

Advent

2021



Week

1

HOPE

Read: Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 9:2-7

**Discuss:**

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke to the prophet Isaiah and gave him this promise about Jesus. This Scripture describes a king who will rule forever. This king is described as a “Wonderful Counselor”, “Everlasting Father”, and a “Prince of Peace”. Jesus came as a baby, but He is the King that the prophet was talking about! Jesus didn't come to the Earth to stay a baby, but to reign in our lives forever! Because of Jesus we have HOPE for eternity!

Imagine life without **HOPE**. What would be different in your life today?  
Why do we need the **HOPE** of a savior?

**How to share HOPE this week:**

- Visit or call a family member you haven't spoken to in a while
  - Put up and decorate your Christmas tree
  - Listen to the song "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"
  - Send out Christmas cards
- Read the Christmas Story in the bible and share it with someone!

**More verses on HOPE:**

Romans 5:2-5; 1 Timothy 4:10;  
Psalm 33:20-22; Hebrews 10:23;  
1 Peter 1:3



Week

2

LOVE

Read: Luke 2:1-7

**Discuss:**

It was in Bethlehem that Mary and Joseph, Jesus' earthly parents, welcomed Jesus into the world. They had traveled to Bethlehem because the law said that Joseph had to go to his hometown to be counted in a census. First John 4:9 says that "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him." God sent the gift of Jesus into the world to be born in the town of Bethlehem to demonstrate His deep and everlasting love for us. Praise God for sending the gift of love to us through Jesus. Acknowledge that He knows every detail of the story for His people, even the small town where the Savior would be born. Thank Him for this Advent season to reflect and rejoice that love has come to us.

**How to share LOVE this week:**

- Bake cookies or prepare a meal and deliver to someone in need
  - Pay for someone else's order in the drive through line
  - Call and friend and ask them how you can pray for them
  - Go caroling

**More verses on LOVE:**

John 3:16-17; John 13:34; Romans  
5:8; Romans 8:38-39; 1  
Corinthians 13:4-7



Week

3

JOY

Read: Luke 2:8-20

**Discuss:**

When was the last time you heard someone tell you something that was exciting? Can you remember the last time someone told you something that was important? Have you ever heard an announcement that made your eyes get really big in surprise? This bible passage tells us about the birth of our Savior! What an exciting announcement! Can you picture it? Imagine standing outside on a dark night, and suddenly angels appear with exciting news of great joy just for you. How do you think you would feel? The Bible says the shepherds were terrified at first, but their fear quickly turned to joy as they heard the news of the promised Messiah being born. Did you notice what the Bible said the shepherds did next? They “hurried off” to see Jesus (Luke 2:16). After spending time with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, the shepherds “reported the message they were told (from the angels) ... and all who heard it were amazed” (Luke 2:17-18). Then they went back to the field “glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard” (Luke 2:20). What an announcement of great joy! The exciting news of Jesus leads us to respond by joyfully worshiping Him. As we worship Jesus, we will be able to share our excitement about the good news of Jesus with anyone who will listen. What great joy has come into the world!

What fills you with **JOY** during the holidays?

**How to share JOY this week:**

- Create a JOY paper chain. Write down all the things/people that you are joyful about this season and create a chain to hang on your tree.

**More verses on JOY:**

Luke 15:1-7; Romans 15:13; Psalm 16:11; John 15:9-11; 1 Peter 1:8-9

Week

4

PEACE

Read: Luke 1:26-33.

**Discuss:**

In the Christmas story, angels played a very special role in announcing the birth of Jesus. When the angel appeared to Mary to tell her she would be Jesus' earthly mother, he told her not to be afraid. He brought a message of peace to Mary. He wanted her to know she was called by God to be the mother of Jesus. Peace is an important part of Christmas. The Bible verse we studied from week one explained that Jesus would be the Prince of Peace.

(See Isaiah 9:6.) Jesus is our peace, and He came to bring us the gift of peace. Because of our sin, the Bible says we are separated from God (Romans 3:23). But God sent Jesus to provide the way for us to be brought back to Him by receiving God's love. Then we will be at peace with Him (Romans 5:1). It was God's love that brought Jesus into the world as a baby.

Just like the angels, it is important that we worship Jesus and tell others about His birth and the peace He offers. Thank God for the gift of peace. Praise Him for sending Jesus so that we can have peace with God when we trust in Him. Ask God to use your family to point others to the peace of God this Advent season.

How can your family have **PEACE** from God when troubles come your way?

**How to share PEACE this week:**

- Invite friends to the Christmas Eve service
- Write cards of peace and encouragement and pass them out to your neighbors
- Sit quietly with your bible and take time to connect with God's Word

**More verses about PEACE:**

John 14:27; Isaiah 53:5; Colossians 3:12-15; Philippians 4:4-8

Just for  
fun!

## Bethlehem Bread

### BAKE BETHLEHEM BREAD

**You will need:** • 4 cups all purpose flour • 1 cup and 2 T whole milk • 1 tsp. salt • 1/4 cup sugar • 1/4 cup shortening • 1 package yeast • Egg wash • Coarse sea salt

**Directions:** • Line a baking sheet with a baking mat or lightly grease and set aside. • Warm milk to room temperature. Mix sugar, salt, and yeast with milk. Whisk until all lumps are gone and the liquid is smooth. • Sift flour and pour into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the center of the flour and pour the yeast mixture into the well. Begin mixing with a wooden spoon until the dough begins to incorporate. Gradually add shortening until it is thoroughly mixed. Knead dough with your hands until it is smooth and firm. • Remove the dough from the bowl and place on a prepared baking sheet. Cover with a kitchen towel and allow to rise approximately 45 minutes–1 hour. • After about an hour, cut dough into lemon-sized portions. You should have about 9–10 small portions of dough. Coat each piece of dough with a small amount of shortening to keep the dough moist. • Cut each piece of dough into two equal pieces and roll the dough with the palms of your hands into two ropes approximately 6 inches long. Press the ends of the two ropes together and braid one on top of the other. • Starting at one end of your twist, gently roll the dough into a circle. Tuck the ends into the bottom and press gently to mold. • Cover baking sheets with kitchen towels and allow dough to rise for 3 hours. Brush each roll with egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 15–20 minutes until golden brown.