



2020 *Advent Family Devotional*

Dear Christ Central Kids and Families,

Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas!

We have put this Advent Family Devotional together in hopes that it will guide our families as we prepare for this advent season. We have adapted this devotional from the Lifeway Kids' Advent Devotional and made it more suitable for our Christ Central Kids' families.

Please feel free to use this as a guide by following the instructions provided and we hope and pray that our families will have meaningful and fruitful conversations, talks, and time in the Word.

We hope you will join us for these six days of devotionals and we would love to know if you're participating with us. For those of you who are on social media, please tag *@christcentralsc* and use the hashtag, *#christcentralscfamily*. If you are not on social media, you can always email your pictures to me at *eric@christcentralsc.com*.

As we look forward to celebrating Christmas Day with one another, let's remember the promise that was fulfilled on this special day! Praise be to God!

We miss you all so much, and again, Merry Christmas!

Truly Yours,
Christ Central Kids
Eric Cho, Priscilla Kwak, and Michelle Yang



How to use this devotional:

Read

This is the scripture reading for each day. Read from your own Bible with your children. It is important for children to know where these “stories” come from, so make sure you show them where you are reading in your Bible.

Explain

Use this part to explain each day’s Scripture reading. Use this as a guide and adapt the teaching for your kids to understand. Remember that this is all a part of God’s story.

Ask

This is a question you can discuss as a family as you consider the devotional and how it applies to your lives.

Pray

Use this time to pray together as a family.

Activity

This is a fun, Christmas focused activity to do with your family to further enhance your focus on the topic for the day. You may want to look ahead of time as some activities might require a bit of planning and preparation.

(The Friday Night Before Christmas)

Day 1 - Friday, December 18

Hope from the Prophecy

Read

Open your Bible to Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

The Old Testament contains many prophecies about God's promises, like Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6. In Isaiah 9:6, God shared His plans and promises to give people hope. God wanted his people to know that He was in control, He had a plan, and He was with them. God promised to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and make a way for us to be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever!

When the Bible talks about hope, there is a certainty and confidence in the outcome. Hebrews 1:2-3 shows us that God kept His promise to send a Savior. When we read the Bible, we know we can trust God to keep all of His promises. Jesus also promised that He would return one day and we would be with Him forever. We can have certainty and confidence in this hope.

We live in hope today as we eagerly await Jesus' return to make all things new.

Ask

What is something that you are hoping for?

Pray

Thank God for sharing His plans and promises in the Bible to give us hope. Praise God for sending Jesus to be with us. Thank Him for the gift of hope through Jesus this Christmas.

Day 1 Activity

HOPE LIST

1. Get a piece of paper and on top of it write in large letters HOPE.
2. Below the word, make a list of things that you as an individual and your family hope for. Some examples could be Peace, healing for someone who you know and love is sick, no more hunger, etc.
3. Color the paper and decorate it to make it look nice.
4. Post it somewhere where you and your family can see it.
5. Pray for the things on this list everyday as a family.

Application: God gave us hope in Jesus and when Jesus came into this world and died on the cross for our sins he fulfilled that hope and continues to do so. When we put our hopes in Jesus, it also means we trust in Him. When we put our trust in Jesus we are believing in what He has done, what His plans are for us, and that He will come back one day to take us to Heaven.

Day 2 - Monday, December 21

Peace from Angels

Read

Open your Bible to Luke 1:26–38 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

Throughout the Bible, angels were used by God to deliver special messages. In the Christmas story, angels played a very special role in announcing the birth of Jesus. The angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be Jesus' earthly mother. The angel brought a message of peace to Mary. The angel wanted her to know she was called by God to be the mother of Jesus.

Jesus came to bring us the gift of peace. Because of our sin, the Bible says we are separated from God. God sent Jesus to provide the way for us to receive God's love and be at peace with Him. The Bible says that it was God's love that brought Jesus into the world as a baby. Just like the angels, it is important that we worship Jesus and tell others about His birth and the peace He offers.

Ask

What is one way to tell someone about Jesus?

