

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 - Make something together: Find a recipe for cookies, or some bread and spend time together as a family making this together. It may even be a whole meal. Set aside this time as a special time of gathering for your family. Talk about Christmas and what you are looking forward to. Talk about why Christmas may be important to you.

Make a Family Commitment

During this last week of Advent, make a commitment to spend time together as a family doing the activity or preparing for Christmas. Be aware of your choices and how are you choosing to love one another. Let Christmas be a time when you and your family can come together and be honest about what you are thinking and feeling and remember the baby Jesus who comes into our lives and is present with us in each moment.

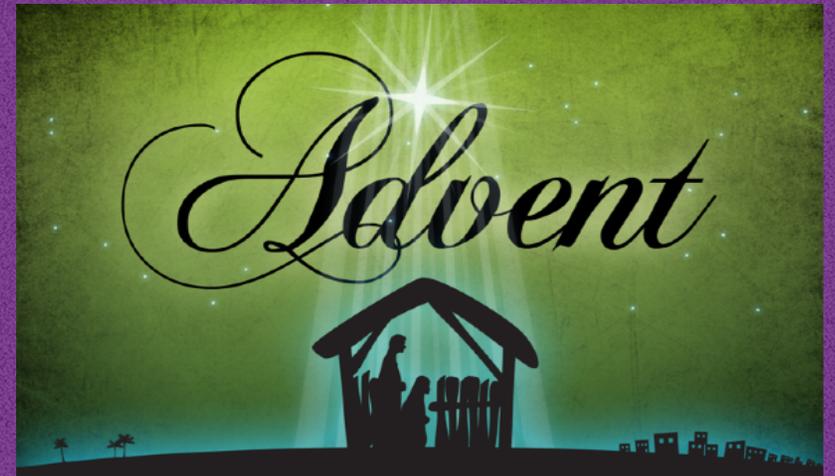
Pray together as a family. Close your time together with a prayer of thanksgiving for your family and for our larger family in the body of Christ! We give thanks for the opportunities to come together to share our lives together.

Blow out the candles

Enjoy some time with your family!

Faith Formation at Home Advent IV

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 all four candles on your advent wreath. These represent 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! We are very close to Christmas now. This is when we celebrate the light of the world coming to us, to dwell with us. Emmanuel: God with us!

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 is the last week of Advent before Christmas. Have you shared in your family times each week? Have you lit your candles and said your prayers? Are you ready for the light of the world to come into your life once again and bring light and joy?

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.

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.