ADVENT GUIDE

ADVENT G U I D E

THE VILLAGE CHURCH

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Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 PETER 1:8-13

The King is coming. Jesus Christ has come and will come again. This is the hope of the Church whom He purchased with His blood. It is the eager expectation and desire of His people. In His coming is our joy, for He is our treasure, our greatest good.

Advent, formed from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival," is about the coming of Christ. It's the celebration of the first advent of Jesus and the anxious awaiting of His second. The season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting, and a time to reflect upon the promises of God and to anticipate the fulfillment of those promises with patience, prayer and preparedness.

HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

The Advent season officially commences on the fourth Sunday (Advent Sunday) before Christmas and continues until Christmas Eve or Day. Various theological traditions celebrate the season through an array of customs.

Perhaps the most popular tradition associated with the season is the use of an Advent calendar to mark the month of December. Modern Advent calendars typically include 24 "windows" that are opened (one per day) to reveal a poem, portion of Scripture, story, picture or small gift. As more windows are opened, expectancy increases in awaiting the final day, which represents the first advent of Christ.

Another popular tradition involves the use of an Advent candle or candles. This symbolic tradition is borrowed from the emphasis throughout Scripture of Jesus Christ being the light of the world (Matthew 4:16; John 1:4-9, 8:12). Those using one candle burn a little each day to mark the progression of the season. Each day a bit more of the candle is burned to symbolize the anticipation of Christmas. Others use a wreath with five candles in the middle. Each week a new candle is lit in anticipation of the final lighting on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Additionally, you often see an emphasis on particular colors in the celebration of Advent. Whereas modern Christmas celebrations focus on red and green, the historical colors of Advent are purple (symbolizing royalty) and blue (symbolizing hope). Given the association of purple with Easter and Lent, modern Advent celebrations often emphasize blue.

THE USE OF THIS ADVENT GUIDE

The Village Church Advent Guide serves as an introduction to the Advent season in hope to awaken the angst of waiting, longing and yearning for Christ. The hope is to feel the ancient angst of Israel and allow that to inform our own anticipation. The guide consists of five weeks of devotionals with each week containing one personal devotional and one family devotional.

It will take the church from the longing of the Old Testament saints for the Messiah, to Christ's first advent, to the longing that we now experience for His return. We will begin with God's promises in general and move to the specific promise of a Messiah, the fulfillment of that promise in the coming of Jesus Christ, the promise of a second coming, and the longing of the Church as we wait for the eventual fulfillment of that promise.

WEEK 1: PROMISES AND PATIENCE

Theme: Our God makes and keeps promises, and His people are called to wait with patient longing.

WEEK 2: AWAITING AN ADVENT

Theme: God made a particular promise of a Messiah, and Israel longed for His coming.

WEEK 3: INCARNATION AND IMPLICATIONS

Theme: God fulfilled the promise of a Messiah in the first advent of Jesus Christ.

WEEK 4: RESURRECTION AND RETURN

Theme: After dying to redeem His people from slavery, Christ rose from the dead and promised to come again to redeem us fully.

WEEK 5: WATCHING AND WAITING

Theme: As we await the second advent of Christ, we are called to a life of prayerful and prepared patience.

The guide also contains a number of appendices to supplement the topics and themes of the Advent season. We pray that they will be useful as you consider Christ and wait in eager anticipation for the day He returns.

Appendix A: Passages for Contemplating and Considering Christ

Appendix B: Recommended Resources for the Season

Appendix C: Recommended Activities for Family Devotions

A QUICK WORD REGARDING THE **FAMILY DEVOTIONAL:**

A number of things compete for our time, attention, affections and resources during the holiday season. In the blink of an eye, the beauty and point of Christmas can be swallowed by the clamoring of commercialism and activities. A time intended to remember and celebrate the birth of the promised Messiah and look ahead to His promised return can quickly become centered on things that are neither real nor lasting. As you think about and plan for the coming weeks, prayerfully consider what you want this season of Advent to be marked by for your family. What do you want your children to value and remember? How will you be intentional in guarding their time, attention and affections so that Jesus is the focus?

We love you, church family, and we are excited about walking through this season of remembrance and worship together.



WEEK ONE / PROMISES AND PATIENCE NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3

xpectations are powerful. We long to trust possessions, people and ideas with our hope - hope of something greater than what we currently have. Relationships, careers and entertainment willingly receive our expectations. To the degree that we think each will deliver, anticipation grows inside of us. The voice of childhood may change tone through the years, but the same gut response comes with every disappointment: "But you promised..."

It might not be said so plainly, but our confidence shifts as the desired object escapes our fingertips. Impatience replaces anticipation. Unrest and discontentment rise up to our defenses, while our greatest need seems too simple - perspective.

God makes promises to His people throughout the Old Testament. A rainbow appears as a promise that the flood was a one-time deal. God promises deliverance and spares an entire generation of Israel during Passover and with it preserves the joy of each father in holding his firstborn son. David sleeps on cave floors, hunted by Saul, and God delivers him. The LORD is a promise-making and promise-keeping God.

