



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

How do you
#PictureAdvent?

What is this all about?

Advent is a season of the Christian year that is a time of preparation for the coming Christ at Christmas. During this season, we anticipate and prepare our hearts for Jesus. Advent is a season of mission, giving, hope and joy. We hope that your family might use these family activities to pull away from the hustle and distractions of the season in order to focus on Jesus as God's gift of love to each of us.

ADVENT CANDLES

Supplies to gather for your family Advent candles:

5 mason jars, rock salt, 5 tea light or taper candles to fit in jars (battery tea lights work well for younger children), tray or large platter/plate to fit jars on, twine/ribbon, cardstock squares or tags, hole punch, markers

Creating your family Advent candles:

Create your family Advent candles together as a family if you can. Here's how...

1. Fill your mason jars halfway with rock salt.
2. Insert one candle in each jar.
3. Create small paper tags for each jar:
 - Write the word "HOPE" and color the tag purple.
 - Write the word "PEACE" and color the tag purple.
 - Write the word "LOVE" and color the tag pink.
 - Write the word "JOY" and color the tag purple.
 - Write the word "CHRIST" and leave this tag white.
4. Hole punch each tag, wrap twine through the tag and around the designated jar.
5. Line up your jars on a tray or plate in the order above with the last Christ candle in the middle.

WEEKLY ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Use the family activities along with the PictureAdvent photo challenge for an engaging experience for the whole family. Be sure to post your PictureAdvent findings on Instagram or Facebook with **#pictureADVENT**.

How do I use these family activities?

There are two components of our family activities for Advent: a weekly activity and a daily reflection.

The **weekly activity** is a hands-on way for your family to engage in the theme and scripture focus of the week. We recommend doing this on Sunday to set the tone for the week's theme.

The **daily reflections** are a way to bring us back to the meaning of Advent, the theme and story of the week and serve as a reminder for us to look for God at work every day.

DAILY ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Each day of the week, we hope you and your family can create space to light your Advent candles and spend time in prayer and reflection together. Use the ideas as a guide along with your Advent candles.

Week 1 - November 29 - December 5, 2015

HOPE

Daily Texts

Luke 21:25-28, Jeremiah 33:14-16,
John 1:1-2, Psalm 25:5,
Luke 1:26-33, Isaiah 52:7-9,
1 Thessalonians 3:13

Supplies Needed: Advent candles, lighter, construction paper, markers/crayons, scissors, tape. Supplies for mission activity: lunch or care package makings.

LIGHT: Light the first purple candle, the candle of HOPE.

READ: Luke 21:25-28

WONDER

What is something you have waited for with excitement? How did it make you feel to wait?

CREATE

Create a paper chain of hope. Cut several long pieces of construction paper for each family member. Write down those things that give you hope on the strips of paper. Tape these strips into a paper chain and hang it somewhere for the family to see and continue to add to. Each family member will add places you see hope every day throughout the week.

MISSION

Sometime this week, create a sack lunch or care package to share with someone who is hungry and give it away. Or, volunteer with a ministry, church or other organization in your community to serve those who are hungry or homeless. Discuss as a family: How might this action provide hope for those in your community who you serve?

PRAY

Lord, we thank you for the hope we find in you. Help us to bravely share your hope in our world today. Amen.

DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

- **Light:** Each day during the week, take time to light the designated candles as a family
Week 1- HOPE
- **Share:** As you light the candles share how you have seen the word of the week in your day.
- **Ask:** How did you see God at work today? Why? How?
How do you think you can be more like Christ tomorrow?
- **Pray:** God of Love, we remember the gift of Christ. Help us to remember your hope, peace, love and joy. Give us the courage to share these with our world today. Amen.



Week 2 - December 6-12, 2015

PEACE

Daily Texts

Luke 1:77-79, Malachi 3:2-3,
Luke 3:3-6, Philippians 1:9-11,
Psalm 96:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-3,
John 1:4-5

Supplies Needed: Advent candles, lighter,
black construction paper, chalk.

LIGHT: Light the first and the second purple candles, the candle of
Hope and the candle of Peace.

READ: Luke 1:77-79

WONDER

Turn out all of the lights and blow out the candles. How does it feel to be in complete darkness? Relight the candle of PEACE. How much brighter does the candle seem when it is surrounded by darkness? The light of Christ in our world can shine this bright in you! How can you let Christ shine through you?

CREATE

Use chalk on black construction paper to create drawings about being Christ's light in the world. Notice how the paper changes! Share as a family when you are done and hang your creations somewhere as a reminder to shine Christ's light.

