

2016 Family Advent Calendar

Advent this year begins on Sunday November 27.

Each week of advent is an opportunity to get ready to come close to the celebration of Christmas!

This collection of actions, conversations, crafts, music and prayer has been put together to help encourage your family to journey through Advent together.

As you prepare for Christmas we encourage you to find a space each day to talk, share, create, sing and pray together.

You might have printed all the pages, or receive one page each week. Either way, find a spot on the fridge or the pin board (or the Christmas tree?) where you will see it each day to remember to take time together.



A few household items you'll need:

Some days will require a computer or phone with internet connection while others will require other material, here is a list of things that you will need:

A candle (and lighter/matches)

A Bible

A printout of an Advent wreath craft

A printout of a nativity set craft

A newspaper for 28th Nov

Paper

Coloured pencils, textas or crayons

Christmas cards

HOPE - Week 1

Family Advent Calendar



Sunday Preparation	Monday Prayer	Tuesday Music	Wednesday Scripture	Thursday Justice	Friday Family	Saturday Giving
<p>27th November</p> <p>Create: On this first day of Advent make an Advent wreath together.</p> <p>Template idea: www.childrensministry.org.au/2016/11/advent-home-cal/</p> <p>For conversation: What do you enjoy about getting ready for Christmas?</p> <p>What do you find hard about getting ready for Christmas?</p>	<p>28 November</p> <p>Light a candle. Read today's news.</p> <p>Pray for somewhere that needs hope & that God will send light to the places that need it.</p> <p>For conversation: How can you be a light in the dark?</p>	<p>29 November</p> <p>Listen: Song - Kingdom Come www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: Mary and Elizabeth were waiting for a baby</p> <p>The people were waiting for a king</p> <p>What are you waiting/longing for? Do you like waiting? Why, why not?</p>	<p>30 November</p> <p>Bible Reading: Luke 1:26-33</p> <p>Light a candle. Read through the scripture.</p> <p>What do you think angels look like? Draw or paint an angel and share your image with each other.</p> <p>For conversation: What would you like to talk about with an angel?</p>	<p>1 December</p> <p>For conversation: An angel spoke to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid.</p> <p>Have you had a dream that frightened you?</p> <p>What do you think God dreams of for the world?</p>	<p>2 December</p> <p>Think of people you will miss this year and share with each other, what do you miss about them?</p> <p>Draw portraits of them (or go through photos).</p> <p>Place the images around your Christmas tree or fridge to remember them this Advent.</p>	<p>3 December</p> <p>Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of love, of hope?</p> <p>Create a card and write a letter for them today and send them a word of love and hope.</p>

PEACE - Week 2

Family Advent Calendar



Sunday Preparation	Monday Prayer	Tuesday Music	Wednesday Scripture	Thursday Justice	Friday Family	Saturday Giving
<p>4 December</p> <p>Put up your Christmas Tree together.</p> <p>As you decorate the tree talk about your best Christmas, and what makes Christmas special to you?</p> <p>(if it's already up, sit around the tree and share with each other)</p>	<p>5 December</p> <p>Spend some time outside today and go for a walk. As you walk take photos on your phone or camera of the beauty around you.</p> <p>Where do you encounter God?</p> <p>Where do you find peace and joy in your neighbourhood, in the world?</p>	<p>6 December</p> <p>Using what you can find around the house build musical instruments together.</p> <p>For conversation: Do you have a favourite Christmas song?</p> <p>As a family sing one of the songs together while playing your new instruments.</p>	<p>7 December</p> <p>Bible Reading: Luke 1:39-56</p> <p>Light a candle. Read through the reading 3 times together taking turns to read.</p> <p>For conversation: What images or words grab your attention, or shine out to you?</p> <p>Watch: Magnificat Spoken Word www.childrensministry.org.au</p>	<p>8 December</p> <p>Christmas can be a time of waste, particularly of food, wrapping paper and rubbish.</p> <p>Eat a meal together today and discuss/plan how your family will minimise waste and recycle this year</p>	<p>9 December</p> <p>Write a list of things you're thankful for as a family this year.</p> <p>Place the lists under your pillow and read them each morning during Advent to remind you of these things.</p>	<p>10 December</p> <p>Mary and Joseph found themselves alone without a place to stay.</p> <p>Christmas can be a lonely time for many people. Today, invite a neighbour over for dinner or for a cup of tea/coffee.</p>