There are also those who longed for the fulfillment of promises yet could only cling to the promises themselves. For days, weeks, months and years, these people waited. Genesis speaks of Abraham and Sarah who, with Abraham in his 80s, had no child. Their hopes and expectations belong to any would-be parent: a sign of the future, the joy of parenting, but the next generation absent. Along with Abraham and Sarah, the people of Israel knew a collective experience of waiting. God promised a Messiah, a Deliverer, an anointed King. Days turned into months and seasons into years. God's people waited and trusted with patience and hope.

We often create our own expectations. What we want or think we deserve leaves us discontent, disillusioned, even resentful when it does not come. These feelings live in deep and powerful places within our souls and can begin to define us.

In Genesis 18, God speaks with Abraham, giving him the news that he will be a father, with descendants as countless as the stars. We can assume Sarah heard the news. Driven and impatient, though, she convinced Abraham to have a child through their servant, and Ishmael was born. There came no relief to her heart, no soothing balm to her wounds, only stinging disappointment because Ishmael was not their son.

Thirteen winters passed, and God again spoke to Abraham. Abraham could hardly believe what he heard and replied with nervous laughter. Him, 100, Sarah, 90 – could it be? A child between them? Sarah's words betrayed her lingering hope, "After I am old and worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" One year later, tattered hopes and faded expectations were resurrected as they held Isaac in their arms.

Years after God's promise was fulfilled, we read of Abraham and Isaac heading toward Mount Moriah to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. The tightness in Abraham's throat was matched only by the knots with which he would bind decades of expectation that now look at him through trusting young eyes. "Where is the lamb?" Issac asked.

"God will provide the Lamb," said Abraham.

Every promise, every dream and sleepless night rushed to the brink of Abraham's sight as he prepared to sacrifice his beloved only son.

None of us escape this pain, this fear that if we love something enough God will take it away from us, as if He is vengeful and plays games with His children. We trust the object of our expectations and set our expectations too low when they were meant to be occupied by Him, after all. What good thing would the Father withhold from us if He has given us His only Son? What more could capture our hearts than the Savior Himself and the knowledge that He died bound that we might live free?

Decades of wanting, years of promise, fitless starts and stops of patience -Abraham's faith finds no greater description than where we read of father and son walking down the mountain together, leaving behind an altar that bears the name, "The Lord will provide."

There is no more powerful expectation than patience in the promises of God, for He has provided the Lamb, and the Lamb is the coming King.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

1.	Over the last week, what did you do to distract your mind from daily
	life? What was the outcome?
2.	Consider what you place expectations on and how that affects you when
	they are not met. Are you patient or irritable?

3.	If we place our hopes in finite things, which never fully meet our expectations, it seems that our expectations are meant for something greater. What things have you trusted in for the joy of your heart instead of Jesus, Who is fully able to meet your every need?
4.	God's faithfulness is proven as each of His promises comes true. Where are you tempted to forget or distrust His faithfulness to you in Jesus?

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3

As a family, spend time with God and in His Word. Together, talk about what you might already know about Abraham and the promises God made to Him. Have each person open Genesis 22:1-14 and ask one person to read it aloud.

Abraham waited many years to have Isaac, and the boy came as a direct result of a promise of God. Isaac was Abraham's pride and joy, his only son. When God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, He was calling Abraham to trust Him with the most important thing in his life. Abraham feared and loved God, and God knew it, but the call to sacrifice Isaac made it clear to Abraham, as well. God was to be Abraham's chief prize above all other blessings in his life. Isaac lived, and we read more of his story throughout the Old Testament. Abraham believed God at His word and knew that God's promises would come true, so he was patient and trusted God's wisdom.

There are times we want something so badly that we cannot think of anything else. Whatever it is, we must have it, or we will surely be miserable. Life would just be so much better then. We would be happy. Truthfully, it doesn't work that way. Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:11 that God has set eternity into man's heart so that he does not know what God has done from the beginning to the end. You and I are here for a short time when compared to the history of the world, and we are born in a line of men and women who have all longed to be made new. We have tried everything under the sun to make it happen.

Each day there is a choice of where to place hope, either in what we can do or buy or in the hands of the One Who is the answer to the longing in our hearts - the Lamb of God. Throughout the Old Testament, the Lord promised that He would make a people for Himself and deliver them from

1.	Was there anything surprising or confusing in the passage?
2.	What does God's providing the lamb in place of Isaac show us about His nature and character? How is it a picture of Jesus?
3.	We saw that Abraham believed God so much that he was willing to obey Him at all costs. God was Abraham's greatest treasure. Is that true for
	you? What do you find yourself wanting more than Jesus?

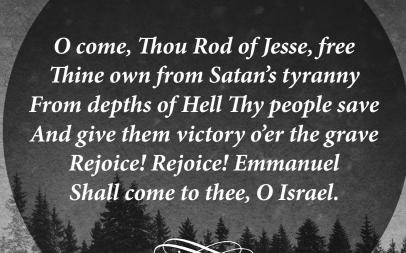
their wicked hearts. Will you trust Him to deliver you from yourself and

your perceived needs? Let us set our hope on Him.

4.	Why is it hard to be patient when waiting on God's promises? How car we fight impatience?
	you spend time as a family, you might also want to introduce the word lidea of Advent if your children are not familiar with it. Explain that,
	er the next few weeks, you will be spending time together learning and nking about why the birth and return of Jesus are so significant.

Close your time by praying as a family. Parents, ask your kids how you can be praying for them. Kids, ask your parents the same thing.

See Appendix C for a list of ideas for Family Activities.