MISSION

Make a plan to do something kind for someone who you find it difficult to like. Or, take time to ask for forgiveness where that might be needed.

PRAY

God of Light, Help us become peacemakers in your world by shining your light brightly. Amen.

DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

- **Light:** Each day during the week, take time to light the designated candles as a family
Week 2- HOPE and PEACE
- **Share:** As you light the candles share how you have seen the word of the week in your day.
- **Ask:** How did you see God at work today? Why? How?
How do you think you can be more like Christ tomorrow?
- **Pray:** God of Love, we remember the gift of Christ. Help us to remember your hope, peace, love and joy. Give us the courage to share these with our world today. Amen.

 LEC Family

Week 3 - December 13-19, 2015

LOVE

Daily Texts

Zephaniah 3:14-17, Luke 3:8-14,
Philippians 4:4-6, Luke 3:8-14,
Psalm 98:3, Titus 2:11-14,
Luke 6:38-39

Supplies Needed: Advent candles, lighter, construction paper, pens. Supplies for mission: blank notecards, pens, or construction paper and art supplies to create your own cards.

LIGHT: Light the first and second purple candles and the third pink candle, the candle of LOVE.

READ: Zephaniah 3:14-17

WONDER

How does it make you feel to know that God rejoices over you with love and singing? What do you think God's song might sound like?

CREATE

Write a song as a family that shares about God's great love for you.

MISSION

Write a note to someone who might need some extra love this week. Tell them how much you love them and how much God loves them too.

PRAY

God of Love, your love amazes us! Thank you for your great love. Help us to remember we are your children and that you love us. May we love others in this same way. Amen.

DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

- **Light:** Each day during the week, take time to light the designated candles as a family
Week 3- HOPE, PEACE, and LOVE
- **Share:** As you light the candles share how you have seen the word of the week in your day.
- **Ask:** How did you see God at work today? Why? How?
How do you think you can be more like Christ tomorrow?
- **Pray:** God of Love, we remember the gift of Christ. Help us to remember your hope, peace, love and joy. Give us the courage to share these with our world today. Amen.



Week 4 - December 20-24, 2015

Joy

Daily Texts

Luke 1:39-45, Micah 5:2-5a,
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:46-49,
Isaiah 9:6-7

Supplies Needed: Advent candles, lighter, paper, markers or other craft supplies if desired, 8x10 picture frame.

Supplies for mission: Supplies to bake a special treat.

LIGHT: Light the first and the second purple candles, the third pink candle and the final purple candle, the candle of JOY.

READ: Luke 1:39-45

Wonder

What is it that brings you joy? Have you ever been so excited that you wanted to leap for joy? Share about a time when you were this excited and as you do so, get up and jump for joy!

Create

Use craft supplies to create a collective list of all of the things that bring your family joy. Frame it or hang it as a reminder of God's goodness all through the year. You might continue to add to it if you like.

Mission

Bake a special treat for someone who you would like to share Christmas joy with this week. Deliver the treat as a family and bring joy with you as you do so.

Pray

God, you fill us with your joy. Help us to notice where you are at work in our lives and find joy in you. Amen.

Daily Advent Reflections

- **Light:** Each day during the week, take time to light the designated candles as a family
Week 4- HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY
- **Share:** As you light the candles share how you have seen the word of the week in your day.
- **Ask:** How did you see God at work today? Why? How?
How do you think you can be more like Christ tomorrow?
- **Pray:** God of Love, we remember the gift of Christ. Help us to remember your hope, peace, love and joy. Give us the courage to share these with our world today. Amen.

 LEC Family



CHRISTMAS DAY

LUKE 2:8-20

Supplies Needed: Advent candles, lighter, any props desired for the Christmas story.

LIGHT: Light all of the candles, ending with the final white candle, the candle of CHRIST.

READ: Luke 2:8-20

CHRIST

WONDER

I wonder what it felt like the night Jesus was born. I wonder what the angels sounded like as they sang. I wonder how bright the star was. Share your own wondering questions as you think about the Christmas story.

CREATE

Read the Christmas story again and create your own drama to act out the story as a family. If you like, video it and upload it to YouTube with #pictureADVENT.

MISSION

Jesus is God's gift to us: the greatest gift of LOVE! What is a need you see in your neighborhood or community? Can you do something to help meet that need? As a family, think of a way you can bless someone else in your neighborhood or community by helping with a need they might have. Make a plan to meet this need together.

PRAY

God, we thank you for the gift of Christ on Christmas. Help us remember that your great love is what today is all about. Amen.