Pray

Thank God for the gift of peace. Praise Him for sending Jesus so that we can have peace with God when we trust in Him. Ask God to use your family to point others to the peace of God this Advent season.

Day 2 Activity

JESUS' NAME

1. Grab paper, or construction paper, cardboard, cardstock, or even a paper plate. Anything you can draw/write on and cut out.
2. Draw and cut out a large star and write Jesus.
3. Draw and cut out 4 smaller stars and write the following on each star write one of these names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Peace, Prince of Peace.
4. Decorate or color each star.
5. Paste the smaller stars onto the larger star around Jesus. If you have a string, cut 4 pieces and tape one end of a string onto each small star and tape the other end to the larger star. (Like a mobile!)

Application: In Isaiah 9:6 it says, *“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.”*

When the angel appeared before Mary he told her that she will give birth to a child and his name will be Jesus. We see that Jesus was also called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Peace, and Prince of Peace. We find comfort in knowing that we can call and trust Jesus is all of these things.

Day 3 - Tuesday, December 22

Special Day in Bethlehem

Read

pen your Bible to Luke 2:1–7 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

Bethlehem was the place God chose to take the next step in showing His unfailing love to people. It was in Bethlehem that Mary and Joseph, Jesus' earthly parents, gave birth to Jesus and welcomed him into the world. God promised to show His love through a certain family from Bethlehem. Joseph was from the family of King David.

God also promised that the Savior would be born of a virgin, so it was important that Mary and Joseph were not married when Mary became pregnant. The town where Jesus was born, His mother, and His earthly father are all important parts of the story of Jesus' birth.

Each part of the story of Jesus' birth was an example of God's love to the world. First John 4:9 says that "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him." God sent the gift of Jesus into the world to the town of Bethlehem to demonstrate His deep and everlasting love for us

Ask

What was your birth story like?

Pray

Praise God for sending the gift of love through Jesus to us. Acknowledge that He knows every detail of the story for His people, even the small town where the Savior would be born. Thank Him for this Advent season to reflect and rejoice that love has come to us.

Day 3 Activity

A SPECIAL DAY IN BETHLEHEM STORY BOOK:

- 1. Grab sheets of paper (copy paper or construction paper).**
- 2. Draw 7 heart shapes about 6" each.**
- 3. On one heart write the title, A Special Day in Bethlehem.**
- 4. On another heart draw the shape of Bethlehem and write "Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem".**
- 5. On another heart draw a barn/stable and write "Mary and Joseph stay in a stable".**
- 6. On another heart draw baby Jesus in a manger and write "Jesus is born".**
- 7. On another heart draw a star and write "Magi following the star to find Jesus".**
- 8. On another heart draw gifts of gold, frankincense (oil), and myrrh (oil) and write "The Magi find Jesus and give him gifts".**
- 9. On your last heart draw the world and write, "God sent Jesus into the world to live a sinless life so that he could save us from sin and death."**
- 10. Put your hearts in the right order and staple it at one end to complete your A Special Day in Bethlehem book!**

Application: We see and know about Jesus' birth story because of the Bible. We see that God loved us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to take away our sins. Jesus came into the world like us but the purpose of His life was to save us from death. This is the greatest gift that we could ever receive. We are now able to have our own life story because of Jesus.

Day 4 - Wednesday, December 23

Joy of Shepherds

Read

Open your Bible to Luke 2:8–20 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

What an announcement! This special news was so important that it came directly from an angel from heaven. Then, a multitude of angels appeared, celebrating and praising God. The Bible says the shepherds were terrified, but their fear quickly gave way to joy as they heard the news of the promised Messiah being born.

The Bible says that “they hurried off” to see Jesus. After spending time with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, the shepherds shared the news about Jesus and all who heard it were amazed. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard.

What great joy! The promised Savior had come. The news of Jesus leads us to respond by joyfully worshiping Him. As we worship Jesus, we will be able to share our excitement about the good news of Jesus with anyone who will listen.

Ask

What is something that you heard recently that filled you with joy and made you happy?

