



River Kids Family advent devotion pack

"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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

— *Isaiah 9:6*

What is advent?

The word **advent** means 'coming' or 'arrival'. The focus of advent is looking forward to and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our greatest gift, who is our hope, peace, joy and love.

Setting up your candles



Cut out the circle labels and stick them on the candles using the string.

Set up your candles so the Christ candle is in the centre surrounded by the four other candles. You may want to place them on a wooden board or plate on the dining table to make it extra nice.

Please be safe when lighting your candles, Mum or Dad are in charge!

Each week

On the Sunday of each week (beginning Sunday 30th November) you get to light an extra candle. Use the guide to create a powerful moment and enjoy the devotional content together as a family.



week 1

HOPE

Sunday 30 November

ASK: What is hope?

Hope is our steadfast confidence we have in Jesus and His promises. We can always have hope because God is always good and nothing can separate us from His love.

ASK: What promise of Jesus gives you hope?

Lighting the Candle Prayer

Dear God, thank you for not leaving us in the darkness of sin, but for sending your light into the world.

Jesus thank you for coming to earth and for your gift of eternal life. Help us to shine your light in the world so others know the hope you give. Amen.

Reading the Word

Do not feel you have to do all of these!

Isaiah 8:17 – Who do we hope in?

Psalms 103:5-7 – Why can we hope in the Lord?

Psalms 39:7 – What is something you hope for now?

Isaiah 9:6 – Which name for Jesus gives you hope & why?

Psalms 119:114 – How does having hope help you?

Worship Song Ideas

Hope was born this night – Sidewalk Prophets

O Holy Night



week 2

PEACE

Sunday 7 December

ASK: What is peace?

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus who came to bring peace to the world. We can live with peace because God is in control and Jesus has brought us peace with the Father.

ASK: What does Jesus' peace feel like?

Lighting the Candle Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you that because of you and your great love for us, we can be friends with you forever. This is real peace. We thank you you are always with us, and we can feel your peace helping us all the time. We pray for your peace to be in our lives and in our world. Amen.

Reading the Word

Do not feel you have to do all of these!

Romans 5:1 – Who has given us peace?

Colossians 1:19-20 – How did Jesus' birth and death give us peace?

John 14:27 – How does God's peace help us?

Matthew 5:9 – How can we make/give peace to others?

Worship Song Ideas

Peace Has Come – Hillsong Worship

Silent night



week 3

JOY

Sunday 14 December

ASK: What is joy? Is it different to happiness?

We often get happiness and joy confused. Think of it this way: happiness is a feeling that comes and goes; joy comes from God and stays with you whether you feel happy or not. We can feel joy in our heart all the time because we know God is good all the time!

ASK: Why can we have joy all the time?

Lighting the Candle Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you for coming to earth to be with us. We are filled with joy when we think about how much you love us. Thank you that we can always have joy because you are always with us & are always good. Help us share that never ending joy with others. Amen.

Reading the Word

Do not feel you have to do all of these!

Luke 2:8-12 - Who is 'the good news with great joy' for?

Ephesians 2:10 - Why does Jesus birth give us joy?

1 Thess 5:16-18 - What are some ways to show our joy?

2 Cor 6:10 - How can we make sure we remain joyous, even in hard times?

Worship Song Ideas

Christmas Day - Chris Tomlin

Joy to the World



week 4

LOVE

Sunday 21 December

ASK: What is love?

John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much that He sent baby Jesus to be born in a manger, knowing that one day Jesus would die for us all, this was the greatest act of love ever. We can love because He first loved us!

Lighting the Candle Prayer

God of love, your love amazes us! Thank you for your great love. Help us to remember that we are your children and that you love us no matter what! Help us to love others the same way you love us. Amen.

Reading the Word

Do not feel you have to do all of these!

Romans 5:8 – How did Jesus show His love for us?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – What is love?

Mark 12:30-31 – What things did Jesus say and do to show how He loved His neighbour?

John 13:34 – How can we love others?

Worship Song Ideas

Jesus is here – Travis Cottrell

Hark! The Herald Angels sing



Christmas Eve

CHRIST

Thursday 24 December

Our Jesus candle is at the centre because Jesus is at the heart of the Christmas season. We remember the amazing gift of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

Lighting the Candle Prayer

Dear God, you are more amazing than we could ever imagine. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us what you are like. Thank you for giving us your light, help us to shine brightly for you. Thank you for Christmas and for the hope, peace, joy and love it brings. Amen.

Reading the Word

Do not feel you have to do all of these!

Take turns reading from Luke 2:1-20.

What's your favourite part of the birth of Jesus & why?

How would you have felt if you were there that night?

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

How can we worship God like the angels and shepherds did the night Jesus was born?

Worship Song Ideas

Born is the King - Hillsong

Away in a Manger



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LIFE CHURCH