



ADVENT



**A Christmas Discipleship Guide for
the Whole Family**

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Traditionally, the Advent season is a 4 week long period meant to prepare our hearts for Christmas-when we celebrate Jesus' birth! Advent means "coming." Similar to those who awaited the arrival of the Messiah over 2,000 years ago, in this Advent season we await the celebration of Jesus' birth and anticipate His coming again one day. This season we will examine Jesus Christ's coming through four domains of the Christian life.

DOMAINS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

LIFE BEYOND

THE GO BEYOND DOMAIN

WE **GO!** WE WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE OF MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF PEOPLE IN NEED.



LIFE TOGETHER

THE GATHER DOMAIN

WE MAKE **GATHERING** WITH OTHER BELIEVERS A PRIORITY FOR OUR FAMILY AS WE SHARPEN, EQUIP, LOVE, AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER.



LIFE IN CHRIST

THE HEART DOMAIN

THROUGH DEVOTION TO PRAYER AND THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE, WE **REST** IN THE TRUTH OF GOD'S LOVE.



START

LIFE AT HOME

THE HOME DOMAIN

WE **BLESS** OUR FAMILY BY ASCRIBING GOD'S PROMISE OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE TO THEM.



ABOUT THE 4 DOMAINS






The four domains of the Christian life are designed to help believers experience true fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We "START WITH THE HEART" - our personal relationship with Jesus. If we are experiencing true fulfillment in our heart domain we see the habit of **RESTING** in the truth of God's love. Next, the Home Domain reflects true fulfillment in Jesus through **BLESSING** those in our home. Then, if we are experiencing true fulfillment in Jesus in the Gather Domain, we prioritize **GATHERING** with a community of believers. Lastly, the Go Beyond Domain expresses true fulfillment in Jesus through the **GOING OUT** and sharing His love with others. The focus of the next four weeks will be to examine the themes of Advent through the domains of our lives.

There are endless ways to use this discipleship guide but the hope is that you would use it to continue to seek true fulfillment in Jesus Christ, starting in your own heart and home this Christmas season. The guide can be used individually or with your family to spark gospel-centered family discipleship.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

EACH WEEK WILL HAVE A FOCUS BIBLE PASSAGE, A FAMILY GO CHALLENGE AND FOUR BIBLE STUDY REFLECTIONS FOCUSED ON THE FOUR DOMAINS OF YOUR LIFE.

SUNDAY DAY 1	MONDAY DAY 2	TUESDAY DAY 3	WEDNESDAY DAY 4	THURSDAY DAY 5
READ THE FOCUS VERSE & PREPARE FOR THE FAMILY GO CHALLENGE	REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS IN THE HEART DOMAIN 	REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS IN THE HOME DOMAIN 	REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS IN THE GATHER DOMAIN 	REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS IN THE GO BEYOND DOMAIN 

The chart above is the recommended path for each week but feel free to make it fit for you or your family. Breaking it up each day allows for time to process and seek God's guidance throughout the week. However, it may work better for you to sit down once-a-week and go over that particular week in one sitting. Find a rhythm that works for you or your family! If you are using the guide with your family, encourage younger children to answer questions by drawing pictures and then allow them to explain their pictures. The goal is not to just check the box by completing this but to spend intentional time with God this Christmas season.

TIP: You may find it helpful to look ahead at all the Family Go Challenges to help prepare each week. We have suggested a few each week - you can do all of them or just one or two.

WEEK 1: HOPE

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND TOOK RESIDENCE AMONG US.

SUNDAY 12/4-DAY ONE

John 1:1-14



PREPARE FOR THE WEEK:

Scan the QR code to watch the week 1 intro video. Then read this week's focus passage together as a family and spend some time planning out the week's Family Go Challenge. End your time with prayer.

HIGHLIGHT WORDS
THAT STAND OUT

UNDERLINE WORDS
YOU DON'T KNOW

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, 13 who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. 14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



FAMILY GO CHALLENGE

Challenge Focus: Family/Friends/Neighbors



Make and decorate cookies and bring them to your neighbors.