JOY - Week 3

Family Advent Calendar



Sunday Preparation	Monday Prayer	Tuesday Music	Wednesday Scripture	Thursday Justice	Friday Family	Saturday Giving
<p>11 December</p> <p>Spend some time today thinking of your family and friends.</p> <p>Write your Christmas cards together.</p> <p>Phone someone on your list who you've not spoken to for a while and ask them if they're ok.</p>	<p>12 December</p> <p>Zechariah was made mute by God until John's birth.</p> <p>Light a candle.</p> <p>Christmas can be a time of a lot of noise, as a family spend up to 5 minutes in silence together (time age dependant)</p> <p>For conversation: What part of the Christmas story takes your breath away?</p>	<p>13 December</p> <p>Listen and Watch: Song <i>Mary did you know?</i> www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: What expectations do you think Mary had for her baby?</p> <p>Do you know anyone who is pregnant now that you can do something nice for this week?</p>	<p>14 December</p> <p>Bible Reading: Luke 2:8-14</p> <p>For conversation: The angel brought news of great joy to the shepherds.</p> <p>Can you name a time where you felt the most joyful?</p> <p>How many languages can you learn how to say "joy?"</p>	<p>15 December</p> <p>"Abundance does not spread, famine does" ~ Zulu Proverb</p> <p>There are many people in the world going without food today. For a meal today eat something simple, (a bowl of rice, rice & beans, baked beans)</p> <p>Write and say a prayer for the world together as you eat.</p>	<p>16 December</p> <p>When there is hurt, reconciliation can be hard.</p> <p>For conversation: What are some ways your family can practice forgiveness over the next year?</p> <p>How can you make sure you always forgive each other?</p>	<p>17 December</p> <p>Light a candle to remember God is with us.</p> <p>As a family decide to give something to a charity (TEAR, Oxfam, Christmas Bowl, Target giving tree or a local food bank). Talk about how much, what, to who and why.</p>

LOVE - Week 4

Family Advent Calendar



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<p>18 December</p> <p>Create: Download the template for a nativity scene by Joel Henriques. www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: Create the nativity set together, as you do share with each other your favourite characters from the story, what makes them your favourite?</p> <p>Can you tell the story using the set?</p>	<p>19 December</p> <p>There are lots of people who work extra hard this time of year (police, emergency services, petrol attendants, shopping assistants, nurses).</p> <p>Find a way that your family can give thanks and show appreciation to those who serve so we can enjoy Christmas time.</p>	<p>20 December</p> <p>For conversation: Can you remember your favourite Christmas carol?</p> <p>Do you know where it comes from?</p> <p>What does it mean? What's its origin?</p> <p>Find out and share your findings with each other.</p>	<p>21 December</p> <p>Watch: An interpretation of the Nativity story: www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: If Jesus was born today, how do you imagine the story would be told?</p> <p>What would be different? What would be the same?</p>	<p>22 December</p> <p>Read: <i>If I were a refugee</i> (Leunig) www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: Jesus and his family had to escape to Egypt and become refugees.</p> <p>Do you know anything about the experiences of refugees? Do you know anyone who is a refugee that you can hear the story of?</p>	<p>23 December</p> <p>For conversation: What can we do to be a more loving family?</p> <p>What qualities of Jesus do we most need show to our family?</p> <p>Decide on three things you will live out this year to be more loving to each other.</p>	<p>24 December</p> <p>Watch & Listen: The Smallest Gift of Christmas www.childrensministry.org.au</p> <p>For conversation: What is it about gifts that you give or receive that make them valuable?</p>