol is usually sung to an 1848 arrangement by the American composer Lowell Mason. "Joy to the World" celebrates Christ's second coming as well as his first coming. Stanza three is based on Genesis 3:17 when God curses Adam. This verse is sometimes omitted but don't skip it! It is full of biblical truth and the whole reason we need a savior! It's a great verse to learn and sing.





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