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WEEK TWO / AWAITING AN ADVENT

cripture, in its most intriguing portions, often introduces an obscure character, gives him or her something profound to say or do, only to let that person mysteriously vanish from the text verses later. Simeon (Luke 2: 25-35) was one such shadowy figure, known only by his righteousness, devotion and apparent long-suffering for Israel's consolation. Imagine him as a gray-bearded saint – a John the Baptist type – full of the Spirit, groaning continually in the temple, waiting for the Messiah. Perhaps he'd stand post on the steps, looking out over the horizon, looking for a sign.

He certainly wasn't alone in his waiting. Countless others – the people of God from old – shared his anxious anticipation, and we too can sympathize. Most of us know the feeling well – desire builds when offered something spectacular, the prospects of some grand fortune, the opportunity to embark on some adventurous expedition, or the potential satisfaction of some unrequited love. With each new kernel of hope, the feeling swells in your heart. The uneasiness expands in your stomach. Israel lived on the edge of their seats, always looking out over the horizon.

The Prophets were to blame. Their continual reminders, their fanning the flame was necessary but agonizing. Certainly, we might think that the gods and goddesses of neighboring tribes – their asherah poles and stone altars readily available – could have consoled Israel. But how great was Israel's need – sins too many to atone with burnt sacrifices, oppression too heavy from violent enemies, shame too penetrating and peace so out of reach. Israel needed a Messiah, so they waited while the Prophets poked and prodded.

To those who longed to be righteous, Jeremiah thundered:

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

The children of God rose in agreement....

To the oppressed who cried out for justice, Malachi encouraged:

And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. MALACHI 2:17-3:5

The children of God held their breath....

To those who needed freedom from shame, Zephaniah offered:

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD. ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

The children of God let out a hopeful cry....

To all who waited for peace and security, Micah submitted:

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. MICAH 5:1-5

The children of God waited and waited, only to eventually rise again in agreement, hold their breath, and let out a hopeful cry. This continued for years.

This is the unsettling spirit of Advent, expectant waiting and preparation for the coming Christ, the consolation of God's people. Take some time to reflect personally on the bitterness and the sweetness of waiting.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

justice, freedom from shame, peace and security?			

Are you unsettled in your soul? Are you longing for righteousness

2.	Does your waiting, longing and groaning debilitate you, or is it laced with hope? Read Romans 8:18-25, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and Titus 2:11-14.
3.	How does anticipation increase joy? Like a catchy hook in a song's melody, the building progression of each note rising slowly until it resolves and repeats, can we find pleasure in this anticipation? Read Lamentations 3:22-27 and Isaiah 40:27-31.
It's	difficult to know how Simeon dealt with the rising anticipation, but we

It's difficult to know how Simeon dealt with the rising anticipation, but we know he held fast to the promise. When the Spirit pressed, "And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26), Simeon sprung into action:

And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." LUKE 2:27-32

Oh, that we would wait so well, that we – this season – would rise in agreement, hold our breath, and let out a hopeful cry.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 10

There are many times in life when we have to wait for things – even good things. This can often be the case with God's promises. Last week we saw an example of this very thing as Abraham and Sarah waited many years for their promised son, Isaac. God always keeps His promises, and He always keeps them perfectly. Trusting in that fact changes the way we endure seasons of waiting. We know that God uses times of waiting to increase and strengthen our belief, longing and the boldness of our asking. This was true as the people of Israel waited for the promised Messiah, and it is true for the people of God today.

Talk as a family about a time that it was hard to wait for something that had been promised to you. How did you feel? What was uncomfortable or difficult about the waiting?

As a family, spend time with God and in His Word. Read Isaiah 9:1-7 together. In this passage, the prophet Isaiah speaks about the Savior Whom had been promised, the One for Whom the people of God were waiting.

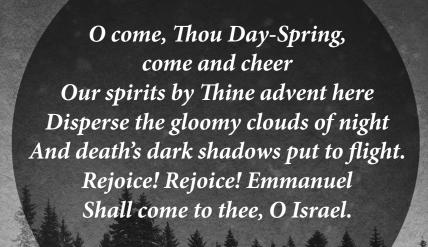
As a family, talk about the following questions:

1.	Is there anything in this passage that you don't understand? Are there any unfamiliar words?			
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2.	What is the darkness that the people are walking in? What is the light that they will see?
3.	What will be true of the promised Savior according to these verses?
4.	How do you think the people of God felt as they heard and read these words?
5.	Are there places in your life where you are waiting for God's faithfulness to a promise? What is this time of waiting like for you?

Close your time by praying as a family. Parents, ask your kids how you can be praying for them. Kids, ask your parents the same thing. This week think of ways you can encourage one another to keep trusting God's faithfulness even in times of waiting.

See Appendix C for a list of ideas for Family Activities.



