



CHILDREN
& FAMILIES

Family Advent Devotion

November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Create an Advent Wreath and light it each of the 4 weeks during Advent. As we begin the season of Advent- the time of getting ready to remember the entrance of God into the world, we invite your family to follow this little ritual (adapted from *The Family Prepares for the Messiah*, Patricia Griggs) sometime each week that works for your family.

Light the first candle of your Advent Wreath or light a white candle as a Christ candle.

Invite family members to repeat this scripture after you:

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world, whoever follows will never walk in darkness but will have the light of light.’” (John 8:12) (*children may know the song that goes with this verse fro Sunday School*).

Prayer: God of all, be with us as we begin our preparation for the coming of your son Jesus Christ. Prepare our hearts and minds to be open to new thoughts and new understandings about who we are in relation to each other and to you. Amen.

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

This week light two candles on your Advent Wreath or two white candles. Invite a family member to read the following (adapted from *The Family prepares for the Messiah*, Patricia Griggs.)

We belong to many families. We belong to the family gathered around this Advent Wreath/these candles. We belong to a larger family of relatives who are not here with us. We belong to our church family. We belong to the large Christian family which extends around the world and back in history to the time of Jesus. We belong to the Hebrew family from which Jesus came and extends back to the time of Abraham and Sarah. Stories about our Christian and Hebrew ancestors are found in the Bible stories which we have been reading this fall.

Prayer: O Ancient One, we are overwhelmed with the thought that we are a part of such a large and significant family. We feel so insignificant when we stand alongside such greats as Abraham, Moses, Deborah, David, and Daniel. Yet we know that your Son Jesus has reminded us that each of us is important and you care even for me. Each of us sitting here comes to you with humble thanks for including us in your family and giving us grace and the opportunity to glorify you with our lives. Be with us, we pray. Amen.

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

This week light three candles on your Advent Wreath or three white candles.

Invite family members to hear the words of Isaiah 9:2-6

What kind of Messiah were the Hebrew people expecting?

Do we need this kind of Messiah today?

Can you think of some things that are happening in our community, state, and nation that:

 need a Messiah to change the situation?

 show people at work bringing about change for the good

 are different because of the teachings and actions of Christ?

Prayer: Holy God, we are often critical of things that are happening in our world. We often wish something would be done to change the way things are, but we sit and do nothing. Dearest God, please give us the insight and courage to work to bring about change. Remind us of the teachings of Jesus and do not let us sit idle but prod us to live as Jesus taught us to live. Amen.

December 19

4th Sunday of Advent

This week light four candles on your Advent Wreath or four white candles.

Read Matthew 17:1-8.

Talk about the words of God spoken on the mountain; "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

 I wonder how the disciples felt when they saw Jesus change and heard the voice speak about Jesus.

 I wonder how you feel about Jesus the Messiah?

Prayer: Gracious God, it is almost Christmas Day when we will celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, don't let us forget the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Help us be constantly aware that Jesus is your Son and that he came to save each one of us. Amen.