

Advent

The time of getting ready for Christmas.
Choose one or more ways below to respond to this story.

“and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated
God is with us.” Matthew 1:23b



Reflection Section:

Questions for deeper reflection. Think about them on a walk, journal, draw, or talk to a friend or as a family. Whatever feels right. Just be sure to give the questions a few minutes of your undivided attention.

- How do you feel about waiting for things? Is it hard? Easy? In this busy season, how might you create space for “waiting” or “getting ready” for Christmas during Advent?
- What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? What about it do you like best? As you add stickers or pieces to your nativity scene talk about the different characters. Share their stories with each other.
- What gift would you give to baby Jesus? Is there a way to give your gift this year?
- Advent is a season filled with hope. Where do you see hope today? What do you hope for?

Imagination Station:

Option One: Create an Advent Wreath for home using four candles. Light one candle for each Sunday in Advent. Light the same number of candles throughout the week as you gather for meal time. Example: For the first week, light the same one candle each day. The second week, light the same two candles each day.

Option Two: Check out Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/olybeth/advent/>

Outdoor Adventure:

Option One: Take a drive or go on a walk to enjoy Christmas lights on display. Think about how all of the bulbs together light up the area. Christ fills us with the light of God’s love to share with others. Imagine how we can “light” up the world together one person at a time. How do you shine your light?

Option Two: Wake up early on a clear morning and watch the sunrise. Notice how the color of the sky transitions from dark blue to light as the sun rises. Be filled with hope and joy for the new day! Celebrate Christ, the light of the world.

Kitchen Connection:

What are special dishes, cookies, or meals you like to prepare as you get ready for Christmas? Advent prayers for worship begin with the words, “Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.” As you “stir up” food this Advent, be reminded of God’s power at work in you, in your life, and in our world. Listen for the Advent prayers in worship, “Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.” Amen.

Make hot cocoa stirring spoons by dipping spoons into melted chocolate. Let the chocolate harden. Use the spoon to “stir” in some extra flavor into a cup of cocoa or make some to give away.

Faith Practice:

Option One: Write a note or make a card to send to someone who is homebound. Let us know if you need a name or two, or take a tag from the Salvation Army Giving Tree to help a family in need.

Option Two: Reflect on the season of Advent during the Pajama Vespers Zoom time, Sunday evenings in Advent from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. November 29, December 6, 13, 20. The Zoom link is in email.

Option Three: Follow along with the Jesse Tree Advent devotions as we trace the lineage of Jesus.