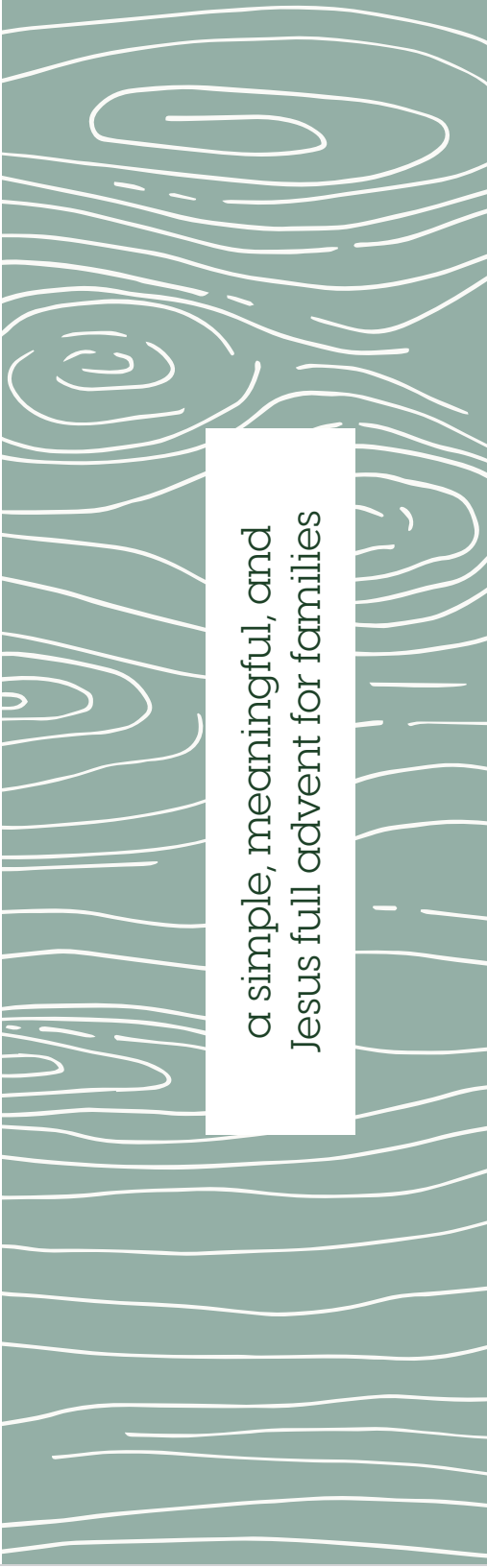




WAITING PREPARING
WANTING REFLECTING
WATCHFUL SO MEN-EYED

Expectant!

a simple, meaningful, and
Jesus full advent for families



hope

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [Ephesians 2:12-13, ESV]



Light the Candle

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We light one candle to remind us that Jesus brings hope to the darkness.

Reflect

What do you think that hope means? Hope means to expect with confidence. Jesus is our hope. Our light in the darkness. We walk with the confidence that God did not leave us in darkness and sin. He had a marvelous rescue plan. He sent Jesus, the Light of the World to the earth long ago as a baby to rescue and save us. We live with the hope that Jesus not only came, but the hopeful expectation that He will return again to make all things new. Our hope is not in things that can disappear or people that can disappoint – but in Christ. What hope we have!

Open Your Bible + Read

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Jeremiah 33:14-16, Romans 15:12-13

Sing

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Let's Talk About It

What is hope? Why do we have hope? How do we help others in our community and around the world know that Jesus is the hope of the world?

Hope in Action

Let's think of someone in our community that needs hope. How can we share the hope of Jesus with them this week?

Praise Him!

We love you and praise you for the hope we have in you. Thank you for not leaving us in darkness and sin. Thank you for sending Jesus, the light of the world to rescue us. Fill our hearts with hopeful expectation. Help us show and share the hope and light we have because of Jesus with others today.

Peace

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
[Isaiah 9:6, ESV]*



Light the Candle

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. We light two candles – HOPE to remind us that Jesus brings hope to the darkness and PEACE to remind us that Jesus brings lasting peace to our hearts and the world around us.

Reflect

What do you think that peace means? Peace is freedom from being afraid or worried because God is in control of the whole world. It is an inner calm that is available despite our circumstances. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He came to bring peace on earth. Because He entered our world as a baby, died on the cross for our sins and made everything right between us and God, we now have peace. He offers us incredible peace in a world that is not always peaceful. He gives us an inner peace that fills our hearts. We don't have to be anxious or worried about anything. Through prayer and praise, God's peace, which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7-8). What peace we have!

Open Your Bible + Read

Isaiah 40:3-5, Isaiah 53:5, Luke 2:13-14, Philippians 4:7-8, 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Sing

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Let's Talk About It

What is peace? Why do we have lasting peace? Who in our world needs God's peace this year?

Peace in Action

Let's think of someone in our community that needs peace. How can we share the peace of Christ with them this week?

Praise Him!