WEEK THREE / INCARNATION AND IMPLICATIONS DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

t one point in history, God made a promise that became a reality in the coming of Christ. His coming is known as the Incarnation in which He took on human flesh to rescue humanity through His life, death and resurrection. The

Incarnation and its impact on us are the focus of our time this week, and we are looking at them through the lens of John 1. There is a common temptation to gloss over this text because of our familiarity with it, but we should come with a renewed look at what the Lord spoke through John. So before moving into the text, hit pause and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and eyes to see Jesus magnified through the words of the apostle.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the* darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:1-5; 14

John opens his Gospel with the same three words Moses opened with in Genesis: "In the beginning." This isn't accidental or insignificant; rather, it is intentional and profound. What makes this breathtaking is that John's "In the beginning" refers to a time before Genesis 1:1. As we read the rest of John 1:1, it becomes clear that he is referring to the origin of history before creation, when God and "the Word" existed eternally face to face. Then, when the Father decided it was time to create, it was the Word Who spoke creation into being. Through the Word, God brought into existence what had not previously existed.

The eternal Word "became" a man named Jesus. He Who eternally existed as God became human for humanity's redemption. In this, He did not cease to be God. He came as fully God and fully man – on a mission of grace and truth, reflecting the glory He shared with the Father to the blind and broken world.

In John's description of Jesus coming to earth, he does something strategic to draw us back to the Old Testament again. He says that glory resides within the flesh of the Son. In response to this, the Jewish reader would have said: "Hold on. What about Exodus 40:34, which states, 'The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle?"

John would say that's the point. Glory no longer resides within a building but within Jesus Christ Who, full of glory and truth, literally "tabernacled" among us. The place where glory overflows and worship is poured out is no longer about geography or buildings. It's about God Who became man in pursuit of you. He came to reveal the glory of the Father through your redemption, but this redemption did not come without a price.

The price paid is known and cherished as the gospel, and 1 Corinthians 15 puts it as straight forward as any passage: the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus according to the Scriptures for the forgiveness of sin. Christ's death on the cross absorbed the weight of God's wrath against sin, thus displaying eternal glory, and Christ's resurrection proclaimed victory over death. This gospel is the fulfillment of the promise God spoke through the prophets of old. God is reliable because the plan of salvation revealed in the Old Testament did not begin in the Old Testament. Salvation through Jesus Christ was not a reaction to sin entering the world. God's redemptive purposes are rooted in eternity. Salvation through Jesus Christ is an eternal plan that began even before "In the beginning," which brings us back to John 1.

When we look at John 1 through the lens of 1 Corinthians 15, we see John being intentional about his choice of words. John calling Jesus the "Word" was a strategic spear thrown at his audience. The Greek word is *logos*, and the Greeks used it commonly when speaking about their gods. The Greeks believed their gods were detached from the pain of the world. Unlike those gods, the logos of the Bible felt fully the pain of the world. In attaching Himself to humanity, Jesus suffered the punishment of the cross so that we would not eternally suffer the punishment of our sin.

We are born blinded by the darkness of sin, but when our faith is transformed by Jesus, light invades the darkness. Thus verse 14, to "have seen his glory," is to see Jesus for Who He is: the loving, compassionate source of infinite joy Who both created the world by His Word and was sent to awaken our soul through His gospel to the glory of His Father.

There are two primary implications to highlight. First, Christ has redeemed us from our sin, but this does not mean our struggle with sin has ended. We still battle daily to become who we are, new creations and conquerors in Christ. This battle will rage until Christ returns and deals sin its decisive and final blow. Second, in John 17 Jesus prays to the Father, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." The Church is a sent people following the model of Jesus. He left heaven for earth to enter into humanity and integrate into society. We are to see life through the same lens.

As Jesus was sent to humanity with a mission, we are sent to humanity to carry out His mission. We have been sent to "incarnate" into our cities and through our jobs, homes, coffee shops, homeless shelters, etc. We are to integrate counter-cultural living into our city. Jesus shows us that neither of these implications can be taken in isolation. Rather, our holiness is stirred up by our mission, and our mission is accomplished in our holiness. This is the mission of the bride of Christ in the joy of Christ until the day we walk by sight and not by faith.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

1.	among us?"	i became liesh and	a dweit

2.	In what ways has God integrated you into society? What practical steps can you take to live as a person sent to reveal Christ?
3.	At the heart level, what holds you back from seeing yourself as a sent person? How are you strategically fighting for holiness in those areas?
4.	How would you explain the gospel, its effect on your life and how your transformation produces mission? Suggestion: take your time and write it out.

5.	Whom has the Lord placed in your sphere of influence to whom can be a messenger of the gospel?			

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

Take a minute and think back to last Christmas. Was there a time when you looked at a box sitting under a Christmas tree and only wanted to know one thing: What is in there? You knew it was for you but also knew you couldn't open it. Now think about the joy of finally opening, seeing, touching and holding the unwrapped gift.

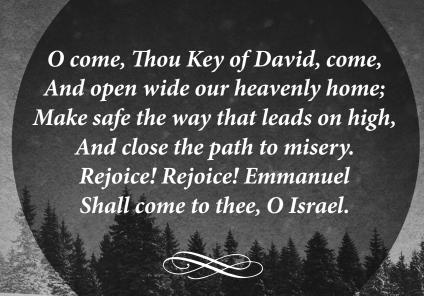
This is what the story of Jesus is like in the Bible. The Old Testament promises that the greatest gift ever, the Savior, would come. Last week we talked about some of the things God said about the promised Savior through the prophets. While He revealed some things about what the Savior would be like, God didn't tell everything. He faithfully kept His promise by sending His own Son, Jesus, into the world. He has come, and we now know about Him – about His life, His death and His resurrection – and how He came into the world to save sinners. When we hold this gift, we hold eternal life.

