Advent

FAITH HOPE LOVE PEACE

A Family Advent Guide
from Overlake Christian Church

CHRISTMAS SEASON IS HERE!

Advent means "coming" and it's over the next four weeks that we remember Jesus' first coming and anticipate his coming again. Advent teaches us to wait and hope in the promises of Jesus and his deliverance from injustice, brokenness and oppression. So, what exactly do we do during Advent? We prepare and commit ourselves to Christian practices of scripture reading, worship and prayer.

Our hope is that your family will find just a little space in this busy season to make your hearts ready for the coming King. Our staff is praying for you as you celebrate this Advent and Christmas season!

Blessings for your family,
Overlake Staff

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Scripture & Questions: Set aside ten minutes at dinner or in the evening once a week to read the passage and answer the questions together.

Prayer: Recite the included prayer.

Lighting the Candle: Tradition around practicing Advent includes lighting candles to represent the promises of Christ birth. Each night you light a new one until the final night when all four are lit.

Activity: As a family complete the suggested activity together – some may need a few minutes and some may require a little more time.

Our hope is that this guide will help you spend some meaningful moments this advent with your family.

Faith

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing **FAITH** to the world.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the FAITH in the coming Christ."

SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS

LUKE 2:8-20 (NLT)

- What does it mean to put your FAITH in Jesus?
- What are some ways your faith in Jesus changes how you celebrate Christmas? Or how it changes how you live in this world?

ACTIVITY

Faith often leads us to serving others in response to how we have been served. As a family, make a care box for someone in your community that is struggling. (Take a trip to a grocery store and fill a box with granola bars, water, socks, etc…)

PRAYER

Dear God, Today, we rejoice. May we always be on the lookout for ways to help others experience your love and discover faith. Prepare our hearts and world to receive you. Amen.

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Hope

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing **HOPE** to the world.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too have HOPE in the coming Christ."

SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS

JEREMIAH 33:14 • LUKE 2:21-35 (NLT)

- What do you hope for this Christmas?
- What is something you hope God will do in your life?

ACTIVITY

As a family, wrap a gift for someone outside of your family. As you wrap the gift, talk about the feelings you get when opening a present, and the anticipation for something you hoped for…let this conversation lead you to talk about how the people waited and anticipated the coming of Jesus.

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Peace

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing **PEACE** to the world.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE - **As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the PEACE in the coming Christ."**

SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS

ISAIAH 9:6-7 (NLT)

- Can you recall a time where you felt at peace?
- Why is Jesus called the prince of peace?

ACTIVITY

As a family, look at a map of the world. Play a game where you name a country and you try to find it or point to a country at random and search for some pictures online. Talk together about what it might look like to live in a different culture. Point out places in the world where people don't live in peace or freedom to worship Jesus. Talk about what that might feel like to experience. Spend a few minutes praying for peace to come to this world.

PRAYER - Below is the prayer of St. Francis

(You could pass the prayer around your family and allow each person to pray 2 lines of the prayer.)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

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Love

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing **LOVE** to the world.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the LOVE in the coming Christ."

SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS

JOHN 3:16 (NLT)

- How did God show us love?
- How can we show God's love to others?

ACTIVITY

Take a few minutes to cut out paper hearts together as a family. Spend a few minutes writing the names of all the people who have showed you God's love on the hearts. Turn the heart over and writes the names of people who in the coming days you want to be active in showing them God's love.

PRAYER

Dear God, We thank you for your LOVE that came to walk the earth thousands of years ago. We don't deserve and we can't earn your love but you faithfully LOVE us. Fill our hearts with your love so that we can love those around us.

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