We love you and praise you for the peace we have in you. Thank you for sending Jesus to pay the price for my sins and restore our relationship. Thank you for the lasting peace you bring to this world that desperately needs you. True peace is only found in you. Make me an instrument of your peace to a hurting world. Help our family to be peacemakers at home and in our community.

joy



You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [Isaiah 9:3-4, ESV]

Light the Candle

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. We light three candles – HOPE to remind us that Jesus brings hope to the darkness, PEACE to remind us that Jesus brings lasting peace to our hearts and the world around us, and JOY to remind us that Jesus entered our brokenness and gives us joy that doesn't change or fade.

Reflect

What do you think that joy means? Joy is a God given gladness that doesn't change if good or bad things happen. Joy comes from being with God, which means that we can still be joyful even in unhappy moments. We hold tight to God's promise of great joy, the promise that He was sending a Savior to all people. The King of the universe entered our mess in a stable as a little baby to bring us life and unending joy. The joy we have because of Jesus entering the world as a baby and saving us is too great of news to keep to ourselves. We can share this good news of great joy with others that desperately needs Jesus. We also live with the joy of knowing that one day Christ will return to make all things new, just as he promised. What joy we have!

Open Your Bible + Read

Isaiah 9:3-4, Matthew 2:10-11, Luke 2:7-15, Psalm 16:11, 1 Peter 1:8-9, Hebrews 12:1-3

Sing

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Let's Talk About It

What is joy? Where does our joy come from? Read Luke 2:7-15 and imagine you were a shepherd in the field. What do you think it felt like when the angels appeared?

Joy in Action

Let's think of someone that we know that needs joy in their life. How can we share our bubbling over joy because of Jesus with them this week?

Praise Him!

We love you and praise you for the joy unspeakable we have in you. Today we rejoice as we think about your incredible rescue plan. Thank you for entering our brokenness as a baby and saving us on the cross. We pray that the joy that comes from spending time with you would bubble up out of our hearts and we would share it with others who need you. Thank you for giving us great joy!

Love



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [John 3:16-17, ESV]

Light the Candle

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. We light four candles – HOPE to remind us that Jesus brings hope to the darkness, PEACE to remind us that Jesus brings lasting peace to our hearts and the world around us, JOY to remind us that Jesus entered our brokenness and gives us joy that doesn't change or fade, and LOVE to remind us that Jesus came to save us.

Reflect

What do you think that love means? The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:10 (NIV) that, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Love is patient, kind, rejoices over truth. Love always trusts, hopes, and perseveres. It is NOT jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't proud, rude, selfish, angry, and it takes no pleasure in evil. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8) Jesus is love. He lived a life of love and showed us the depth of his love by dying for us. He laid down His life for us while we were still sinners. Read Romans 5:6-8 together and think about how Christ died for us at the right time while we were still weak. We can love others because Jesus first loved us. What love we have been shown!

Open Your Bible + Read

John 3:16-19, Ephesians 2:1-9, 1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:9-12

Sing

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Let's Talk About It

What is love? How did God show us his love? How do we help others know God's love?

Love in Action

Let's think of someone in our community that needs God's love this Advent season. Pick one way (or many ways) to show love to others this week.

Praise Him!

We love you and praise you for your deep, wonderful, rescuing love. Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ. As we think about your love that we do not deserve, we can't help but fall to our knees in worship. What love! What love! What undeserving love! Thank you Jesus for laying down your life and showing us what love is. Thank you for saving us from sin and death while we were still sinners. As we wait for you, fill our hearts with your great love. Help us to love others like you have loved us.

Christ

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [Luke 2:11, ESV]

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory; the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [John 1:14, NIV]

Light the Candle



The first Sunday we lit the candle of HOPE. We wait with hope for the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and long for the day when He will return to make all things new. The second Sunday we lit the candle of PEACE. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He came to bring peace and restore our relationship with God. The third Sunday we lit the candle of JOY to remind us that Jesus brings great joy to all people. The fourth Sunday we lit the candle of LOVE to remind us that Jesus came to our broken world to show and tell us of God's great love and marvelous rescue plan. Today we light the fifth candle as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Immanuel, God with us!

Reflect

Jesus is our hope. He is our peace. He is our joy. He is love. We celebrate his arrival as a baby and are reminded of the expectant hope we have that he will one day come again to make all things new.

Open Your Bible + Read

Psalm 96, Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2: 1-40, John 1:14

Sing

O Holy Night, Joy to the World

Let's Talk About It

What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? Why is that part so special to you?

Share the Hope, Peace, Joy, + Love of Christmas

As a family, sing happy birthday to Jesus. Talk about ways that you can share Christ with others in the upcoming year

Praise Him!

Jesus, the light of the world – You are here! Our hearts are full of celebration and praise. Thank you for coming to shine in the darkness and rescue us. Help us fix our eyes above and adore you and you alone. You are the King of the world and our hearts. Because of you we have hope, peace, joy, and love. You are our greatest gift. Help us shine your light to others.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! [2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV]