



*Journey with your Family
this Christmas season*

Advent

A Devotional by
Pebbles and Stones

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Welcome to the Advent Family Devotional 2024!

This devotional is a simple, fun way for families, small groups, and churches to journey together and explore the story of Jesus's birth and God's love for us.

This four-week devotional is based on the traditional themes of Advent - Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace - that lead up to Christmas Day.

How to Use This Devotional

Each devotional is designed to be flexible and easy to follow, with 4 main sections:

★ Introductory Question (5 minutes):

Ask a simple question to get everyone thinking and talking and give them a personal connection to the Bible Story.

★ Bible Story (5-10 minutes):

Tell the Bible Story using passages provided in each devotional. You may also want to refer to the additional scripture references to explore more of the story's context.

★ Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes):

Quietly reflect and ask God what He is saying to you through the story about Himself, yourself, others, and what to do. You may also talk to God about anything else.

Write or draw your conversation with God

★ Sharing & Praying (10 minutes):

Each person shares about their conversation with God and then is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

Start the Advent journey with your family this year!

WEEK 1



Hope



“May Your word to me be fulfilled.”

Luke 1:38

Introduction (5 Min)

Ask the Introductory Question:

What is something you are hoping for? Invite everyone to share their answer.

Examples:

- "Jenna hopes to pass her test."
- "Samuel hopes to see his friends."

What is something you are hoping for?



Bible Story (5-10 minutes)

Transition into the Story:

Just like we are hoping for _____, the people of Israel hoped for a Savior for thousands of years. They had been told through the prophets, that the Savior would come as a baby, through a virgin birth (read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6). Let's look at how God fulfilled His promise.

The Angel Visits Mary

Read: [Luke 1:26-38](#)

The people of Israel hoped for a Savior for a long time, and God kept His promise by sending Jesus.



Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes)

Quiet Reflection

- What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, and others, and what to do?
- You may also talk to God about anything else.
- Write or draw your conversation with God.

Additional Prompt:
What is something in God's Word that you are hoping to see fulfilled?



Find Nazareth (Galilee) on the map



Sharing & Praying (10 minutes)

Each person shares about their conversation with God and is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

Additional Verses:

[Hebrews 11:1](#), [Micah 5:2](#)



WEEK 2.

Joy



“My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for me.”

Luke 1:47-49



Introduction (5 Min)

Ask the Introductory Question:

Tell us about a time when you were excited. Invite everyone to share their answer.

Examples:

- "Jane was excited when her family went on vacation."
- "James was excited about his baby brother being born."

Tell us about a time when you were excited.



Bible Story (5-10 minutes)

Transition into the Story:

Just like we are excited about _____, in today's story Mary and her cousin Elizabeth were overjoyed at the news that Mary would give birth to the Savior.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Read [Luke 1:39-56](#)



Mary and Elizabeth were so happy because they knew Jesus, the Savior, was coming!

Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes)

Quiet Reflection

- What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, and others, and what to do?
- You may also talk to God about anything else.
- Write or draw your conversation with God.

Additional Prompt:
What is something you can rejoice about and thank God for?



Find Ein Karem (Jerusalem) on the map



Sharing & Praying (10 minutes)

Each person shares about their conversation with God and is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

Additional Verses:

[Philippians 4:4](#), [Romans 15:13](#)



WEEK 3

Love



“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Introduction (5 Min)

Ask the Introductory Question:

What is a gift you have given to someone you love? invite everyone to share their answer.

Examples:

- "Benjamin gave his son a bike."
- "Jenny gave her sister a doll."

What is a gift you have given to someone you love?



Bible Story (5-10 minutes)

Transition into the Story:

Just as we give gifts to show others that we love them, God showed His love for us by giving us the gift of a Savior.

The Birth of Jesus

Tell the story from [Matthew 1:18-25](#) and [Luke 1:1-7](#).

God loved us so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.

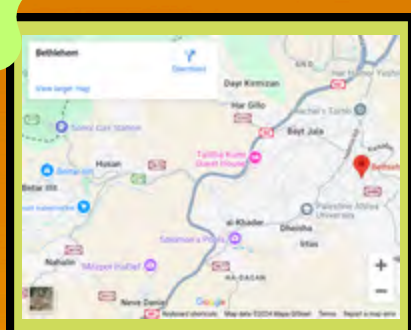
Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes)

Quiet Reflection

- What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, and others, and what to do?
- You may also talk to God about anything else.
- Write or draw your conversation with God.