As a family, spend time with God. Read John 1:1-5 and talk about the following questions.

1.	Are there any unfamiliar words in this passage? Is there anything you don't understand?

2.	Whom is this passage talking about? What do we learn about Jesus
	from it?
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	D 1 1 4 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 22 1
3.	Do you remember how the Savior was described in Isaiah 9:2? How
	does this passage show Jesus as the fulfillment of that prophecy?
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4.	How and why is Jesus the greatest gift ever?
_	

5.	What does the birth of Jesus show us about the nature and character of God?
-	How do so the first coming of Issue give us confidence in His
6.	How does the first coming of Jesus give us confidence in His second coming?
	ose your time by praying as a family. Parents, ask your kids how you can praying for them. Kids, ask your parents the same thing. Check in with
eac	h other about ways you have seen God's faithful answer to prayer over the it few weeks.
See	Appendix C for a list of ideas for Family Activities.



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WEEK FOUR / RESURRECTION AND RETURN DECEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 24

he 1996 movie "Jerry McGuire" climaxed when Tom Cruise burst into his wife's home, looked into her eyes and said the famous words, "You complete me." He had just experienced the height of his professional career only to find out it was not what he had expected. He expected joy and found loneliness. He expected fulfillment and found emptiness. He was a man in the throes of finding out that what he had always pursued was not what he truly needed or desired.

Maguire was right about one thing: Incompleteness marks our current life. No matter how hard we try, fulfillment is always just out of reach. For unbelievers, the pursuit of fulfillment will feel like eternally chasing a moving target until Jesus becomes the object of their longing. However, even for the believer, there is a real sense that we have not found what we are looking for.

Completion is only found in Christ, through His death for our sin and resurrection from the grave, but it's not a complete reality until we stand in our resurrected bodies in the presence of our Savior. This won't happen until Jesus' words in Matthew 24 come to pass: "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." The return of Jesus and final restoration are the human hope, nothing less. Paul knew this well when he sat down to write Romans 8.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage

to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **ROMANS 8:18-25**

The central theme of this passage is what all of us long for: glory. The climactic theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is that we are born and reborn to share fully in the glory of God. As history marches on, we inch ever closer to the day when the heavenly city will have "no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23). There will be a day when we physically and fully partake in the glory of God, but until that day gets here, we groan.

According to Romans 8, the children of God groan amidst suffering. This suffering is not only referring to imprisonment or martyrdom but also the daily sufferings we walk through, from disease to financial reversals, difficult marriages to loneliness. The pains of our fallen world are violently depicted as a mother giving birth to child. At this point, we might expect Paul to say the Spirit in our lives eases the pain, but instead he does something completely unexpected. In a passage on suffering and glory, Paul links our groaning to having the "firstfruits of the Spirit."

He says there is an aspect of our groaning that is strengthened because the Spirit has revealed to us Who Jesus is and that He will return to decisively defeat sin and death. Our living under the weight of sin today is felt to a greater degree because we know it will not always be this way; thus, our groaning is heightened by our longing. This is the "already but not yet" our pastors talk about. The penalty of sin has already been paid for, but the impact of sin has not yet ended. We are a church family who knows this all too well. Tumors, miscarriages and deaths have made our local community aware of the suffering that comes with a world still groaning for the return of Christ, but by the grace of God, that's not all Paul said.

Paul's hope is that, when these sufferings are held up to the infinite light of the glory of God, they are "not worth comparing." Paul was not speaking out of ignorance. As we are a body aware of suffering, Paul was a man aware of suffering. From beatings, to prison, to shipwrecks, to eventual death, he knew suffering firsthand. So what could cause a man who walked through that amount of pain to speak with such confidence? Paul answers that with one word: "present."

Suffering is not eternal, but the glory upon which we wait is. Jesus is going to return, and when He does, we will share in the fullness of His glory. When we do, the text says we will experience two things: adoption as sons, which is the redemption of our bodies, and a new earth free from the weight of sin. Since the text says creation is waiting to "obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God," these are not separate statements but one united reality that will take place when the glorious trumpets sound and the Servant returns as King.

As we wait for this day, incompleteness defines our lives because we live as adopted children who have not yet been picked up by our parents. We know our parents' names, know they have paid for our adoption, know the adoption has been approved but stand on the curb with bags packed waiting on them to come and tell us, "You're home." This is true for all believers from all centuries. Those living today and those who have entered the presence of the Lord await the completion of our adoption in the redemption of our bodies.

This is the Christian hope into which we were saved. We know that Jesus has already paid for our adoption, but we wait for the Father to send Him for us to renew our home and dwell among us eternally as we experience our resurrected bodies and the fullness of His glory. This is a salvation about so much more than just "going to heaven when we die." This is restoration, redemption and renewal. This is going from enemies of God to sons and daughters of God, co-heirs with Christ. This is living fully in the image of God the way He intended. Oh what a day that will be. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Until Christ's return, Paul gives us an example of how to groan in view of eternity. He exemplifies how to view the hardships of a fallen world through the lens of the eternal glory we await. To live in light of eternity does not

mean demotions and cancer are not painful. It means they are not crushing. Cancer is painful because death is the last enemy to be conquered, but it's not crushing because it's only a matter of time before our resurrection conquers all disease. It means that loneliness is not something only our single brothers and sisters experience. We all experience loneliness because marriage is not the solution to the human condition. It's a gift and an image that represents the substance for which we all long.