Invite some neighbors over for dinner one evening and ask about their holiday traditions.



Make a prayer garland/chain out of colorful red and green paper. Write the names of family, friends and neighbors on each chain link. Commit to praying for one person on your chain each day during December.

READ THE VERSE (V.) FROM THE PASSAGE AND WRITE OR DRAW ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS EITHER BELOW OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

V. 14 JESUS CAME FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE THOSE AROUND YOU WITH GRACE AND TRUTH? HOW CAN YOU MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF THOSE IN NEED?



THURSDAY 12/8 - DAY FIVE

V. 5 WHEN JESUS ENTERS THE WORLD, LIGHT ENTERS THE WORLD. WE SHINE BRIGHTER TOGETHER.

HOW ARE YOU GROWING TOGETHER WITH OTHER BELIEVERS?



WEDNESDAY 12/7 - DAY FOUR

V. 3 JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD FULLY GOD AND FULLY HUMAN. HE HAD A HEART JUST LIKE YOU, HE FELT THE THINGS YOU FELT AND EXPERIENCED THE THINGS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED.

HOW DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW YOU ARE MADE BY GOD?



START

MONDAY 12/5 - DAY TWO

V. 8 WE ARE LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST; WE ARE NOT THE LIGHT BUT WE REFLECT THE LIGHT.

HOW CAN YOU REFLECT THE LIGHT OF JESUS TO THOSE IN YOUR HOME? HOW CAN YOUR HOME BE A PLACE OF LIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



TUESDAY 12/6 - DAY THREE

WEEK 2: FAITH

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SUNDAY 12/11-DAY ONE

John 8:12-18



PREPARE FOR THE WEEK:

Scan the QR code to watch the week 2 intro video. Then read this week's focus passage together as a family and spend some time planning out the week's Family Go Challenge. End your time with prayer.

HIGHLIGHT WORDS
THAT STAND OUT

UNDERLINE WORDS
YOU DON'T KNOW

12 Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid." 14 "Even if I testify about myself," Jesus replied, "My testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I'm going. But you don't know where I come from or where I'm going. 15 You judge by human standards. I judge no one. 16 And if I do judge, my judgment is true, because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I am the one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me."

FAMILY GO CHALLENGE

Challenge Focus: The Left Out



Make a trip to the store to find items for the homeless, then deliver them to a shelter.



Decorate a mini Christmas tree and contact a local nursing home to see who you might be able to bring the tree to.



Make Christmas cards for prison inmates.

READ THE VERSE (V.) FROM THE PASSAGE AND WRITE OR DRAW ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS EITHER BELOW OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

V. 18 IN THE SAME WAY, YOU HAVE BEEN SENT BY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN TO LOVE THOSE AROUND YOU.

WHAT IS ONE SMALL THING YOU CAN DO TODAY TO SHOW JESUS' LOVE TO SOMEONE ELSE?



THURSDAY 12/15 - DAY FIVE

V. 15 HOW HAVE YOU SEEN JUDGEMENT BY HUMAN STANDARDS IN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH? HOW SHOULD WE TREAT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST? IS THERE SOMEONE YOU NEED TO RECONCILE WITH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



WEDNESDAY 12/14 - DAY FOUR

V. 12 JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE THE LIGHT IN OUR OWN HEARTS? HOW DO YOU SHINE?



MONDAY 12/12 - DAY TWO

V. 13 THE PHARISEES ASSUMED THE WORST ABOUT JESUS.

IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU ASSUME THE BEST ABOUT THOSE IN YOUR HOME AND LOVE THEM BECAUSE OF IT?



TUESDAY 12/13 - DAY THREE

WEEK 3: JOY

REJOICE WITH INEXPRESSIBLE JOY

SUNDAY 12/18-DAY ONE

1 Peter 1:3-9



PREPARE FOR THE WEEK:

Scan the QR code to watch the week 3 intro video. Then read this week's focus passage together as a family and spend some time planning out the week's Family Go Challenge. End your time with prayer.