Pray

Praise God for sending Jesus into the world. Ask for His help to share this joyful news with others this Christmas season.

Day 4 Activity

JOY TO THE WORLD:

1. Create a scene from today's Bible reading. Grab a black construction paper, if not available, white paper may be used.
2. Glue cotton balls onto the paper to represent the sheep. If cotton balls are not available, use a white or any color crayon to draw sheep on the paper.
3. Use a yellow crayon to draw stars in the sky.
4. Draw the shepherds and angels.
5. Write JOY at the top of the scene.
6. Remind your family that Jesus' birth was good news of great joy!

Application:

What great joy has come into the world! The good news that Jesus was born was celebrated and praised by the angels, shepherds, and all those who heard. We may rejoice in knowing that Jesus, our Savior, was born to fulfill God's promise of eternal life with Him.

Day 5 - Thursday, December 24

Gift for a King

Read

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:7-11 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

The Magi are also known as the wise men. Wise men followed the star and found the little family in Bethlehem. They worshipped Jesus and presented Him with gifts. These men gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were practical gifts but also gifts that were meant for a king.

Gold represented majesty – this child was born King of the Jews, and now reigns in Heaven. Priests use incense like frankincense to worship God – this child was God come down to earth, and now is seated in Heaven. Myrrh was used to prepare bodies for burial – this child, both King and God, was born to die and to rise again.

These wise men were overjoyed after finding Jesus and they welcomed him with gifts and worship. God showed the world his love by giving us the best gift in Jesus. Jesus came for all and wants all of us to come to Him.

Ask

If you were to give baby Jesus a gift, what would it be?

Pray

Thank God for loving the world so much that He sent His one and only Son to give eternal life to everyone who believes. As we remember His precious gift and His faithfulness through Jesus Christ, may we reflect God's glory in our lives.

Day 5 Activity

GIFT WRAP ME:

- 1. Grab a new toilet paper roll or a roll of gift wrapping paper.**
- 2. Choose one or more family members to be “gift wrapped” with toilet paper/gift wrapping paper!**
- 3. Set a time limit for wrapping the family member with toilet paper/gift wrapping paper and judge the best wrapped family member.**
- 4. Extra points if you can make a bow out of toilet paper and tape it on top of your family member.**

Application:

Giving and receiving gifts is fun, but God gave us the best gift of all! God gave us the gift of Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose again. Jesus gives us the gift of salvation and eternal life when we trust in Him.

Day 6 - Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Read

Open your Bible to Luke 2:11–14 and read these verses aloud.

Explain

This Advent season we have learned about the prophecies of Jesus' coming that gave hope to God's people. God always keeps His promises. We discovered the place where God first displayed His love to the world—Bethlehem—and the people He chose to fulfill His promise— Mary and Joseph. We know that when the shepherds heard the news of great joy that Jesus was born, they rejoiced and praised God. And the wisemen were overjoyed to find Jesus that they presented him with gifts fit for a king. Then, we discovered how God made the way for true peace to come into the world through Jesus from the message of the angels.

Today, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, the promised Savior that God sent for us. Jesus is called Immanuel. Do you remember what that name means? When Jesus was born, God became “God with us” through Jesus. At the perfect time, in the perfect way, and because God loves us, He sent His Son Jesus to be born into the world. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be called children of God. This is the best gift ever

Ask

What is the best give you ever received?

Pray

Thank Jesus for coming to be the Light of the world. Praise Him for coming to be the greatest gift for everyone who trusts in Him as Savior.

Day 6 Activity

LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

1. Grab a new toilet paper roll or a roll of gift wrapping paper.
2. Choose one or more family members to be “gift wrapped” with toilet paper/gift wrapping paper!
3. Set a time limit for wrapping the family member with toilet paper/gift wrapping paper and judge the best wrapped family member.
4. Extra points if you can make a bow out of toilet paper and tape it on top of your family member.

Application:

Giving and receiving gifts is fun, but God gave us the best gift of all! God gave us the gift of Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose again. Jesus gives us the gift of salvation and eternal life when we trust in Him.