The substance that brings fulfillment and ends loneliness is standing face to face with our beloved, Jesus Christ. To stand face to face, two things must take place: He must return, and our flesh must be the redeemed, resurrected body to come. When fully grasping our hope, we can endure any suffering because we know it is temporary, and the glory to come is eternal. Until that day, we strive for a steadfast hope, we wait with patience, and we stand confident that our Savior will appear to bring completion to the adoption we long for.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

How would you explain the hope we have in Romans 8?
What suffering are you walking in right now? How are you trying to
keep it in perspective of eternity?

3.	If our future resurrection is true, how does it shape the way you see singleness, family, business and missions?				
4.	Are you in gospel-centered community? If so, how does living in community help keep your suffering in perspective? How are you helping others see suffering through an eternal lens?				

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 24

As a family, share what you know about the promise that Jesus will return. What will it be like? When will it happen? Why is it important?

The return of Jesus will mark the beginning of a new heaven and a new earth, a time in which will be free from sin and all the effects of sin. What are some of the effects of sin you see in our world? What are things in your life that you would consider "sufferings?" If you could imagine a world with no sin or suffering, what would it be like?

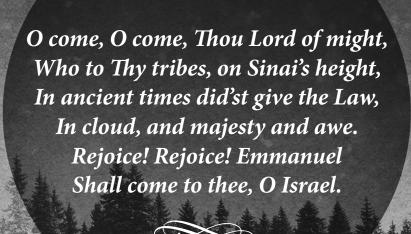
As a family, spend time with God. Read Revelation 21:1-5 and talk about the following questions.

1.	Are there any unfamiliar or confusing words in this passage?				
7					
2.	What will be true about death and pain once Jesus comes back?				

3.	Verse 3 tells us what the best part of eternity will be. What is it? Do you believe that is true?				
4.	What does the return of Jesus show us about the nature and character of God?				
5.	How does the first coming of Jesus give us confidence in His second coming?				
be	ose your time by praying as a family. Parents, ask your kids how you can praying for them. Kids, ask your parents the same thing. Think about				

people in your life who might be facing great hardship or suffering. Pray for them as a family.

See Appendix C for a list of ideas for Family Activities.



05

WEEK FIVE / WAITING AND WATCHING

DECEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 31

or many of us, Christmas Day is one of the most important days of the year, which is obvious given the amount of preparation that often goes into it. Schedules, plans and budgets are adjusted months in advance. Family members travel in from far away. Decorations are perfectly placed. Menus are planned. Gifts are purchased, wrapped and hidden. There is intentionality, joy and anticipation – all because this day is significant, valuable and also because we believe it is a reality.

Christmas isn't a pretend day; it's real. We wouldn't go through all the trouble of trimming trees and fighting crowds if we didn't believe Christmas was, in fact, an actual day. We trust it to come on the same date every year, and out of love and expectation, we make every necessary preparation so that when December 25 becomes our reality, we'll be ready.

We spend months preparing to celebrate and remember Christ's first coming. How much more should we seek to be ready for the day of His second coming? That day, too, is a reality, an absolute certainty. Unlike Christmas Day, which we know to expect every 25th of December, only the Father knows the day and hour His Son will return, but He is coming. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Beloved One, will return to the earth. It has been promised.

In the fullness of time, He will split the sky and descend to destroy all wickedness, receive the worship that is rightfully His, and usher in a new age – one free of sin, suffering, disappointment and fear. On that day, the

children of God will walk in full-hearted belief and unrestrained delight as we see our Beloved face to face. We will be free from the sin and the brokenness of this world. And that will be wonderful, but the real treasure is Jesus. His return marks the beginning of unbroken, unending fellowship with Him. It is a day we should believe in, think about, look to and prepare for with joy, anticipation, hope and holy fear.

The day of Jesus' return is certain and coming, but (so far) it is not today. At this time, we find ourselves much like the Israelites long ago - a people in waiting - which begs the question: how then shall we wait, and what does it mean to be ready for that day? How should we, as the people of God, live as we look toward and long for the coming of Jesus? Peter asks and answers this very question in his second letter.

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 2 PETER 3:8-14

The two books of Peter have much to say about Jesus' return and what life in the meantime looks like for those who believe. In both of his writings, Peter orients the perspective and hope of believers toward the promised coming of Christ. He wants them (and us) to look forward, seeing right now in light of what has been and what is to come. Notice in verses 8 and 14 how Peter addresses the believers to whom he is writing. He calls them "beloved."

Peter writes to a group of believers facing great hardship. They are weary and eagerly longing for Jesus to come back. Peter's heart is full of love and compassion for his readers, and he encourages them to endure according to their identity as dearly loved children of God. He speaks to them as those set free from sin – heirs of an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. Now live as agents of peace and ministers of reconciliation in this world until Jesus returns.

In love, he reminds the believers that, though the days seem long and weary in the waiting, God is not being slow in keeping His promise. He assures them of the absolute reality of the appointed, though unknown, day when the heavens will be blown apart, and Jesus will return. He tells them exactly what kinds of lives they are to live in light of this promised and coming day – lives of holiness, godliness and hopeful expectation. He tells them to be diligent as they wait, not passive and lazy. He exhorts them to flee from sin, to walk in obedience and righteousness, and to continue trusting God's faithfulness. By doing so, they will not only be found faithful and ready in the waiting but also, somehow, hasten the day of Jesus' return.

