

Advent Candle-Lighting Devotions for Families

Note: These devotions are intended to be short and easy for families. Adjustments may need to be made for readings by children and adults. Before the devotions, use a place mark in your Bible. Be careful with fire!. Are quoted Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the Bible. Permission to copy granted for local church use. © 2012 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

First Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship (read in unison): "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."
(Isaiah 9:2)

Advent Conversation

Adult: Today is the first Sunday of Advent.

Child: What is Advent?

Adult: Advent is the season for preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Child: What is special about the coming of Jesus?

Adult: God sent Jesus to show us what God is like in human form, just as God promised.

Child: What is the promise that God made to us?

Adult: As we light our first Advent candle, let us hear the promise God made to us through the prophet Isaiah.

Scripture Reading (ask someone to read): Isaiah 7:14.

All sing (or say aloud in unison): "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

Closing Prayer (as candle is extinguished): God, be with us as we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus, who is the gift you promised. In Jesus' name, amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship (read in unison): "In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendent from King David's line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land." (Jeremiah 33:15)

Advent Conversation

Child: Today is the second Sunday of Advent.

Adult: As we relight our first Advent candle, it reminds us of the promise God make to us long ago.

Adult: As we light the second Advent candle, we embrace the justice and mercy of Jesus.

Child: How can we do this?

Adult: We can always offer respect and friendship, and share food, clothing, or other resources to those who need them.

Scripture Reading (ask someone to read): Luke 3:1-6.

All sing (or say aloud in unison): "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set they people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee."

Closing Prayer (as candles are extinguished): God, be with us as we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus, who is the gift you promised. In Jesus' name, amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship (read in unison): "Sing to the Lord, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world." (Isaiah 12:5)

Advent Conversation

Adult: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, and once again we light our candles.

Child: We relight our first Advent candle, which reminds us of the promise God made to us long ago.

Adult: We relight the second Advent candle, which reminds us to embrace the justice and mercy of Jesus.

Adult: As we light the third Advent candle, we remember to praise God in all things.

Child: How can we do this?

Adult: We can be thankful of what God's given us instead of being jealous of what others may have, and to praise God no matter how busy or stressed we are.

Scripture Reading (ask someone to read): Philippians 4:4-7.

All sing (or say aloud in unison): "Praise God, from Whom All Things Flow"

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Closing Prayer (as candles are extinguished): God, be with us as we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus, who is the gift you promised. In Jesus' name, amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship (read in unison): "My soul praises the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!" (Luke 1:46b-47)

Advent Conversation

Adult: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, and once again we light our candles.

Child: We relight our first Advent candle, which reminds us of the promise God made to us long ago.

Adult: We relight the second Advent candle, which reminds us to embrace the justice and mercy of Jesus.

Child: We relight the third Advent candle, which reminds us to praise God in all things.

Adult: As we light the fourth Advent candle, we remember God's grace shown to Mary and Joseph, and to us, too.

Child: How can we do this?

Adult: We can accept God's grace with humility and share God's grace with others.

Scripture Reading (ask someone to read): Luke 1:46-55.

All sing (or say aloud in unison): "Jesus Loves Me"

"Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so."

Closing Prayer (as candles are extinguished): God, be with us as we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus, who is the gift you promised. In Jesus' name, amen.

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Call to Worship (read in unison): "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." (John 1:5)

Advent Conversation

Adult: For almost a month we've been getting ready for this special time when we celebrate the coming of Jesus. In a few moments we'll light the white Christ candle, but first let's remember what each of our four Advent candles reminds us of.

Child: We relight our first Advent candle, which reminds us of the promise God made to us long ago.

Adult: We relight the second Advent candle, which reminds us to embrace the justice and mercy of Jesus.

Child: We relight the third Advent candle, which reminds us to praise God in all things.

Adult: We relight the fourth Advent candle, which reminds us of God's grace shown to Mary and Joseph, and to us, too.

Adult: Now, as we light the Christ candle, we remember the Good News that came to us through Jesus.

Child: What is this Good News?

Adult: In Jesus, God told us how much he loves and cares for us, to bring light to our darkness, to save us, and to redeem us. This is the Good News.

Scripture Reading (ask someone to read): Luke 2:1-14.

All sing (or say aloud in unison): "Silent Night"

"Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace."

Closing Prayer (as candles are extinguished): God, we thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.