HIGHLIGHT WORDS
THAT STAND OUT

UNDERLINE WORDS
YOU DON'T KNOW

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. 5 You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials 7 so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

FAMILY GO CHALLENGE



Challenge Focus: The Wise & Respected



Purchase a gift or gift card and/or write a card to give to a boss, teacher, pastor, or another leader in your life.



Make a video saying thank you to a teacher, pastor or another wise and respected leader in your life and post it on social media.

READ THE VERSE (V.) FROM THE PASSAGE AND WRITE OR DRAW ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS EITHER BELOW OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

V. 8 INEXPRESSIBLE AND GLORIOUS JOY IS WHAT JESUS HAS GIVEN TO ALL BELIEVERS. WHEN YOU GO ABOUT YOUR DAY, DO PEOPLE SEE THIS JOY IN AND AROUND YOU? HAVE YOU FOUND JOY IN SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OTHERS?



THURSDAY 12/22 - DAY FIVE

V.5 IN THIS PASSAGE, PETER IS TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIANS BEING THE TARGET OF PERSECUTION AT THAT TIME. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE COMMUNITY WHEN WE FEEL ATTACKED FOR OUR FAITH?



WEDNESDAY 12/21- DAY FOUR

V. 6-7 SOMETIMES LIFE IS HARD. WHEN LIFE IS HARD YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW GOD'S LIGHT TO THE WORLD IN THE MIDDLE OF A DARK DAY. WHAT TRIALS HAVE YOU FACED AND WHY ARE YOU BETTER BECAUSE OF THEM?



MONDAY 12/19 - DAY TWO

V. 4 AN INHERITANCE KEPT IN HEAVEN. HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED AN INHERITANCE FROM A LOVED ONE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE GETTING AN INHERITANCE THAT WILL NEVER FADE?



TUESDAY 12/20 - DAY THREE

WEEK 4: PEACE

JESUS BRINGS PEACE TO CHAOS

SUNDAY 12/25-DAY ONE

Luke 2:8-20



PREPARE FOR THE WEEK:

Scan the QR code to watch the week 4 intro video. Then read this week's focus passage together as a family and spend some time planning out the week's Family Go Challenge. End your time with prayer.

HIGHLIGHT WORDS THAT STAND OUT

UNDERLINE WORDS YOU DON'T KNOW

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors! 15 When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. 17 After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.

FAMILY GO CHALLENGE

Challenge Focus: Go All Year Long



Donate toys, games and excess clothing to ministries that provide for others in need then donate your time to those ministries.



Sit down and plan to serve or Go Beyond once a month for the next year. Write the dates on the calendar and contact places to serve.

READ THE VERSE (V.) FROM THE PASSAGE AND WRITE OR DRAW ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS EITHER BELOW OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

V. 20 THE SHEPHERDS COULDN'T STOP TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS WHEN THEY RETURNED. NAME ONE PERSON YOU CAN SHARE JESUS WITH THIS WEEK. WHEN WILL YOU TELL THEM?



THURSDAY 12/29 - DAY FIVE

V. 15 WHEN THE SHEPHERDS WENT TO BETHLEHEM, THE TRIP WAS EASIER BECAUSE THEY WERE TRAVELING TOGETHER. NAME TWO OTHER PEOPLE THAT WOULD DROP EVERYTHING AND GO WITH YOU. WHY WOULD THEY?



WEDNESDAY 12/28 - DAY FOUR

V. 19 MARY TREASURED THE WORDS SPOKEN ABOUT JESUS IN HER HEART. WHAT ARE SOME WORDS YOU TREASURE ABOUT JESUS? WHAT DOES JESUS BEING BORN MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY?



MONDAY 12/26 - DAY TWO

V. 12 THE GREATEST EVENT IN HISTORY DIDN'T HAPPEN IN A CHURCH; IT WAS IN A BARN WITH JUST ONE FAMILY. HOW CAN YOUR HOME AND YOUR FAMILY BE A PLACE OF SIGNIFICANCE?



TUESDAY 12/27 - DAY THREE