

Talk - During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again.

Activity - Discuss things that bring you joy. **Make a list** of all of these things. What makes you happy? What do you like to do together as a family? Do you like to play games together? Do you like to go to the park together? Plan a meal, go out to eat, or watch a movie together?

Make a Family Commitment

During this third week of Advent, make a commitment to do one or two of these things which bring you happiness and joy. Just like Mary sings of the joy she has found in being chosen to be the mother of Jesus, we too find joy in the time God has given us to be together as a family. This time also includes spending time with our larger church family as well! What is something you are going to choose to do together to celebrate the joy of being a family?

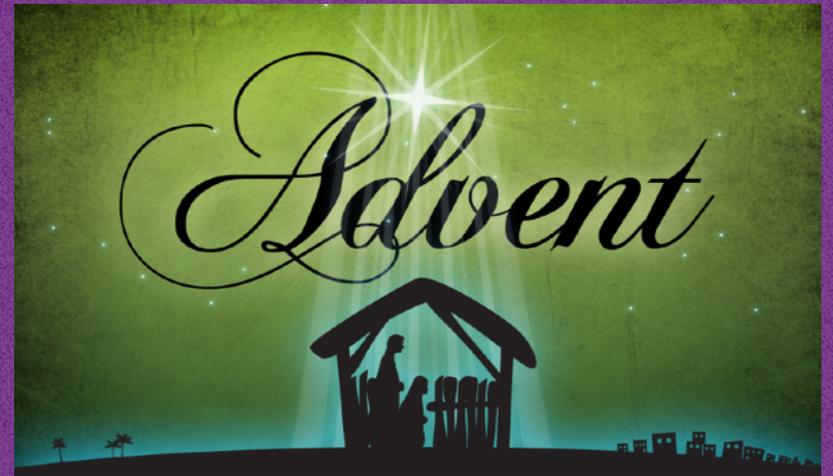
Pray together as a family. Close your time together with a prayer of thanksgiving for your family and for our larger family in the body of Christ! We give thanks for the opportunities to come together to share our lives together.

Blow out the candle

Enjoy some time with your family!

Faith Formation at Home Advent III

Rituals are things that only your family does. They help communicate 'this is who we are' and give you a sense of belonging.



The purpose of Faith Formation in the Home is to provide parents with a stress-free, easy to use lesson in order to lead faithful conversations with their children at home. Most parents spend less than 30 minutes a day in conversation with their children. Often those 30 minutes are spent giving orders and “parenting”. Faith Formation in the Home is designed in hopes that you will spend a few minutes a week talking about things which will help develop into faithful conversations about God, life, and relationships.

The lessons each week come from scripture and will be centered on seasonal themes.

Start by lighting three candles on your advent wreath. This represents the light of Christ and is a symbol that Jesus is present in this space. It also sets apart the time as sacred (special) and holy (filled with God). As you light more candles, the brighter the light will be as we move closer to Christmas!

Pray together

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Warm up Question

Read the question and invite everyone to share their own response. It may be helpful to use a, “talking stick” for person who is talking to hold. This will signify that only this person should be speaking until they pass the stick.

This time of year, we celebrate many holidays. What is it about celebrating holidays that makes you happy? What is it that makes you sad? What are things you remember about holidays from years past?

Scripture - Advent is the season we will be reading scriptures about waiting, listening, getting ready, and getting prepared for the birth of Jesus. This is when God comes and lives as a human, God Incarnate, in this world.

Read the following story out loud.

Luke 1: 46-55

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is
his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.*