

An Advent Weekly Devotional

Advent is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and what it means to Christians. Christians often use an advent wreath to symbolize celebrating the birth of Christ for the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas and on Christmas Day. Advent wreaths are not for specific denominations, but rather for any Christian looking for a special way to remember the true meaning behind the season. This is a tradition that can be shared throughout generations. Below you will find instructions on which candle to light, suggested Bible readings, and even songs to sing as a family or group of friends gathered each week.

You will need an advent wreath containing 3 purple candles, 1 pink candle, and 1 white candle. You will also need matches and a Bible. You may choose to leave your candle burning at the table during a meal before you extinguish it or extinguish it immediately after each devotion. Never leave your candle unattended.

First Sunday of Advent (purple candle)

Reader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a time when we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. Prophets spoke for God, Saying that God would send a Savior. (Read aloud: Isaiah 9:2, 6.)

Child: (Light the 1st candle, purple): God's people hoped for a Savior. They waited a long time for the baby Jesus.

Reader: God sent Jesus into the world to bring light and hope for all people.

Child: Thank you, God, for Jesus who helps us when we're sad or afraid, who shows us that we can always trust you.

Second Sunday of Advent (previous purple candle and another purple candle)

Child: (Light the 1st candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Reader: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Before Jesus' birth, Zachariah spoke of a Savior who would guide our feet in the ways of peace. The prophet Micah said: (Read Micah 4:3-4).

Child: (Light the 2nd candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Child: (prayer) O God, we thank you that your angels sang to the shepherds and for us: "Glory to God" and "peace on earth."

All: (sing stanza 1 of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.")

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and singers reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

(Charles Wesley, 1734)

Third Sunday of Advent (two previous purple candles and the pink candle)

Child: (Light the 1st candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Child: (Light the 2nd candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent we remember the joy Jesus brings to us and to all people. (Read Luke 2:8-11.)

Child: (Light the 3rd candle, pink.) This candle reminds us of the angel's good news of great joy told to the shepherds.

Child: (prayer) O God, how glad we are for your gift of Jesus.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (two previous purple candles, pink candle, the last purple candle)

Child: (Light the 1st candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Child: (Light the 2nd candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Child: (Light the 3rd candle, pink.) This candle reminds of us of the joy Jesus brings to us and to all people.

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of advent we remember God's love in sending Jesus into the world and Jesus' love for all people. (Read 1 John 4:4:7-9.)

Child: (Light the 4th candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God sent the baby Jesus because God loves us.

Child: (prayer) Dear God, we are so glad that you love us. Help us love one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

All: (Sing or recite stanza 1 of "Love Came Down at Christmas.")

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

(Christiana G. Rossetti, 1885)

Christmas Day (all previous candles, plus the white Christ candle)

Child: (Light the 1st candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God's people hoped for a Savior.

Child: (Light the 2nd candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and good will.

Child: (Light the 3rd candle, pink.) This candle reminds us of the joy Jesus brings to us and to all people.

Child: (Light the 4th candle, purple.) This candle reminds us that God sent Jesus because God loves us.

Reader: The time of waiting is over. Christmas is here. Today we celebrate Jesus' birth. (Read Luke 2:1-20.)

Child: (Light the white candle.) This is the Christ candle. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Child: (Prayer) Thank you, God, for Jesus' love. Help us tell others the good news: Jesus is born! In Jesus' name. Amen.

All: (Sing Stanza 1 of "Joy to the World")

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heave, and heaven, and nature sing.

(Issac Watts, 1719)



Belle Antiquarian