

DAILY ADVENT WORSHIP

IN OUR HOME



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The purpose of the Advent Log is to bring people together in a family setting for a time of sharing in God's word and of praying that He will keep our hearts focussed on the spiritual reality of Christmas. This reality is that the Almighty King, in His great love for mankind, has bridged the gap between Him and us through the humble birth, the atoning death and the victorious resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. If we make the goal of spiritual preparation our top priority during the season of Advent, God will touch the very depths of our souls with the joy of the Christmas message and will give us a renewed awareness of His sacrificial love for each one of us.

In this pamphlet we have provided definitions for each of the four Advent candles:

PROPHECY
BETHLEHEM
SHEPHERDS
ANGELS

We recognize that there are other ways in which to describe the symbolism of the candles. However, we hope and pray that this framework will be helpful to many of you in your daily Advent family worship time.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Family lights all five candles.

Parent: Today is the birthday of Jesus. The white candle looks pure and white as the fresh snow. This reminds us that Jesus is our King and our Master and our God. He is pure and bright like the white snow when it first falls from the sky.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

References:

Karen Bornemann Spies: Family Activities for the Christmas Season (Standard Publishing)



FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

Jesus is Coming Again

Sunday

One of the Family lights four candles. Family says together:

Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Child: What do we remember when we light the fourth candle?

Parent: We call this fourth candle the ANGELS' candle. It reminds us that at very special times God sends angels as his messengers. An angel announced the GOOD NEWS of Jesus' birth to the shepherds and then the sky was filled with a great host of angels all praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

We also remember that Jesus has promised someday to return to this earth in glory accompanied by His angels. Let us daily acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour so that we can look forward to that day with confidence and joy.

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to live in such a way that we are always ready for your coming again in glory with your angels. Amen.

Monday: Matthew 25:1-13
Tuesday: Matthew 25:31-46
Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10
Friday: John 14:1-4; John 8:12
Saturday: Isaiah 25:9; Matthew 5:14-16



FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

God Told Us That Jesus Would Come

Sunday

The log will have been blessed in church. Many families find that supper time is a good time for lighting the candle(s).

One of the family lights the Prophecy Candle. One or more family members say:

Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life" John 8:12

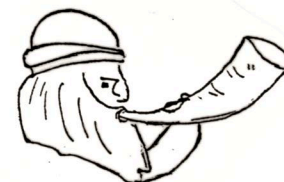
Child: What do we remember when we light the first candle?

Parent: We call this first candle the PROPHECY candle. God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus by sending special messengers called prophets who told the people what they must do to prepare for His amazing gift. One of these special messengers was Isaiah. He lived hundreds of years before Christ was born. Unfortunately, the people of the Old Testament did not listen very well to the prophets. By reading the prophecies of the Old Testament we know that God loves us so much it was always His plan to send Jesus to die for us so that we could live with Him forever. The candle reminds us that we must listen and watch for the messengers whom God sends to us so that we live our lives according to the plan He has for each one of us.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-11; Matthew 3:1-3

Prayer: Holy and Everlasting Father, we thank you for your plan to bring us into your light. Thank you that Jesus was born to be our Prince of Peace. Please help us to make Him our King forever. Amen.

Monday: Isaiah 7:14; Malachi 3:1
Tuesday: Isaiah 9:2,6,7
Wednesday: Isaiah 11:1-6
Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5,6
Friday: Isaiah 42:1-4
Saturday: Micah 5:2-4



SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT

Christ Came To Earth

Sunday

One of the Family lights two candles. One or more family members say:

Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Child: What do we remember when we light the second candle?

Parent: We call this second candle the BETHLEHEM candle. It reminds us of how, nearly two thousand years ago, because there was no room for Joseph and Mary in any of the inns in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ was born in a bare stable and laid to sleep in a manger. Like the humble surroundings into which Jesus was born, our lives are not worthy to receive Jesus. Yet God in His boundless love for us is prepared to come to be with us anyway. We just have to say sorry for the wrong things we have done and say: "Yes Jesus, I want you to be Lord of my life."

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Prayer: Lord God our Saviour, you came to earth at Christmas to save us. Please give us hearts that are ready to receive you in our lives every day. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Monday: Luke 1:46-55
Tuesday: Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday: John 1:1-4, 14
Thursday: Matthew 2:1-6
Friday: Matthew 2:7-12
Saturday: Luke 2:1-7



THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Sharing the Good News

Sunday

One of the Family lights three candles. One or more Family members say:

Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Child: What do we remember when we light the third candle?

Parent: We call this third candle the SHEPHERDS' candle. It reminds us how the shepherds were the first visitors to the stable where Jesus was born. The shepherds were just like candles. They let the light of Jesus shine through them. After they had visited the baby Jesus, they were so happy and excited that they told everyone else about the Saviour's birth. The Bible tells us that we too are to go out into the world and tell people the GOOD NEWS – that God keeps His promises and has sent His Son.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Prayer: Lord we know you want us to be like the shepherds, willing to tell people about your son Jesus. Help us to share the Good News and not be afraid of what people will think of us. Amen.

Monday: 1 John 4:7-11
Tuesday: Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11
Wednesday: John 10:1-18
Thursday: John 14:1-13
Friday: John 15:1-16
Saturday: John 3:14-21