Additional Prompt:
How can you show God's love to others this week?

Find Bethlehem on the map



Sharing & Praying (10 minutes)

Each person shares about their conversation with God and is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

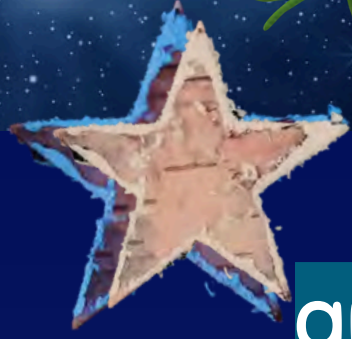
Additional Verses:

Hebrews 1:3, 1 John 4:9-10
Colossians 1:15, John 14:9



WEEK 4

Peace



“For to us a child is born...
and He will be called Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

Introduction (5 Min)

Ask the Introductory Question:

When and where do you feel peace? Invite everyone to share their answer.

Examples:

- "Marilyn feels peace sitting by the water."
- "Grant feels peace as he falls asleep."

Where and when do you feel peace?



Jesus is our Prince of Peace, and He brings us peace no matter what is happening around us.

Bible Story (5-10 minutes)

Transition into the Story:

Just like we feel peace when _____. we can have peace through Jesus anytime and anywhere. In today's story, the angels tell the shepherds that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is born.

The Angels and the Shepherds

- Tell the story from [Luke 2:1-21](#)

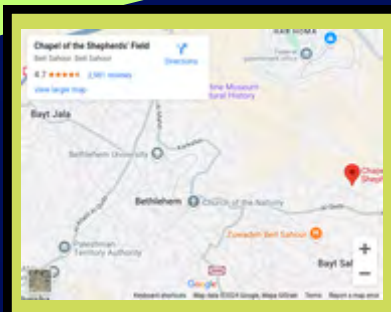
Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes)

Quiet Reflection:

- What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, and others, and what to do?
- You may also talk to God about anything else.
- Write or draw your conversation with God.

- In what areas of your life do you need to feel God's peace?
- How can you share God's peace with others?

Find Beit Sahour basin (Bethlehem) on the map



Sharing & Praying (10 minutes)

Each person shares about their conversation with God and is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

Additional Verses:

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#), [John 14:27](#)
[Ephesians 2:17](#)



Christmas Day



“For my eyes have seen your salvation.
Luke 2:30–31



Introduction (5 Min)

Ask the Introductory question:

What is something special you have seen? Invite everyone to share their answer.

Examples:

- "Thomas saw Niagara Falls."
- "Nancy got to see her baby nephew."

What is something special you have seen?



Simeon had been waiting to see Jesus with his own eyes, and when he did, he praised God for sending the Savior.

Bible Story (5-10 minutes)

Transition into the story:

Just like you got to see _____, a man named Simeon got to see something with his own eyes that he had been waiting to see for a very long time - the Savior!

Simeon Sees Jesus

- Tell the story from [Luke 2:22-23](#)
- You may also want to read a description of salvation in [Titus 2:11-12](#)

Listening Prayer & Journaling (5-10 minutes)

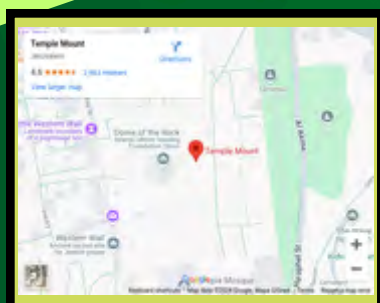
Quiet Reflection

- What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, and others, and what to do?
- You may also talk to God about anything else.
- Write or draw your conversation with God.

Additional prompt
What has God done for you that you could tell someone about?



Find the Temple Mount (Jerusalem) on the map



Sharing & Praying (10 minutes)

Each person shares about their conversation with God and is prayed for by those sitting next to them.

Additional Verses:

Mark 5:19, Romans 6:23,
Ephesians 2:8–9



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