We are to live in the same way, but what do these lives of active waiting and diligence look like exactly? Looking at the words of Jesus will help us understand. It's important to see that Peter's words and exhortations mirror those of Jesus. In Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus tells His disciples a series of parables about what the days and times preceding His return will be marked by. Peter was a disciple of Jesus and heard Jesus speak about these things. They were no doubt in his mind as he wrote the words of 2 Peter, and they show us what lives of holiness, godliness and hopeful expectation look like as we wait and prepare for Jesus' return:

- We will live as if we believe Jesus is, in fact, returning. In the same way that we have made thoughtful, intentional preparations for Christmas because we knew and believed it was an actual day that was actually coming, we are to live lives of thoughtful, intentional preparation for the actual day that Jesus will actually return. (Matthew 24:42-44)
- We will be faithful and wise stewards of everything that has been

entrusted to us by God, understanding that all of it—whether possession, ability, talent or gifting – actually belongs to Him and exists for His glory. (Matthew 24:45-51; 25:14-30)

- We will have hearts that have been tended and prepared for His coming by being full of faith, love, worship and overwhelming delight in Jesus. We will fight and flee from sin and do all that is needed to be found faithful to our first love. (Matthew 25:1-13)
- We will love and care for those who are poor, weak, cast out and in need. True disciples of Jesus cannot and will not ignore the plight of the least of these. We will serve, love, give, go and pray for those in need of food, drink, clothing, friendship and comfort. (Matthew 25:31-46)
- We will love the nations and proclaim the gospel both far and near. As
 the church family, we are the vessel appointed by God to herald the
 gospel in all the world through both word and action. (Matthew 24:14)

Peter's exhortations are just as much for us today as they were for the believers long ago. We, too, are living in the days of God's patient mercy. Christ will not return until the gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world and the full number of those appointed for salvation has been brought into the family of believers. We need to be reminded, as those who are dearly loved by God, that really believing in and looking toward Jesus' return changes the way we live. It reorients our hope and perspective. It creates a sense of urgency, sobriety and giddy anticipation – just like a child who cannot wait for Christmas morning. Let us, as the people of God, be found ready in the waiting.

As this Christmas season comes to a close, take some time to reflect upon how the reality of Jesus' return affects the way you live. May your heart be full and your eyes bright as you hope in all things in Christ and look to His coming. Take heart, beloved. It won't be long.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Reread 2 Peter 3:8-14. What stands out to you and why?
How does your life reflect your belief in the promised return of Jesus? Is is something you think about and long for? If not, why do you think that is?
How would looking expectantly to the coming of Jesus affect the way you
see your present circumstances?

4.	What do you think of when you hear or read the words "be diligent?" What does it look like for you to be diligent in pursuing holiness and godliness? In what areas do you need to fight and flee from sin? In what areas do you need to cultivate love for God and others?
5.	In the next week, take notice of the different ways in which you prepare for things in your life, whether it's making dinner, getting ready for work or even reflecting on all you did to get ready for Christmas. How much time and intentionality do you invest and why? What motivates you toward careful preparation? How much time and intentionality do you invest in preparing for Jesus' return? What adjustments need to be made to your schedule, plans, budget, etc. to come into alignment with living a life of readiness?

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 31

Christmas is an event that we spend a lot of time thinking about and getting ready for. Interview each member of your family about the days leading up to Christmas. What did each person do to get ready for Christmas Day and why? Did the days pass quickly or slowly? How did they feel as they thought about what was waiting for them on Christmas morning and why? See if they can describe the days leading up to Christmas in three words.

The day Jesus returns will be greater than a thousand Christmases. It is a day we should think about and prepare for with joy and expectation. As a family, spend time with God in His Word. Have each person read 2 Timothy 4:7-8. As a family, talk about the following questions:

l.	Are there any words in these two verses that you don't know or understand?
	Who wrote these words? What do you know about that person?

3.	What do you think he meant by "fighting the good fight," "finishing the race," and "keeping the faith?"
4.	What is waiting for him after he dies?
5.	At the end of verse 8, he mentions a group of people – those "who have loved His appearing." Who do you think these people are? Whose appearing is it that they have loved? What is waiting for them?
6.	How do you feel about the second coming of Jesus? Describe it in three words.

7.	What does it mean for you, as a family, to love and look forward to the coming of Jesus?
8.	How can you, as a family, be like Paul in fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith until Jesus returns?
	ose your time by praying as a family. Parents, ask your kids how you can
be	praying for them. Kids, ask your parents the same thing.
See	Appendix C for a list of ideas for Family Activities.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

PASSAGES TO CONTEMPLATE IN CONSIDERING CHRIST

Advent is about Christ and His two comings - the first in humiliation, the second in glory; the first in condescension, the second in exaltation; the first for forgiveness; the second for judgment. Advent is about Jesus Christ, and thus we must seek to consider Him (Hebrews 3:1), look to Him (Hebrews 12:2), sets our minds' attention and hearts' affections upon Him (Colossians 3:1-4). He is our treasure, and His return is our greatest good.

Here are a few passages in which the person and work of Christ are particularly highlighted for us. May these passages encourage, awaken, refresh and restore us as we dwell upon the God Who became man and died for us and for our sin, rose again and will one day return.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:1-14

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.... COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

APPENDIX B

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR THE SEASON

SONGS

O Come All Ye Faithful

O Holy Night

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly

Joy To The World

Silent Night

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Glorious Day

You Are The Light BY DAVID HODGES

Messiah by ISSAC WIMBERLEY, HUNTER HALL, JEFF CAPPS & MICHAEL BLEECKER

In Excelsis Deo BY MATT BOSWELL

Welcome To Our World BY CHRIS RICE

Salvation is Here BY HILLSONG

ALBUMS

Glory in The Highest BY CHRIS TOMLIN
Behold the Lamb of God BY ANDREW PETERSON
Christmas Songs BY FOLK ANGEL
Headed Home BY FOLK ANGEL

BOOKS

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Experiencing the Peace and Promise of Christmas EDITED BY NANCY GUTHRIE Treasuring God in our Traditions BY NOEL PIPER

APPENDIX C

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Below you will find a list of ideas for activities your family can do together during Advent. Most of them have been grouped together based on the week of the Advent Guide that they might best reinforce or complement. Really, they can be done at any time. This list may seem overwhelming. They are just suggestions. Feel the freedom to read through them and pick the ones that will work best for your family.

WEEK 1: PROMISES AND PATIENCE

- Make a promise to your child(ren) but do not keep it immediately. Use their waiting as a reminder that many waited for the promised Savior.
- Over dinner, talk about promises that you have made to people and promises people have made to you. Talk about the promises God has made to His children and why we can trust Him.

WEEK 2: AWAITING AN ADVENT

- Fulfill the promise that you made during week 1 and talk about God's faithfulness to keep His promise and send a Savior.
- Decorate your Christmas tree with lights. Talk about how Jesus is
 the light that God promised in Isaiah 9:2. Turn off all the lights. Talk
 about how it must have felt to wait for the promised Savior. Turn the
 Christmas lights on and thank God for Jesus.
- God made a promise that one day Jesus would come to seek, serve and save sinners. This promise was talked about in Isaiah 9:6, which was hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Over dessert, read the verse together and talk about what it must have been like to wait for God to fulfill His promise.

WEEK 3: INCARNATION AND IMPLICATIONS

 Visit your local fire station and meet the men and women who help save people from danger. Afterward, talk about how God delivers and saves His children from His wrath.

- Bake cookies together. As you wait, talk about what it means to wait for Jesus' return. What does it look like to wait with eagerness and diligence?
- Play hide and seek and talk about how Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Spend time in prayer thanking God for sending Jesus.
- Act out the Christmas narrative.
 - 1st night: Read and act out Luke 2:1-7
 - 2nd night: Read and act out Luke 2:8-20
 - 3rd night: Read and act out Matthew 2:1-12

WEEK 4: RESURRECTION AND RETURN

- Give your child(ren) the task of cleaning their room. Before you do, read John 14:1-3 together. What do you think the rooms being prepared by Jesus will be like?
- Art time! Together, read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and draw what you think it will look like when Jesus comes back.

WEEK 5: WATCHING AND WAITING

- Over dinner talk about the best day you have ever had. What made it
 so great? Talk about a better day and the day that Jesus will return. Talk
 about why this day is the best day for believers. How does the Bible tell
 us to prepare for that day?
- As you prepare to travel for the holidays, talk about how you are diligently preparing for your Christmas vacation with your family. Talk about how we can diligently prepare for Christ's coming.
- Go on a grocery store scavenger hunt for all the ingredients for dinner. Give each child a list of things to look for in the store. As you prepare dinner together, talk about the fact that many people throughout your community and the world will go without food that day. How can we love and care for them while we await Jesus' return?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

 Make place mats for your Christmas meals. On one side, write or draw something that reminds you of God's faithfulness to His promise of sending a Savior. On the other side, write or draw something that reminds you of God's promise that Jesus will return.

- Read the Christmas narrative over the next three weeks and set up the nativity scene as you read through the story of Jesus being born.
 - Week 1: Set up the manger with Jesus, the animals, Mary and Joseph (Read Luke 2:1-7).
 - Week 2: Add the shepherds and angels to the nativity scene (Read Luke 2:8-20).
 - Week 3: Remove the manger and animals. Add the Magi to the scene (Read Matthew 2:1-12).
- Make ornaments and put an attribute of God on each ornament. Hang the ornaments on your Christmas tree so that your tree can remind you and others of who God is.
- Make a paper chain counting down the days until Christmas. As you cut a piece of the chain off each day and your excitement grows, talk about how excited we should be in thinking about the day Jesus comes back.
- Look for opportunities to serve as a family during the season of Advent. Here are a few ideas:
 - Prepare a meal and take it to a friend or neighbor in need.
 - Adopt an angel from a giving tree and shop together for their Christmas gifts.
 - Create homemade Christmas cards and take them with you as you visit a nearby nursing home.
 - Serve a meal together at a homeless assistance center or shelter.
 - Send a care package to a missionary. Contact your Missions pastor for specific opportunities.
 - Adopt a refugee family and invite them to join you for Christmas. Contact your Missions pastor for specific opportunities.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE **VILLAGE** CHURCH

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